

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**EMPIRE DISTRICT – LIBERTY UTILITIES CENTRAL  
ANNOUNCES VP APPOINTMENTS**



JOPLIN, MO – February 3, 2017 – Empire District – Liberty Utilities Central announced today that Rob Sager has been named Vice President of Finance and Administration and Mike Beatty has been named Vice President of Gas Operations.

Mr. Sager will oversee the Finance, Legal, Human Resources, and Administrative Services. Mr. Beatty will oversee Gas Operations.

Mr. Sager joined the staff at Empire in 2006 as Director of Financial Services. In 2011, he was promoted to the position of Controller, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary. Prior to employment with Empire, Mr. Sager held the position of Senior Manager—Auditing and Consulting with BKD LLP in Joplin.

A native of Hays, Kansas, Mr. Sager received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration—Accounting from Pittsburg State University and is a Certified Public Accountant. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and serves on the Accounting Services Committee of the Edison Electric Institute.

Mr. Sager serves on the board of the Community Clinic of Joplin and as elder at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Mr. Sager has previously served as a board member of the United Way of Crawford County and the Pittsburg State University Accounting Advisory Council.

Mr. Beatty brings more than 28 years of experience in the natural gas industry to this position. Prior to joining Liberty Utilities, Mr. Beatty worked for Atmos Energy in the states of Colorado and Tennessee, and for South Carolina Electric & Gas in South Carolina. He joined Liberty Utilities staff in July of 2012 as Director of Engineering & Compliance and was later named President of Liberty Utilities Mid-States.

Mr. Beatty is a graduate from the Missouri University of Science & Technology, with a Mechanical Engineering degree and is a registered professional engineer in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Mr. Beatty is actively engaged in industry organizations such as the American Gas Association (AGA) and the Southern Gas Association (SGA). He has served on the AGA Distribution Infrastructure Government – Industry Team (DIGIT), which developed the Phase One document for Distribution Integrity Management. Beatty also chaired the SGA Distribution Integrity Management Framework Document, a joint effort between Southern Gas Association and the Northeast Gas

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for the Liberty Utilities Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to nearly 340,000 customers across seven states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit [www.empiredistrict.com](http://www.empiredistrict.com). For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit [www.libertyutilities.com](http://www.libertyutilities.com).

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