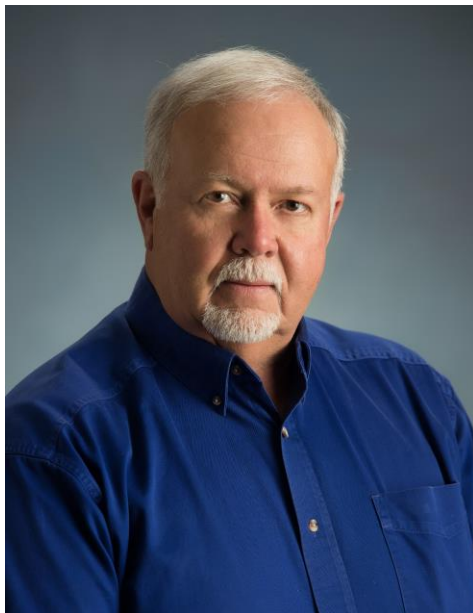


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LIBERTY UTILITIES - EMPIRE
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF WAYNE HARTIN**



JOPLIN, MO – March 2, 2018 – Mr. Wayne Hartin retired from The Empire District Electric Company on December 31, 2017, following 43 years of service.

Mr. Hartin joined the Company in February 1974 as a Laborer at the Riverton Power Plant. During his employment, Hartin worked as a Plant Operator, Meter Reader, Mechanical Maintenance Technician, Field Safety Coordinator, and Safety Supervisor – Energy Supply, the position he held at retirement.

Mr. Hartin is a graduate of Parkwood High and Labette Community College.

Before joining the Company, Hartin worked as an Operator for Snyder Construction.

Mr. Hartin and his wife, Shelley Jean Burrows, have four children and five grandchildren.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, Empire District 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 320,000 customers across six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire District, visit www.empiredistrict.com. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

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Contact: Jillian Campbell
Corporate Communications
417-625-5180
jillian.campbell@libertyutilities.com