

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LIBERTY UTILITIES - EMPIRE  
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF JIM HARGRAVE**

JOPLIN, MO – March 16, 2018 – Mr. Jim Hargrave retired from the Company on February 28, 2018, following 34 years of service in the natural gas operations business.

Mr. Hargrave joined the Company when Empire acquired the Missouri Public Service Company/Aquila in 2006. He began as a Gas Operations Supervisor and was later promoted to the Manager of the Gas Service Center in Sedalia, MO, the position he held at retirement.

Mr. Hargrave is a graduate of Iowa Lakes Community College and Northwest Missouri State University.

Previously, Hargrave worked for Diven Construction Company as a Laborer.

Mr. Hargrave and his wife, Sara, have two children and three 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](http://www.empiredistrict.com). For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit [www.libertyutilities.com](http://www.libertyutilities.com).

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