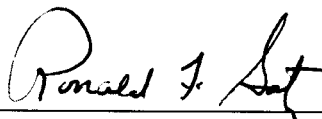


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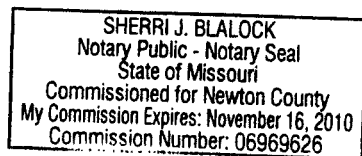
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF JASPER)

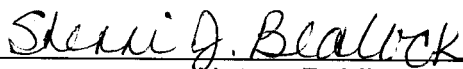
On the 13 day of July 2007, before me appeared Ronald F. Gatz, to me personally known, who, being by me first duly sworn, states that he is the Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of The Empire District Gas Company and acknowledged that he has read the above and foregoing document and that the statements therein were prepared by him or under his direction and are true and correct to the best of his information, knowledge and belief.



Ronald F. Gatz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13 day of July 2007.





Notary Public

My commission expires: 11-16-2010.