AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF JASPER)

On the 22nd day of November, 2004, before me appeared Blake Mertens, to me personally known, who, being by me first duly sworn, states that he is the Energy Supply Planning Engineer of The Empire District Electric Company and acknowledged that he has read the above and foregoing document and believes that the statements therein are true and correct to the best of his information, knowledge and belief.

Blake Mertens

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of November, 2004

Pat Settle, Notary Public

My commission expires:

Patricia A. Settle
Notary Public - Notary Seal
State of Missouri
County of Jasper
Expires February 09, 2008