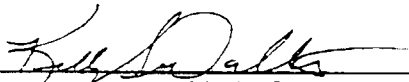


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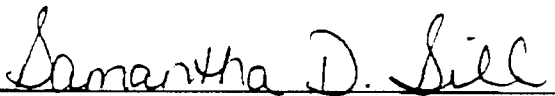
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF JASPER)

On the 23rd day of April, 2004, before me appeared Kelly S. Walters, to me personally known, who, being by me first duly sworn, states that she is the Director of Planning and Regulatory of The Empire District Electric Company and acknowledged that she has read the above and foregoing document and believes that the statements therein are true and correct to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.



Kelly S. Walters

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of April, 2004



Samantha Sill, Notary Public

My commission expires: May 21, 2004

SAMANTHA D SILL
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MISSOURI
JASPER COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXP. MAY 21, 2004

