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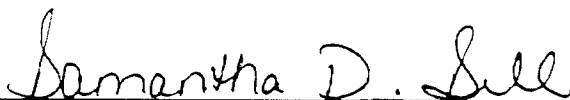
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF JASPER)

On the 23rd day of April, 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 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

