

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the matter of the Application of The )  
Empire District Electric Company for )  
authority to issue and sell under its )  
existing Indenture of Mortgage and Deed )  
of Trust dated as of September 1, 1944, )  
as amended and supplemented, up to and )  
including \$200,000,000 principal amount )  
of its First Mortgage Bonds, in one or more )  
series and to, among other things, execute )  
and deliver a Supplemental Indenture or )  
Indentures to provide for the terms of )  
said Bonds. )

Case No. EF-2004-0109

**NOTICE AND WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION**

Comes now The Empire District Electric Company ("Empire") and notifies the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") that it is withdrawing its Motion for Expedited Treatment of its Application in the captioned case. In support thereof, Empire states as follows:

1. On August 25, 2003, Empire filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment in the captioned case. In its Motion, Empire requested that the Commission issue an Order by no later than September 19, 2003, and bearing an effective date no later than September 30, 2003, approving Empire's application. Staff opposed the Motion, stating that it could not be in a position to file a recommendation until November 26, 2003.

2. In a subsequent pleading, filed on September 5, 2003, Empire observed it was attempting to coordinate the redemption of several series of outstanding First Mortgage Bonds and to refinance those obligations during the month of October in conjunction with a Treasury Lock forward transaction the purpose of which was to

hedge a Treasury Rate benchmark for the pricing of the replacement debt.

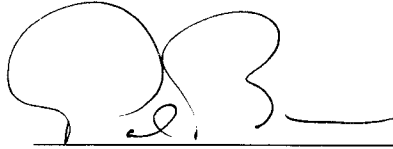
3. Empire has since timely obtained all other required regulatory approvals to issue its First Mortgage Bonds under its Indenture of Mortgage and Deed of Trust including the approvals of the federal Securities and Exchange Commission, the Kansas Corporation Commission, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

4. Because of the difficulties associated with timely obtaining the Commission's authority to mortgage its Missouri properties to secure the new series of First Mortgage Bonds and other business considerations, Empire has called three series of First Mortgage Bonds for redemption and anticipates, subject to market and other conditions, to finance the redemption with an underwritten public offering of senior unsecured notes. A copy of a press release setting forth the Company's plans in this regard in more detail is attached hereto for the Commission's information.

5. Given that Empire proposes to refinance the three series of First Mortgage Bonds with unsecured senior indebtedness (which does not require the Commission's approval) there is no longer an exigent need for an Order approving the Application in this case.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons aforesaid, Empire withdraws its Motion for Expedited Treatment of its Application in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



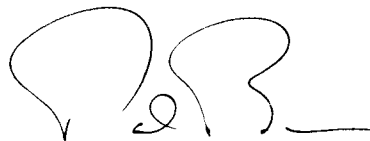
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was delivered by first class mail or by hand delivery, on this 15th day of October 2003 to the following:

Mr. Dennis Frey, Deputy General Counsel  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
200 Madison Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

John B. Coffman  
Acting Public Counsel  
Office of the Public Counsel  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

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**THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
CALLS THREE SERIES OF FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS FOR REDEMPTION**

JOPLIN, MO, October 8, 2003--(NYSE:EDE) The Empire District Electric Company announced today that it has called for redemption of all of the outstanding first mortgage bonds of three separate series: (1) all \$2.25 million aggregate principal amount of the Company's First Mortgage Bonds, 9¾% Series due 2020 ("9¾% Bonds"); (2) all \$13.1 million aggregate principal amount of the Company's First Mortgage Bonds, 7¼% Series due 2028 ("7¼% Bonds"); and (3) all \$45.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Company's First Mortgage Bonds, 7% Series due 2023 ("7% Bonds").

The redemption notices were mailed October 7, 2003 by The Bank of New York, the principal trustee under the indenture of mortgage and deed of trust governing the first mortgage bonds. The redemption date for each series has been set for November 6, 2003. The redemption prices will be 103.70% for the 9¾% Bonds, 101.5% for the 7¼% Bonds and 103.26% for the 7% Bonds, plus, in each case, accrued interest through the date of redemption.

The Company expects, subject to market and other conditions, to finance the redemptions with an underwritten public offering of senior unsecured notes, covered by its existing shelf registration statement.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE:EDE) is an investor-owned utility providing electric service to approximately 154,000 customers in southwest Missouri, southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma, and northwest Arkansas. The Company also provides fiber optic and Internet services and has an investment in close-tolerance, custom manufacturing. Empire provides water service in three incorporated communities in Missouri.

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*Certain matters discussed in this press release are "forward-looking statements" intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements address future plans, objectives, expectations, and events or conditions concerning various matters. Actual results in each case could differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements, by reason of the factors noted in our filings with the SEC, including the most recent Form 10-K and Form 10-Q.*