BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

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In the Matter of the Application of The Empire District Electric Company for Approval of Amendments to its Stock Unit Plan for Directors and Authority to Issue up to an Additional 500,000 Shares of its Common Stock, \$1.00 Par Value, Reserved for Issuance Pursuant to Empire's Stock Unit Plan for Directors

Docket No. 15-EPDE-<u>063</u>-SEC

APPLICATION

The Empire District Electric Company (hereinafter "Empire"), pursuant to K.S.A. 66-125 and for its application to the Kansas Corporation Commission (hereinafter "Commission"), for approval of amendments to its Stock Unit Plan for Directors ("SUP") and for authorization to issue the securities described below, states:

1. Empire is a Kansas corporation with its principal office and place of business at 602 S. Joplin Avenue, Joplin, Missouri 64801; that Empire is incorporated in and is conducting business in Kansas and is qualified to conduct business and is conducting business in the States of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, and is engaged generally in generating, purchasing, transmitting, distributing and selling electric energy in portions of said states; that Empire's Kansas operations are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

2. All communications, notices, orders and decisions respecting this application and proceeding should be addressed to:

Bradley P. Beecher The Empire District Electric Company 602 Joplin, P. O. Box 127 Joplin, Missouri 64802 (417) 625-5100 (417) 625-5153, fax bbeecher@empiredistrict.com James G. Flaherty Anderson & Byrd, LLP 216 S. Hickory, P. O. Box 17 Ottawa, Kansas 66067 (785) 242-1234 (785) 242-1279, fax jflaherty@andersonbyrd.com 3. A copy of Empire's Restated Articles of Incorporation has been previously filed with the Commission and is incorporated herein by reference.

4. Empire is seeking approval of the amendments to its SUP pursuant to K.S.A. 66-125, which requires, in part, that the terms on which the utility's securities shall be issued, including any changes to those terms, be approved by the Commission. Empire is also seeking approval to issue an additional 500,000 shares of Common Stock pursuant to its SUP.

5. Empire proposes, from time to time, to issue up to an additional 500,000 shares of common stock (\$1.00 par value each) pursuant to Empire's SUP. A copy of the SUP was previously filed with the Commission in 1998 in Docket No. 99-EPDE-238-SEC. On December 1, 2005, the SUP was amended and an additional 200,000 shares authorized for issuance under the SUP. Certified copies of the Resolutions passed by the Board of Directors relating to the SUP are on file with this Commission in Docket No. 06-EPDE-580-SEC. The SUP has been amended since 2006. Empire is seeking approval of those amendments. A red-lined copy of the amended SUP¹ is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

6. The issuance of up to an additional 500,000 shares of Empire's authorized and unissued common stock, \$1.00 par value, is necessary and required and will be issued in connection with Empire's SUP. A copy of the Resolution of the Board of Directors approving the issuance of the additional shares pursuant to the SUP is attached as Exhibit C and incorporated herein by reference.

¹The red-lined copy of the SUP includes all amendments to the SUP between 2005 and 2014.

7. Empire's balance sheet as of June 30, 2014; income statement for the 12 months ended June 30, 2014; and allocation to each state in which Empire operates, by percentages, of gross plant at original cost, have been filed with the Commission by Empire on this date in an application to obtain approval of amendments to its Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan. Empire incorporates herein by reference those financial exhibits as if they were part of this filing.

WHEREFORE, The Empire District Electric Company requests this Commission to issue its Order,

(a) approving the amendments to Empire's SUP;

(b) authorizing Empire to issue up to an additional of 500,000 shares of Common Stock pursuant to the SUP;

(c) allowing Empire to take such other actions as may reasonably be necessary to complete the subject transaction.

DATED at Joplin, Missouri, this 8th day of August 2014.

THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

Bradley IF Beecher, President and CEO

James G. Flaherty, #11177 ANPERSON & BYRD, LLP 216 S. Hickory, P. O. Box 17 Ottawa, Kansas 66067 (785) 242-1234, telephone (785) 242-1279, facsimile Attorneys for The Empire District Electric Company

VERIFICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI))ss: COUNTY OF JASPER)

Bradley P. Beecher, having been duly sworn, upon his oath, states that he is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Empire District Electric Company, applicant herein, and as such, is duly authorized to execute said application and make this affidavit on its behalf; that the matters and things stated in the foregoing application and exhibits thereto are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Brudley P. Beecher Bradley PBeecher, President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 8th day of August, 2014.



JANET L. HUNLEY

Jasper County Commission #11243846 Appointment/Commission Expires: September 20, 2015

EXHIBIT A

STOCK UNIT PLAN FOR DIRECTORS

OF THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

AS AMENDED AND RESTATED

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005 FEBRUARY 6, 2014

STOCK UNIT PLAN FOR DIRECTORS OF THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

1. <u>Purpose</u>. The Empire District Electric Company (the "Company") has adopted this Stock Unit Plan for Directors of The Empire District Electric Company (the "Plan") in order to enhance the Company's ability to attract and retain competent and experienced persons to serve as Directors and to recognize the service of Directors of the Company by providing a stock-based compensation program for Directors that will foster a strong incentive to put forth maximum effort for the continued growth and success of the Company.

- 2. <u>Effective Date</u>. This Plan is effective as of August 1, 1998.
- 3. Definitions.

(a) "<u>Account</u>" means an account established for each Eligible Director on the books of the Company that will be credited with Stock Units.

(b) "<u>Annual Retainer Fees</u>" means the annual rate of Board retainer fees (excluding meeting and committee fees) established by the Board as in effect at the applicable time.

(c) "<u>Board</u>" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

(d) "<u>Cash Retirement Plan</u>" means the Retirement Plan for Directors of The Empire District Electric Company, as said plan may be amended from time to time.

(e) "<u>Committee</u>" means the Compensation Committee of the Board.

(f) "<u>Common Stock</u>" means common stock, \$1.00 par value, of the Company, or any substituted class of common stock, provided such stock is the primary publicly traded equity issue of the Company.

(g) "<u>Company</u>" means The Empire District Electric Company and its successors.

(h) "<u>Effective Date</u>" means August 1, 1998.

(i) "<u>Elected Payment Date</u>" means the date elected by the Eligible Director or otherwise determined pursuant to Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units credited after December 31, 2005, which shall be his or her Payment Date with respect to such Stock Units unless (i) the Eligible Director's death occurs before the Payment Date so elected or otherwise determined pursuant to Section 8(h) or (ii) in the case of an Eligible Director who has not elected a later Elected Payment Date pursuant to the next to last sentence of Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units, the Eligible Director's Retirement Date occurs before the Payment Date so elected or otherwise determined pursuant to Section 8(h).

(j) "<u>Eligible Director</u>" means an Eligible Existing Director or an Eligible New Director.

(k) "<u>Eligible Existing Director</u>" means any Director of the Company who (i) is serving on the Board on the Effective Date, (ii) has never been an officer of the Company and (iii) has elected to participate in this Plan pursuant to Section 6(b).

(I) "<u>Eligible New Director</u>" means any Director of the Company who is a Director on or after the Effective Date but who is not an officer of the Company at the applicable time or an Eligible Existing Director.

(m) "<u>Fair Market Value</u>" means with respect to the Common Stock the <u>mean between the high and low prices of Common Stockclosing price of Shares reported</u> on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape on the day of the required calculation or, if there should be no sale on that date, on the next preceding day on which there was a sale.

(n) "<u>Initial Election Date</u>" means (i) with respect to Stock Units credited on a January 1st pursuant to Section 7(c) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), the December 31st immediately preceding such January 1st, and (ii) with respect to Stock Units credited pursuant to Section 7(d) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), the day before the day on which the Eligible New Director first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan.

(o) "<u>Payment Date</u>" means:

(i) in the case of Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006 (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), the earlier to occur of the following dates: (A) the Eligible Director's Retirement Date or (ii) the Eligible Director's death; and

(ii) in the case of Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006), the earliest to occur of the following dates: (A) the Eligible Director's Elected Payment Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units, (B) the Eligible Director's Retirement Date, or (C) the Eligible Director's death; provided, however, that clause (B) shall not apply in the case of an Eligible Director who has elected a later Elected Payment Date (and which election has taken effect) pursuant to the next to last sentence of Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units.

(p) "<u>Plan</u>" means the Stock Unit Plan for Directors of The Empire District Electric Company as it may be amended from time to time.

(q) "<u>Retirement Date</u>" means the date on which the Director ceases to be a Director other than by reason of death.

(r) "<u>Stock Unit</u>" means a measure of value, expressed as a share of Common Stock, credited to the Eligible Director's Account, and payable in Common Stock upon a Payment Date, as provided in this Plan.

4. <u>Limitations on Issuance of Stock</u>. The total number of shares of the Company's Common Stock reserved for issuance under this Plan shall be <u>900,000</u> shares (subject to adjustment as provided in Section 9 of this Plan).

5. <u>Administration</u>. This Plan shall be administered by the Committee. The Committee shall have full authority and absolute discretion (i) to construe and interpret the Plan, reconcile inconsistencies thereunder and supply omissions therefrom, and (ii) to make all determinations and take all other actions necessary or advisable for the proper administration of the Plan. Any decision or action taken by the Committee in the exercise of such powers or otherwise, arising out of or in connection with the construction, administration, interpretation and effect of the Plan and of its rules and regulations, shall be conclusive and binding upon all persons.

6. <u>Eligibility</u>.

(a) <u>Eligible New Directors</u>. An Eligible New Director (other than an Eligible New Director who was previously an officer of the Company) shall become eligible to participate in this Plan on the date on which he or she first is elected to the Board. An Eligible New Director who was previously an officer of the Company shall become eligible to participate in this Plan on the latest of: (i) January 1, 2006, (ii) the date on which he or she first is elected to the Board, or (iii) the date on which he or she ceased to be an officer of the Company.

(b) <u>Eligible Existing Directors</u>. Each Director who is serving on the Board on the Effective Date and who is participating in the Cash Retirement Plan shall have the right to elect whether (i) to participate in this Plan effective as of the Effective Date in lieu of continued accruals under the Cash Retirement Plan or (ii) to continue accruals under the Cash Retirement Plan. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee during an election period prescribed by the Committee. If such a Director fails to elect to participate in this Plan within such election period, such Director shall not have the right thereafter to elect to participate and shall not be an Eligible Director.

7. <u>Crediting of Stock Units</u>.

(a) <u>Account</u>. Stock Units shall be credited to each Eligible Director's Account in accordance with this Section 7.

(b) <u>Credits as of Effective Date</u>. There shall be credited to the Account of each person who is an Eligible Director on the Effective Date a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) five-twelfths of the amount of the Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on the Effective Date,

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Effective Date.

(c) <u>Annual Credits</u>. As of January 1st of each calendar year beginning with 1999, there shall be credited to the Account of each person who is an Eligible Director on such January 1st a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) the Director's Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on such January 1st or, if the Committee establishes a fixed amount for the Annual Credit for the applicable calendar year, such fixed amount,

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on such January 1st.

(d) <u>Credits to New Directors</u>. There shall be credited to the Account of each Eligible New Director as of the date on which such person first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) the amount of the Eligible New Director's Retainer Fees (excluding meeting and committee fees) for the balance of the calendar year after he or she becomes eligible to participate (computed as a percentage of the Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on the date on which he or she becomes eligible) or, if the Committee establishes a fixed amount for the Annual Credit for that calendar year pursuant to Section 7(c)(i) above, the amount of the Annual Credit set by the Committee divided by twelve and multiplied by the number of whole months remaining for the balance of such year,

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the date on which the Eligible New Director becomes eligible to participate in the Plan.

This subsection (d) shall not apply if the date on which the Eligible New Director first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan is January 1st.

(e) <u>Election of Eligible Existing Directors to Convert Cash Benefit to</u> <u>Stock Units</u>. Eligible Existing Directors shall have the right to elect, with respect to previously accrued benefits under the Cash Retirement Plan, whether to: (i) retain their retirement benefits under the Cash Retirement Plan for years of service on the Board prior to the Effective Date and to receive benefits under this Plan only with respect to service on or after the Effective Date, or (ii) convert accrued benefits under the Cash Retirement Plan into Stock Units under this Plan ("<u>Converting Directors</u>") as hereinafter set forth. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee during an election period prescribed by the Committee. Converting Directors shall have credited to their Accounts under this Plan as of the Effective Date or such later conversion date as may be established by the Committee (the "<u>Conversion Date</u>"), a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) the product of (A) the Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on the Conversion Date, times (B) the total number of years of service accrued by the Converting Director under the Cash Retirement Plan as of the Effective Date (with credit being given for any period of less than a full year of service at the rate of one-twelfth of a year of service for each full month of service),

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Conversion Date.

(f) <u>Dividends</u>. Until fully paid out in accordance with the terms of this Plan, the Company shall credit to each Eligible Director's Account, on each day that the Company pays a declared cash dividend to the stockholders of its Common Stock, a number (calculated to three decimal places) of Stock Units that is equal to (i) the product of the total number of Stock Units in the Eligible Director's Account on the record date established for such dividend, multiplied by the cash dividend per share of Common Stock, divided by (ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the record date.

8. Payout of Accounts.

(a) <u>General Payout Terms</u>. Unless installment payments are elected pursuant to subsection (b), (c), (d) or (e) of this Section 8, within 30 days after the Payment Date applicable with respect to any Stock Units, the Company shall cause to be delivered to the Eligible Director (or, in the event of his or her death, the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8) the number of shares of Common Stock equal to the whole number of Stock Units having that Payment Date in his or her Account plus cash for any fractional unit having that Payment Date credited to his or her Account (such cash amount to be calculated based on the applicable fraction of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Payment Date).

Payout on Retirement (Pre-2006 Stock Units). This Section 8(b) (b) applies to Stock Units credited prior to January 1, 2006 (and any dividend credits attributable thereto). With respect to a payout by reason of an Eligible Director's termination of service on a Retirement Date, such Eligible Director may elect, at any time prior to the date which is twelve months before such Retirement Date, to receive, in lieu of a lump sum distribution, distributions in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee. If no such election of installment payments is received by the Committee, the Eligible Director's Account shall be paid out in a lump sum in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8. If the Eligible Director timely files with the Committee such an election to receive installment payments, there shall be distributed to the Eligible Director in January of each year beginning with the January coinciding with or next following the month in which the Eligible Director's Retirement Date falls the whole number of shares of Common Stock equal to the quotient (rounded to the next lowest whole number) obtained by dividing (i) the number of Stock Units credited to the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment (after reduction for Stock Units previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance), by (ii) the number of installments remaining to be paid. The final installment payment shall consist of the number of shares of Common Stock equal to the remaining whole number of Stock Units in the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment plus cash for any fractional unit in his or her Account as of such December 31st (such cash amount to be calculated based on the applicable fraction of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on such December 31st). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director who has elected installment payments prior to his or her receipt of all such installment payments, the remaining installment payments shall be paid to the Eligible Director's beneficiary as determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 at the time that they would otherwise have been paid to the Eligible Director; provided, however, that the Eligible Director may instead elect (by filing a prescribed form with the Committee) that, upon his or her death prior to receiving all installment payments, the remaining balance in the Eligible Director's Account as of the date of the Eligible Director's death (after reduction for Stock Units previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance) shall be distributed to the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 in a lump sum pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section 8 as if the date of the Eligible Director's death were the Payment Date. Anything in this Section 8(b) to the contrary notwithstanding, with respect to any Stock Units credited during calendar year 2005 pursuant to Section 7(c) or 7(d) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), any election of form of payment must be made by the Eligible Director no later than December 31.2005.

(c) <u>Payout on Death While in Service (Pre-2006 Stock Units)</u>. This Section 8(c) applies to Stock Units credited prior to January 1, 2006 (and any dividend credits attributable thereto). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director prior to his or her Retirement Date, the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 shall receive a lump sum distribution within 30 days after such death in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8 unless prior to such death such Eligible Director has elected that benefits be paid to his or her beneficiary in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee. If the Eligible Director so elects that installment payments be made to his or her beneficiary, such installment payments shall be determined in the same manner as installment payments pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section 8 except the Eligible Director's date of death shall be substituted for the Retirement Date and the payments will be made to the beneficiary rather than to the Eligible Director. Anything in this Section 8(c) to the contrary notwithstanding, with respect to any Stock Units credited during calendar year 2005 pursuant to Section 7(c) or 7(d) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), any election of form of payment must be made by the Eligible Director no later than December 31, 2005.

Payout on Retirement or Elected Payment Date (Post-2005 Stock (d) Units). This Section 8(d) applies to Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006). With respect to a payout following an Elected Payment Date or by reason of an Eligible Director's termination of service on a Retirement Date, such Eligible Director may elect to receive, in lieu of a lump sum distribution, distributions in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units. If no such election of installment payments is received by the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units, the Eligible Director's Account attributable to such Stock Units shall be paid out in a lump sum in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8. If the Eligible Director timely files with the Committee such an election to receive installment payments with respect to the applicable Stock Units, there shall be distributed to the Eligible Director in January of each year beginning with the January coinciding with or next following the month in which the Eligible Director's Elected Payment Date or Retirement Date (whichever is applicable) falls the whole number of shares of Common Stock equal to the quotient (rounded to the next lowest whole number) obtained by dividing (i) the number of Stock Units having the applicable Payment Date credited to the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment (after reduction for Stock Units having that Payment Date previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance of Stock Units having that Payment Date), by (ii) the number of installments remaining to be paid. The final installment payment with respect to the applicable Stock Units shall consist of the number of shares of Common Stock equal to the remaining whole number of Stock Units having the applicable Payment Date in the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment plus cash for any fractional unit having the applicable Payment Date in his or her Account as of such December 31st (such cash amount to be calculated based on the applicable fraction of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on such December 31st). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director who has elected installment payments prior to his or her receipt of all such installment payments, the

remaining installment payments shall be paid to the Eligible Director's beneficiary as determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 at the time that they would otherwise have been paid to the Eligible Director; provided, however, that the Eligible Director may instead elect (by filing a prescribed form with the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units) that, upon his or her death prior to receiving all installment payments, the remaining balance in the Eligible Director's Account attributable to the applicable Stock Units as of the date of the Eligible Director's death (after reduction for Stock Units previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance) shall be distributed to the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 as if the date of the Eligible Director's in a lump sum pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section 8 as if the date of the Eligible Director's death were the Payment Date.

Payout on Death While in Service (Post-2005 Stock Units). This (e) Section 8(e) applies to Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director prior to his or her Elected Payment Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units or (in the case of an Eligible Director who has not elected a later Elected Payment Date pursuant to Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units) his or her Retirement Date, if earlier, the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 shall receive a lump sum distribution within 30 days after such death in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8 unless such Eligible Director has elected that benefits be paid to his or her beneficiary in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units. If the Eligible Director so elects that installment payments be made to his or her beneficiary, such installment payments shall be determined in the same manner as installment payments pursuant to subsection (d) of this Section 8 except the Eligible Director's date of death shall be substituted for the Retirement Date and the payments will be made to the beneficiary rather than to the Eligible Director.

(f) <u>Beneficiary Designation</u>. Each Eligible Director shall be entitled to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries (which may be an entity other than a natural person) who, following the Eligible Director's death, will be entitled to receive any payments to be made under this Plan. At any time, and from time to time, any such designation may be changed or canceled by the Eligible Director without the consent of any beneficiary. Any designation, change, or cancellation must be by written notice filed with the Company and shall not be effective until received by the Company. If no beneficiary has been named by the Eligible Director or if all designated beneficiaries predecease the Eligible Director, payment shall be made to the Eligible Director's estate.

(g) <u>Payout in Cash If Required</u>. Anything in this Plan to the contrary notwithstanding, if at the time a payment is due under the Plan, distribution in the form of Common Stock may not be made to any person due to requirements of applicable law, such payment shall not be made in such form but shall instead be made in cash in an

amount equal to the Fair Market Value of the shares of Common Stock which would otherwise have been paid out (such Fair Market Value to be computed as of the last day of the month preceding the month in which the cash payment is made).

Elected Payment Date (Post-2005 Stock Units). This Section 8(h) (h) applies to Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006). Prior to January 1 of a calendar year, each person who will be an Eligible Director on that January 1 shall have the right to elect the date with respect to which payment of the Stock Units to be credited to his or her Account for that calendar year pursuant to Section 7(c) (together with any Stock Units reflecting dividend credits attributable to such Stock Units) will be made or commence pursuant to this Plan; provided, however, that such Elected Payment Date may not be earlier than January of the third calendar year following such calendar year. In the case of an Eligible New Director entitled to a credit to his or her Account pursuant to Section 7(d), such Eligible New Director shall have the right to elect, prior to the date on which he or she first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan, the date with respect to which payment of the Stock Units to be credited to his or her Account pursuant to Section 7(d) (together with any Stock Units reflecting dividend credits attributable to such Stock Units) will be made or commence pursuant to this Plan; provided, however, that such Elected Payment Date may not be earlier than the third anniversary of the date on which such Eligible New Director first became eligible to participate in the Plan. In the absence of a timely election by an Eligible Director pursuant to this Section 8(h), the Elected Payment Date shall be the earliest Elected Payment Date that the Eligible Director could have elected with respect to the applicable Stock Units. An Eligible Director may, at any time not later than twelve months before an Elected Payment Date, elect a later Elected Payment Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units which shall be no less than five years later than such prior Elected Payment Date-; provided that such election does not take effect until at least twelve months after the date on which the election is made. Any election pursuant to this subsection (h) of Section 8 shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee.

9. <u>Change in Capitalization</u>. In the event of any change in the outstanding shares of the Company's Common Stock by reason of any stock dividend or split, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, spin-off, reorganization, combination of shares or other similar corporate change, the Board shall make such adjustments as it deems appropriate in the number of Stock Units in the Eligible Director's Account and in the kind of shares to which the Stock Units relate, and in the number and kind of shares available under this Plan.

10. <u>Unfunded Plan</u>. No Eligible Director shall have any property interest whatsoever in any specific assets of the Company by reason of this Plan. The Eligible Director's Account is not intended to be a trust account or escrow account for the benefit of an Eligible Director or any other person. The sole right of an Eligible Director or his or her personal representative is a right as an unsecured general creditor of the Company.

11. <u>Assignment and Alienation</u>. The rights and benefits of Eligible Directors under this Plan are personal to each Director and neither the Director nor his or her beneficiary shall have the power or right to transfer, assign, anticipate, mortgage or otherwise encumber any interest in the benefits to be paid under this Plan.

12. <u>Annual Report</u>. No later than January 31st of each year, the Company shall provide each Eligible Director with an annual report of his or her Account balance.

13. <u>No Rights of Stockholder</u>. An Eligible Director shall have no rights as a stockholder of Common Stock with respect to the Stock Units credited to his or her Account unless and until the shares of Common Stock are issued to the Eligible Director by the Company pursuant to the terms of the Plan.

14. <u>Amendment and Termination</u>.

(a) <u>General Amendment and Termination Power</u>. Subject to Sections 14(b) and 15(e), the Board shall have the right to amend, suspend, or terminate this Plan in any respect at any time. Subject to Section 15(e), no amendment, suspension or termination of the Plan (other than through adjustment for changes in capitalization or corporate transactions as herein provided) shall adversely affect any previously accrued benefits hereunder unless the affected Eligible Director consents thereto.

(b) <u>Stockholder Approval</u>. Any increase in the number of shares of the Company's Common Stock reserved for issuance under this Plan (except as contemplated by Section 9) and any other amendment or modification of the Plan for which stockholder approval is required under any applicable law or applicable rule or regulation of any governmental regulatory body or under the rules of any stock exchange on which the Company's Common Stock is listed shall be subject to approval of the Company's stockholders.

15. <u>Miscellaneous</u>.

(a) <u>Not Contract</u>. The adoption and maintenance of this Plan shall not constitute a contract between the Company and any Director for continued service as a Director. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to give any Director the right to be retained as a Director, nor shall it interfere with the Director's right to resign as a Director at any time.

(b) <u>Governing Law</u>. This instrument shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Kansas.

(c) <u>Benefit Payments and Expenses</u>. The cost of benefit payments from this Plan and the expenses of administering the Plan shall be borne by the Company.

(d) <u>Other Benefits</u>. The benefits herein contained are in addition to all other awards, arrangements, contracts or benefits, if any, that any Director may have by

virtue of service for the Company, unless and to the extent that this Plan or any such award, arrangement, contract or benefit otherwise provides.

Compliance with IRC Section 409A. It is intended that Stock Units (e) credited prior to January 1, 2005 satisfy the grandfather provisions applicable under Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, such that such Stock Units (and dividend credits attributable thereto) will not be subject to Section 409A. No amendment to this Plan after October 3, 2004 shall apply to Stock Units credited prior to January 1, 2005 (or dividend credits attributable thereto) unless the amendment specifically provides that it applies to such Stock Units. It is intended that Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2005 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2005) comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any regulations and guidelines issued thereunder (including transitional rules), and the Plan shall be interpreted consistently with this intent. The Board may amend the Plan in any respect it deems necessary or desirable (including retroactively) in order to preserve compliance with said Section 409A. For purposes of this Plan, an Eligible Director shall be deemed to have ceased to be a Director if and only if the Eligible Director has experienced a 'separation' from service' within the meaning of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations thereunder.

EXHIBIT B

STOCK UNIT PLAN FOR DIRECTORS

OF THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

AS AMENDED AND RESTATED

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6, 2014

STOCK UNIT PLAN FOR DIRECTORS OF THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

1. <u>Purpose</u>. The Empire District Electric Company (the "Company") has adopted this Stock Unit Plan for Directors of The Empire District Electric Company (the "Plan") in order to enhance the Company's ability to attract and retain competent and experienced persons to serve as Directors and to recognize the service of Directors of the Company by providing a stock-based compensation program for Directors that will foster a strong incentive to put forth maximum effort for the continued growth and success of the Company.

- 2. <u>Effective Date</u>. This Plan is effective as of August 1, 1998.
- 3. Definitions.

(a) "<u>Account</u>" means an account established for each Eligible Director on the books of the Company that will be credited with Stock Units.

(b) "<u>Annual Retainer Fees</u>" means the annual rate of Board retainer fees (excluding meeting and committee fees) established by the Board as in effect at the applicable time.

(c) "<u>Board</u>" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

(d) "<u>Cash Retirement Plan</u>" means the Retirement Plan for Directors of The Empire District Electric Company, as said plan may be amended from time to time.

(e) "<u>Committee</u>" means the Compensation Committee of the Board.

(f) "<u>Common Stock</u>" means common stock, \$1.00 par value, of the Company, or any substituted class of common stock, provided such stock is the primary publicly traded equity issue of the Company.

(g) "<u>Company</u>" means The Empire District Electric Company and its successors.

(h) "<u>Effective Date</u>" means August 1, 1998.

(i) "<u>Elected Payment Date</u>" means the date elected by the Eligible Director or otherwise determined pursuant to Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units credited after December 31, 2005, which shall be his or her Payment Date with respect to such Stock Units unless (i) the Eligible Director's death occurs before the Payment Date so elected or otherwise determined pursuant to Section 8(h) or (ii) in the case of an Eligible Director who has not elected a later Elected Payment Date pursuant to the next to last sentence of Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units, the Eligible Director's Retirement Date occurs before the Payment Date so elected or otherwise determined pursuant to Section 8(h).

(j) "<u>Eligible Director</u>" means an Eligible Existing Director or an Eligible New Director.

(k) "<u>Eligible Existing Director</u>" means any Director of the Company who (i) is serving on the Board on the Effective Date, (ii) has never been an officer of the Company and (iii) has elected to participate in this Plan pursuant to Section 6(b).

(I) "<u>Eligible New Director</u>" means any Director of the Company who is a Director on or after the Effective Date but who is not an officer of the Company at the applicable time or an Eligible Existing Director.

(m) "<u>Fair Market Value</u>" means with respect to the Common Stock the closing price of Shares reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape on the day of the required calculation or, if there should be no sale on that date, on the next preceding day on which there was a sale.

(n) "<u>Initial Election Date</u>" means (i) with respect to Stock Units credited on a January 1st pursuant to Section 7(c) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), the December 31st immediately preceding such January 1st, and (ii) with respect to Stock Units credited pursuant to Section 7(d) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), the day before the day on which the Eligible New Director first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan.

(o) "<u>Payment Date</u>" means:

(i) in the case of Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006 (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), the earlier to occur of the following dates: (A) the Eligible Director's Retirement Date or (ii) the Eligible Director's death; and

(ii) in the case of Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006), the earliest to occur of the following dates: (A) the Eligible Director's Elected Payment Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units, (B) the Eligible Director's Retirement Date, or (C) the Eligible Director's death; provided, however, that clause (B) shall not apply in the case of an Eligible Director who has elected a later Elected Payment Date (and which election has taken effect) pursuant to the next to last sentence of Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units.

(p) "<u>Plan</u>" means the Stock Unit Plan for Directors of The Empire District Electric Company as it may be amended from time to time.

(q) "<u>Retirement Date</u>" means the date on which the Director ceases to be a Director other than by reason of death.

(r) "<u>Stock Unit</u>" means a measure of value, expressed as a share of Common Stock, credited to the Eligible Director's Account, and payable in Common Stock upon a Payment Date, as provided in this Plan.

4. <u>Limitations on Issuance of Stock</u>. The total number of shares of the Company's Common Stock reserved for issuance under this Plan shall be 900,000 shares (subject to adjustment as provided in Section 9 of this Plan).

5. <u>Administration</u>. This Plan shall be administered by the Committee. The Committee shall have full authority and absolute discretion (i) to construe and interpret the Plan, reconcile inconsistencies thereunder and supply omissions therefrom, and (ii) to make all determinations and take all other actions necessary or advisable for the proper administration of the Plan. Any decision or action taken by the Committee in the exercise of such powers or otherwise, arising out of or in connection with the construction, administration, interpretation and effect of the Plan and of its rules and regulations, shall be conclusive and binding upon all persons.

6. <u>Eligibility</u>.

(a) <u>Eligible New Directors</u>. An Eligible New Director (other than an Eligible New Director who was previously an officer of the Company) shall become eligible to participate in this Plan on the date on which he or she first is elected to the Board. An Eligible New Director who was previously an officer of the Company shall become eligible to participate in this Plan on the latest of: (i) January 1, 2006, (ii) the date on which he or she first is elected to the Board, or (iii) the date on which he or she ceased to be an officer of the Company.

(b) <u>Eligible Existing Directors</u>. Each Director who is serving on the Board on the Effective Date and who is participating in the Cash Retirement Plan shall have the right to elect whether (i) to participate in this Plan effective as of the Effective Date in lieu of continued accruals under the Cash Retirement Plan or (ii) to continue accruals under the Cash Retirement Plan. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee during an election period prescribed by the Committee. If such a Director fails to elect to participate in this Plan within such election period, such Director shall not have the right thereafter to elect to participate and shall not be an Eligible Director.

7. <u>Crediting of Stock Units</u>.

(a) <u>Account</u>. Stock Units shall be credited to each Eligible Director's Account in accordance with this Section 7.

(b) <u>Credits as of Effective Date</u>. There shall be credited to the Account of each person who is an Eligible Director on the Effective Date a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) five-twelfths of the amount of the Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on the Effective Date,

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Effective Date.

(c) <u>Annual Credits</u>. As of January 1st of each calendar year beginning with 1999, there shall be credited to the Account of each person who is an Eligible Director on such January 1st a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) the Director's Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on such January 1st or, if the Committee establishes a fixed amount for the Annual Credit for the applicable calendar year, such fixed amount,

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on such January 1st.

(d) <u>Credits to New Directors</u>. There shall be credited to the Account of each Eligible New Director as of the date on which such person first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) the amount of the Eligible New Director's Retainer Fees (excluding meeting and committee fees) for the balance of the calendar year after he or she becomes eligible to participate (computed as a percentage of the Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on the date on which he or she becomes eligible) or, if the Committee establishes a fixed amount for the Annual Credit for that calendar year pursuant to Section 7(c)(i) above, the amount of the Annual Credit set by the Committee divided by twelve and multiplied by the number of whole months remaining for the balance of such year,

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the date on which the Eligible New Director becomes eligible to participate in the Plan.

This subsection (d) shall not apply if the date on which the Eligible New Director first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan is January 1st.

(e) <u>Election of Eligible Existing Directors to Convert Cash Benefit to</u> <u>Stock Units</u>. Eligible Existing Directors shall have the right to elect, with respect to previously accrued benefits under the Cash Retirement Plan, whether to: (i) retain their retirement benefits under the Cash Retirement Plan for years of service on the Board prior to the Effective Date and to receive benefits under this Plan only with respect to service on or after the Effective Date, or (ii) convert accrued benefits under the Cash Retirement Plan into Stock Units under this Plan ("<u>Converting Directors</u>") as hereinafter set forth. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee during an election period prescribed by the Committee. Converting Directors shall have credited to their Accounts under this Plan as of the Effective Date or such later conversion date as may be established by the Committee (the "<u>Conversion Date</u>"), a number (calculated to three decimal points) of Stock Units equal to:

(i) the product of (A) the Annual Retainer Fees as in effect on the Conversion Date, times (B) the total number of years of service accrued by the Converting Director under the Cash Retirement Plan as of the Effective Date (with credit being given for any period of less than a full year of service at the rate of one-twelfth of a year of service for each full month of service),

divided by

(ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Conversion Date.

(f) <u>Dividends</u>. Until fully paid out in accordance with the terms of this Plan, the Company shall credit to each Eligible Director's Account, on each day that the Company pays a declared cash dividend to the stockholders of its Common Stock, a number (calculated to three decimal places) of Stock Units that is equal to (i) the product of the total number of Stock Units in the Eligible Director's Account on the record date established for such dividend, multiplied by the cash dividend per share of Common Stock, divided by (ii) the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the record date.

8. Payout of Accounts.

(a) <u>General Payout Terms</u>. Unless installment payments are elected pursuant to subsection (b), (c), (d) or (e) of this Section 8, within 30 days after the Payment Date applicable with respect to any Stock Units, the Company shall cause to be delivered to the Eligible Director (or, in the event of his or her death, the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8) the number of shares of Common Stock equal to the whole number of Stock Units having that Payment Date in his or her Account plus cash for any fractional unit having that Payment Date credited to his or her Account (such cash amount to be calculated based on the applicable fraction of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Payment Date).

Payout on Retirement (Pre-2006 Stock Units). This Section 8(b) (b) applies to Stock Units credited prior to January 1, 2006 (and any dividend credits attributable thereto). With respect to a payout by reason of an Eligible Director's termination of service on a Retirement Date, such Eligible Director may elect, at any time prior to the date which is twelve months before such Retirement Date, to receive, in lieu of a lump sum distribution, distributions in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee. If no such election of installment payments is received by the Committee, the Eligible Director's Account shall be paid out in a lump sum in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8. If the Eligible Director timely files with the Committee such an election to receive installment payments, there shall be distributed to the Eligible Director in January of each year beginning with the January coinciding with or next following the month in which the Eligible Director's Retirement Date falls the whole number of shares of Common Stock equal to the quotient (rounded to the next lowest whole number) obtained by dividing (i) the number of Stock Units credited to the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment (after reduction for Stock Units previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance), by (ii) the number of installments remaining to be paid. The final installment payment shall consist of the number of shares of Common Stock equal to the remaining whole number of Stock Units in the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment plus cash for any fractional unit in his or her Account as of such December 31st (such cash amount to be calculated based on the applicable fraction of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on such December 31st). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director who has elected installment payments prior to his or her receipt of all such installment payments, the remaining installment payments shall be paid to the Eligible Director's beneficiary as determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 at the time that they would otherwise have been paid to the Eligible Director; provided, however, that the Eligible Director may instead elect (by filing a prescribed form with the Committee) that, upon his or her death prior to receiving all installment payments, the remaining balance in the Eligible Director's Account as of the date of the Eligible Director's death (after reduction for Stock Units previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance) shall be distributed to the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 in a lump sum pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section 8 as if the date of the Eligible Director's death were the Payment Date. Anything in this Section 8(b) to the contrary notwithstanding, with respect to any Stock Units credited during calendar year 2005 pursuant to Section 7(c) or 7(d) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), any election of form of payment must be made by the Eligible Director no later than December 31.2005.

(c) <u>Payout on Death While in Service (Pre-2006 Stock Units)</u>. This Section 8(c) applies to Stock Units credited prior to January 1, 2006 (and any dividend credits attributable thereto). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director prior to his or her Retirement Date, the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 shall receive a lump sum distribution within 30 days after such death in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8 unless prior to such death such Eligible Director has elected that benefits be paid to his or her beneficiary in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee. If the Eligible Director so elects that installment payments be made to his or her beneficiary, such installment payments shall be determined in the same manner as installment payments pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section 8 except the Eligible Director's date of death shall be substituted for the Retirement Date and the payments will be made to the beneficiary rather than to the Eligible Director. Anything in this Section 8(c) to the contrary notwithstanding, with respect to any Stock Units credited during calendar year 2005 pursuant to Section 7(c) or 7(d) (and any dividend credits attributable thereto), any election of form of payment must be made by the Eligible Director no later than December 31, 2005.

Payout on Retirement or Elected Payment Date (Post-2005 Stock (d) Units). This Section 8(d) applies to Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006). With respect to a payout following an Elected Payment Date or by reason of an Eligible Director's termination of service on a Retirement Date, such Eligible Director may elect to receive, in lieu of a lump sum distribution, distributions in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units. If no such election of installment payments is received by the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units, the Eligible Director's Account attributable to such Stock Units shall be paid out in a lump sum in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8. If the Eligible Director timely files with the Committee such an election to receive installment payments with respect to the applicable Stock Units, there shall be distributed to the Eligible Director in January of each year beginning with the January coinciding with or next following the month in which the Eligible Director's Elected Payment Date or Retirement Date (whichever is applicable) falls the whole number of shares of Common Stock equal to the quotient (rounded to the next lowest whole number) obtained by dividing (i) the number of Stock Units having the applicable Payment Date credited to the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment (after reduction for Stock Units having that Payment Date previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance of Stock Units having that Payment Date), by (ii) the number of installments remaining to be paid. The final installment payment with respect to the applicable Stock Units shall consist of the number of shares of Common Stock equal to the remaining whole number of Stock Units having the applicable Payment Date in the Eligible Director's Account as of the December 31st preceding the month of payment plus cash for any fractional unit having the applicable Payment Date in his or her Account as of such December 31st (such cash amount to be calculated based on the applicable fraction of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on such December 31st). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director who has elected installment payments prior to his or her receipt of all such installment payments, the

remaining installment payments shall be paid to the Eligible Director's beneficiary as determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 at the time that they would otherwise have been paid to the Eligible Director; provided, however, that the Eligible Director may instead elect (by filing a prescribed form with the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units) that, upon his or her death prior to receiving all installment payments, the remaining balance in the Eligible Director's Account attributable to the applicable Stock Units as of the date of the Eligible Director's death (after reduction for Stock Units previously paid out in prior installments and any dividend credits pursuant to Section 7(f) on the remaining balance) shall be distributed to the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 as if the date of the Eligible Director's in a lump sum pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section 8 as if the date of the Eligible Director's death were the Payment Date.

Payout on Death While in Service (Post-2005 Stock Units). This (e) Section 8(e) applies to Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006). In the event of the death of an Eligible Director prior to his or her Elected Payment Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units or (in the case of an Eligible Director who has not elected a later Elected Payment Date pursuant to Section 8(h) with respect to the applicable Stock Units) his or her Retirement Date, if earlier, the Eligible Director's beneficiary determined pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section 8 shall receive a lump sum distribution within 30 days after such death in accordance with subsection (a) of this Section 8 unless such Eligible Director has elected that benefits be paid to his or her beneficiary in annual installments over a period of years selected by the Eligible Director but not to exceed ten years. Such election shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee on or before the Initial Election Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units. If the Eligible Director so elects that installment payments be made to his or her beneficiary, such installment payments shall be determined in the same manner as installment payments pursuant to subsection (d) of this Section 8 except the Eligible Director's date of death shall be substituted for the Retirement Date and the payments will be made to the beneficiary rather than to the Eligible Director.

(f) <u>Beneficiary Designation</u>. Each Eligible Director shall be entitled to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries (which may be an entity other than a natural person) who, following the Eligible Director's death, will be entitled to receive any payments to be made under this Plan. At any time, and from time to time, any such designation may be changed or canceled by the Eligible Director without the consent of any beneficiary. Any designation, change, or cancellation must be by written notice filed with the Company and shall not be effective until received by the Company. If no beneficiary has been named by the Eligible Director or if all designated beneficiaries predecease the Eligible Director, payment shall be made to the Eligible Director's estate.

(g) <u>Payout in Cash If Required</u>. Anything in this Plan to the contrary notwithstanding, if at the time a payment is due under the Plan, distribution in the form of Common Stock may not be made to any person due to requirements of applicable law, such payment shall not be made in such form but shall instead be made in cash in an

amount equal to the Fair Market Value of the shares of Common Stock which would otherwise have been paid out (such Fair Market Value to be computed as of the last day of the month preceding the month in which the cash payment is made).

Elected Payment Date (Post-2005 Stock Units). This Section 8(h) (h) applies to Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2006 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2006). Prior to January 1 of a calendar year, each person who will be an Eligible Director on that January 1 shall have the right to elect the date with respect to which payment of the Stock Units to be credited to his or her Account for that calendar year pursuant to Section 7(c) (together with any Stock Units reflecting dividend credits attributable to such Stock Units) will be made or commence pursuant to this Plan; provided, however, that such Elected Payment Date may not be earlier than January of the third calendar year following such calendar year. In the case of an Eligible New Director entitled to a credit to his or her Account pursuant to Section 7(d), such Eligible New Director shall have the right to elect, prior to the date on which he or she first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan, the date with respect to which payment of the Stock Units to be credited to his or her Account pursuant to Section 7(d) (together with any Stock Units reflecting dividend credits attributable to such Stock Units) will be made or commence pursuant to this Plan; provided, however, that such Elected Payment Date may not be earlier than the third anniversary of the date on which such Eligible New Director first became eligible to participate in the Plan. In the absence of a timely election by an Eligible Director pursuant to this Section 8(h), the Elected Payment Date shall be the earliest Elected Payment Date that the Eligible Director could have elected with respect to the applicable Stock Units. An Eligible Director may, at any time not later than twelve months before an Elected Payment Date, elect a later Elected Payment Date with respect to the applicable Stock Units which shall be no less than five years later than such prior Elected Payment Date; provided that such election does not take effect until at least twelve months after the date on which the election is made. Any election pursuant to this subsection (h) of Section 8 shall be made by filing a prescribed form with the Committee.

9. <u>Change in Capitalization</u>. In the event of any change in the outstanding shares of the Company's Common Stock by reason of any stock dividend or split, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, spin-off, reorganization, combination of shares or other similar corporate change, the Board shall make such adjustments as it deems appropriate in the number of Stock Units in the Eligible Director's Account and in the kind of shares to which the Stock Units relate, and in the number and kind of shares available under this Plan.

10. <u>Unfunded Plan</u>. No Eligible Director shall have any property interest whatsoever in any specific assets of the Company by reason of this Plan. The Eligible Director's Account is not intended to be a trust account or escrow account for the benefit of an Eligible Director or any other person. The sole right of an Eligible Director or his or her personal representative is a right as an unsecured general creditor of the Company.

11. <u>Assignment and Alienation</u>. The rights and benefits of Eligible Directors under this Plan are personal to each Director and neither the Director nor his or her beneficiary shall have the power or right to transfer, assign, anticipate, mortgage or otherwise encumber any interest in the benefits to be paid under this Plan.

12. <u>Annual Report</u>. No later than January 31st of each year, the Company shall provide each Eligible Director with an annual report of his or her Account balance.

13. <u>No Rights of Stockholder</u>. An Eligible Director shall have no rights as a stockholder of Common Stock with respect to the Stock Units credited to his or her Account unless and until the shares of Common Stock are issued to the Eligible Director by the Company pursuant to the terms of the Plan.

14. <u>Amendment and Termination</u>.

(a) <u>General Amendment and Termination Power</u>. Subject to Sections 14(b) and 15(e), the Board shall have the right to amend, suspend, or terminate this Plan in any respect at any time. Subject to Section 15(e), no amendment, suspension or termination of the Plan (other than through adjustment for changes in capitalization or corporate transactions as herein provided) shall adversely affect any previously accrued benefits hereunder unless the affected Eligible Director consents thereto.

(b) <u>Stockholder Approval</u>. Any increase in the number of shares of the Company's Common Stock reserved for issuance under this Plan (except as contemplated by Section 9) and any other amendment or modification of the Plan for which stockholder approval is required under any applicable law or applicable rule or regulation of any governmental regulatory body or under the rules of any stock exchange on which the Company's Common Stock is listed shall be subject to approval of the Company's stockholders.

15. <u>Miscellaneous</u>.

(a) <u>Not Contract</u>. The adoption and maintenance of this Plan shall not constitute a contract between the Company and any Director for continued service as a Director. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to give any Director the right to be retained as a Director, nor shall it interfere with the Director's right to resign as a Director at any time.

(b) <u>Governing Law</u>. This instrument shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Kansas.

(c) <u>Benefit Payments and Expenses</u>. The cost of benefit payments from this Plan and the expenses of administering the Plan shall be borne by the Company.

(d) <u>Other Benefits</u>. The benefits herein contained are in addition to all other awards, arrangements, contracts or benefits, if any, that any Director may have by

virtue of service for the Company, unless and to the extent that this Plan or any such award, arrangement, contract or benefit otherwise provides.

Compliance with IRC Section 409A. It is intended that Stock Units (e) credited prior to January 1, 2005 satisfy the grandfather provisions applicable under Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, such that such Stock Units (and dividend credits attributable thereto) will not be subject to Section 409A. No amendment to this Plan after October 3, 2004 shall apply to Stock Units credited prior to January 1, 2005 (or dividend credits attributable thereto) unless the amendment specifically provides that it applies to such Stock Units. It is intended that Stock Units credited on or after January 1, 2005 (other than Stock Units representing dividend credits attributable to Stock Units credited before January 1, 2005) comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any regulations and guidelines issued thereunder (including transitional rules), and the Plan shall be interpreted consistently with this intent. The Board may amend the Plan in any respect it deems necessary or desirable (including retroactively) in order to preserve compliance with said Section 409A. For purposes of this Plan, an Eligible Director shall be deemed to have ceased to be a Director if and only if the Eligible Director has experienced a 'separation from service' within the meaning of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. as amended, and the regulations thereunder.

EXHIBIT C

Certified Copy of Resolutions

Passed by the Board of Directors

of

The Empire District Electric Company

on

February 6, 2014

I, JANET S. WATSON, Secretary-Treasurer of The Empire District Electric Company, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Kansas (hereinafter called the "Company"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the following is a true and correct copy of resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company at a meeting duly called and held on the 6th day of February, 2014; that at said meeting a majority of the Directors, constituting a quorum for the transaction of business, was present and voted in favor of said resolutions; and that said resolutions have not been amended or modified, rescinded or revoked but remain in full force and effect:

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of The Empire District Electric Company adopted a Stock Unit Plan for Directors (the "Plan") at its meeting held on July 23, 1998; and

WHEREAS, The Board is authorized by Section 14 of the Plan to amend the Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors desires to amend and restate the Stock Unit Plan for Directors to increase the shares available for issuance under the Plan (as so amended and restated, the "Plan")

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Plan in the form approved by the Compensation Committee and presented at this meeting in substantially the form of Exhibit "H" attached hereto is hereby approved and adopted, subject to approval by the holders of the Company's Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, within twelve months after the date of adoption by this Board ("Shareholder Approval"), and subject to such changes, if any, as may be approved by the President or Vice President-Finance of the Company, and shall, upon Shareholder Approval, be administered by the Compensation Committee in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, the proper officers of the Company be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to join with the individual directors of the Company in executing and filing, or causing to be filed, with the Securities and Exchange Commission a Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to up to 500,000 shares of the Company's authorized and unissued Common Stock, \$1.00 par value in connection with the Plan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, the proper officers of the Company be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to execute for or on behalf of and in the name of the Company, and to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, all amendments, exhibits or supplements to said Registration Statement and all certificates, statements and other documents or papers, and to do such other acts and things, which in the judgment of said officers may be necessary or proper in order to cause such Registration Statement to become effective under said Securities Act; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, the Company hereby constitutes and appoints B.P. Beecher and L.A. Delano as its attorneys and each of them as its attorney, for and on behalf and in the name of the Company, to sign the above-mentioned Registration Statement and any amendments thereto, all as fully as the proper officers of the Company could or might do if personally present, the Company hereby ratifying all that each such attorney-in-fact may do by virtue hereof, and that the President, or any Vice President of the Company is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Company a power of attorney appointing said attorneys-in-fact in accordance with this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, B.P. Beecher, President of the Company be, and he hereby is, designated the agent for service of the Company to receive notices and communications from the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to the Registration Statement; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, the proper Officers of the Company be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to execute and file an application with the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas for any required authority to issue and sell up to 500,000 additional shares of Common Stock of the Company (the "Shares") pursuant to the Plan and with respect to such other matters in connection with the Plan as they may believe necessary or desirable, with authority in such Officers to make, execute and file with said Commission such amendments or supplements to such application and such exhibits and other documents as in their judgment may be necessary or proper to obtain any requisite order or certificate of said Commission; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, it is desirable and in the best interest of the Company that its securities be qualified or registered for sale in various states; that the President or any Vice President and the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary hereby are authorized to determine the states in which appropriate action shall be taken to qualify or register for sale all or such part of the securities of the Company to be issued pursuant to the Plan as said Officers may deem advisable; that said Officers are hereby authorized to perform on behalf of the Company any and all such acts as they may deem necessary or advisable in order to comply with the applicable laws of any such states, and in connection therewith to execute and file all requisite papers and documents, including, but not limited to, applications, reports, surety bonds, irrevocable consents and appointments of attorneys for service of process; and the execution by such Officers of any such paper or document or the doing by them of any act in connection with the foregoing matters shall conclusively establish their authority therefore from the Company and the approval and

AMENDMENT TO THE STOCK UNIT PLAN FOR DIRECTORS Page 2

ratification by the Company of the papers and documents so executed and the action so taken; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, the President, any Vice President or the Secretary or Treasurer of the Company be, and each of them is, authorized and directed to cause the Company to apply to the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE") for the listing, upon official notice of issuance, of the Shares to be issued pursuant to the Plan, and further that each such officer be and hereby is designated to appear before the appropriate officials of said Exchange with authority (a) to execute in the name and on behalf of the Company and file with the NYSE an appropriate Listing Application and all such agreements and documents as any of them may consider necessary or desirable to secure such listing, and (b) to make any changes in such Listing Application, agreements or documents as may be required to satisfy the requirements of the NYSE; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval and subject to obtaining any required order from the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas, the Officers of the Company be and they hereby are authorized and directed from time to time and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Plan to issue to Directors of the Company participating in the Plan shares of the Common Stock of the Company as may be necessary to comply with the Plan, and that upon the issuance of said shares of Common Stock pursuant to such terms, said shares of Common Stock shall be fully paid and non-assessable; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Transfer Agent and Registrar for the Company's Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, be and hereby is authorized and directed to countersign as Transfer Agent and to countersign and register as Registrar certificates for shares of Common Stock to be issued and sold pursuant to the terms of the Plan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon Shareholder Approval, the authority of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Transfer Agent and Registrar for the Common Stock of the Company, be and hereby is extended to include the shares of Common Stock to be issued and sold pursuant to the terms of the Plan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Officers of the Company are authorized to do any and all things and to take any and all action necessary or advisable, including execution, delivery, acknowledgment, filing, recording and sealing of any and all documents, certificates, statements or other instruments, and the making of any expenditures which they may deem necessary or advisable in order to effect the foregoing.

AMENDMENT TO THE STOCK UNIT PLAN FOR DIRECTORS Page 2

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Company on this 6th day of February 2014.



Janet Salatson

Secretary-Treasurer