

Samuel McGarrah, P.E.
Director, System Performance | Empire District Electric Company
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417-825-9460

Intended Project DA Role

Project Manager, Engineering Lead, and Safety Officer

Education

- University of Arkansas, Fayetteville: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (1996)
- University of Arkansas, Fayetteville: Master of Electrical Engineering (December 1993)

Experience

Sam brings 29 years of experience to his role as the Director of System Performance and co-appointment as the Resiliency Lead for the Cross Functional Grid Modernization Team. Throughout his career, Sam oversaw electrical engineering work that supported both transmission and distribution system sustainment and development. He has directed an engineering department that oversaw standards development and analysis, substations maintenance, transmission, and distribution planning and asset management. Sam also oversaw the implementation of an innovative Project Toughen Up that reinforced Empire's grid in strategic locations, leading to ~20% reductions of outage frequency and duration.

Empire District Electric Company

Director, System Performance (January 2017- Present)

- Responsible for analysis and investment planning of reliability and resiliency-enhancing investments across the distribution system
- Oversees a team of 11 individuals engaged in various aspects of asset management reliability reporting, GIS mapping, investment plan development
- Led the deployment of multiple Distribution Automaton Devices
- Chairs the Electric and Gas Modernization Working Groups
- Responsible for improving the reliability of electric service to customers
- Oversaw line vegetation management and line and station inspection activities
- Implemented a strategic review upgrade of customer connections construction standards
- Revamped the company's GIS capabilities and integration with the OMS system

Empire District Electric Company

Director, Engineering and Line Services (February 2016- January 2017)

- Voting member of the SPP Transmission Working Group
- Provided technical support for the SPP Markets and Operations Policy Committee
- Responsible for four departments – Standards, Substation, Line Design and Planning

Empire District Electric Company

Manager of System Planning and Protection (January 2000- February 2016)

- Voting member SPP Transmission and Model Development Working Groups
- Analyzed the transmission and distribution system's capacity for load growth
- Developed and maintained the construction project budgeting and execution
- Led a cross-functional industry team on updating of station transformer capacity ratings

Empire District Electric Company

Distribution Engineer (June 1994 -January 2000)

- Designed overhead and underground distribution extensions
- Analysed the effects of large motor starts on the distribution system
- Analyzed the distribution system's capacity for load growth.
- Helped instruct the Power Quality Seminar and the Power Distribution Course

Training/Certifications

- Licensed Professional Engineer- State of Missouri

Professionally Appointed Roles

- Transmission Working Group team member for the Southwest Power Pool
 - As part of his professional roles, Sam served as a team member for the Transmission Working Group for the Southwest Power Pool. He helped provide North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) compliance and transmission market insights to the organization.

Skills

- Commercial Construction Execution and Standards Development
- Distribution Automation Planning and Deployment
- Electric Utility Strategy Operations
- Utility Industry Economic Analysis
- Alternative Energy Sources
- Project Management

Timothy Wilson | Empire District Electric
Vice President- Electric Operations
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417-439-0168

Intended Project DA Role

Executive Sponsor, Community Partnerships Lead, and DOE Liaison

Education

- Pittsburg State University: Bachelor of Mathematics (2000)
- Missouri State University: Master of Science in Project Management (2010)

Experience

As Vice President- Electric Operations, Timothy is responsible for the company's strategic projects, environmental services, fuel procurement, electric procurement, generation operations, transmission, and distribution operations (T&D), operations, engineering, system performance, and system planning. He provides senior level direction and leadership to energy supply and environmental areas. He ensures the timely completion and management of economically installed new capacity and major projects. He plans and directs the company's compliance with federal, state, and local environmental laws. His nearly 25 years of experience at Liberty have given him a unique set of leadership skills and management experience in a diverse environment that offers continual challenges. Timothy strives to provide value to his employees, customers, and stakeholders.

Empire District Electric Company

Vice President- Electric Operations (2020- Present)

- Oversaw a completion of 600 MW of wind projects across 2 states and 3 locations
- O&M responsibilities of over \$300M annually
- Responsible for approximately \$300M annual capex budget for projects including substations, line builds and rebuilds, generation projects and others
- Leads a team of over 500 employees and contractors

Empire District Electric Company

Vice President- Strategic Projects and Energy Supply (2019- 2020)

- Oversaw Asbury coal unit retirement and transition of over 60 employees
- O&M responsibilities of over \$200M in annual expenditures
- Responsible for \$100M in capex budget execution
- Responsible for successful operation and maintenance of over 1500MW of installed and purchased capacity including wind, hydro, natural gas, combined cycle natural gas and coal.

Empire District Electric Company

Central Region Director of Electric Operations- Services (2017- 2019)

- Responsible for the company's Strategic Projects (generation and T&D), Environmental Services, Fuel Procurement, and Electric Procurement departments
- Responsible for implementing the company's Customer Savings Plan (CSP) that includes over \$1 billion in assets
- Sponsored testimony in the Company's CSP in MO, Certificate of Convenience and Necessity filings in MO & AR, and rate base adjustments in KS and OK filings
- Oversaw the company's approximately \$190M annual fuel and transmission budget for generation operations

Empire District Electric Company

Director of Energy Supply Services (2010- 2017)

- Responsible for the company's Strategic Projects, Environmental Services and Fuel Procurement departments
- Successfully completed \$122 million air quality control system at coal-fired facility ahead of schedule, on budget, and with no disallowances in rate case
- Successfully completed \$180 million simple cycle combustion turbine conversion to combined cycle project ahead of schedule, on budget, and with no disallowances in rate case

Professionally Appointed Roles

- Board of Directors, Unified School District #404 Riverton KS
 - Timothy was elected as a school board member for his local public school. He has served in this capacity since 2007. He was Board President in 2008. As a board member, he works in a group with six other elected board members in a governance role to set policy for the district.
- Board of Directors, Interlocal #609, Southeast Kansas Education Service Center
 - Timothy served as a member of the board of directors as a representative of the Riverton school district from 2008-2018. He undertook leadership roles and served as both President and Vice President of the board.

Skills

- Power Generation Planning Operations
- Power Plant Maintenance and Decommissioning
- Project Accounting
- Financial Forecasting
- Project Management
- Budgetary Analysis
- Utility Strategy and Economic Regulation

Kendra Nixon | Empire District Electric
Manager, Engineering Business
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417-793-0785

Intended Project DA Role

Project Planning Lead, West

Education

- Missouri Southern State University: Associate of Technology
- Missouri Southern State University: Bachelor of General Studies

Experience

During Kendra's ten years at Empire, she has served in several pivotal roles in integration of Engineering, Financial, and Regulatory dimensions of the business. She works in cross functional teams with engineers, consultants, operation managers, construction crews and project managers to deliver design, materials, permits, and scheduling outcomes to ensure successful completion of generation, transmission, and distribution projects. She is a quality-driven utilities professional with strengths in financial analysis and strategic planning. She is adept at managing concurrent objectives to promote efficiency and influence positive sustainable outcomes.

Empire District Electric Company

Manager, Engineering Business (April 2022- Present)

- Collaborates and assesses department needs, shapes the direction for processes, develops process priorities, provides progress updates and resolves business process issues as they arise
- Trains and develops potential management staff for seamless succession
- Plans, assigns, trains, and instructs work of other professionals
- Develops and manages the multi-year report for the capital budget
- Assist Regulatory in collection and development of rate case testimony

Empire District Electric Company

Engineer Technician III- July 2019- March 2022)

- Utilized software such as Maximo, PowerPlan, and Procore
- Improved operations by restructuring multiple project delivery value chains
- Worked closely with team members to assign, train, and deliver projects
- Assisted with Compliance related activities to report to regulatory bodies

Empire District Electric Company

GIS/OMS Data Technician (January 2016- July 2019)

- Completed mapping of new assets such as Distribution, Transmission and Substation features to have a complete model of service territory infrastructure of overhead and underground assets

- Edited and enhanced on-demand GIS data to meet diverse project requirements
- Geocoded field data information into existing maps
- Utilized G-Tech to compile data gathered from various sources
- Collaborated with operations and engineering to improve data analysis
- Performed internal audits to verify consistency of modelling assumptions
- Spatially assigned transformers within Customer Watch CIS system to meters
- Worked closely with Operations to make model changed as communicated
- Assisted Operations with storm restoration by tracing circuits onsite

Empire District Electric Company

Engineer Technician (June 2013- January 2016)

- Evaluated, tested and recommended field equipment modifications
- Established and updated set of engineering analysis best practices
- Collaborated with the Tool Committee to ensure the best tools in regard to safety and industry standards were being purchased and would make recommendations based on cost and performance
- Served on the MEDE Committee to communicate company practices and glean new information such as equipment or field installations that could improve standards
- Collaborated closely with purchasing and stores for all material requests
- Compiled the Book of Construction Standards and made visible for online use

Training/Certifications

- AutoCAD
- Maximo
- PowerPlan
- Procore
- Certified First Aid/CPR

Skills

- Electric Power T&D Planning
- Power Generation Operations Analysis
- Power Systems Analysis
- Process Improvement

Joshua Clements | Empire District Electric
Manager of Systems Reliability
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417-850-0654

Intended Project DA Role

Project Planning Lead, East

Education

- Missouri University of Science and Technology: Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (2001)

Experience

Josh has nearly 22 years of experience in Electric Utilities. He led the establishment of a new department focusing on reliability analysis and improvement planning and developed policies and procedures for infrastructure inspection and remediation design. He served as the chairman of an innovative interdisciplinary team to establish reliability performance goals and develop 10-year strategic capital investment plan. He supports an annual program of approximately \$100M investments in enhancing reliability performance and achieving long-term reliability goals. He is a creative, strategic and passionate engineering professional. Josh has experience leading teams, designing solutions, and improving operational performance. His ability to cultivate interdisciplinary relationships to facilitate organizational engagement and development of collaborative solutions has helped him be a successful manager.

Empire District Electric Company

Manager of System Reliability (June 2008- Present)

- Responsible for asset management of transmission and distribution infrastructure
- Supervises technical and administrative staff and inspection contract personnel
- Develops annual department O&M and Capital budgets
- Oversees annual regulatory reliability compliance reporting

Empire District Electric Company

Standards Engineer – May 2001 - June 2008

- Developed specifications for materials used in T&D construction
- Developed company construction standard specifications to improve delivery
- Developed compatible units for construction estimation and material selection.
- Researched and developed new underground distribution construction standards
- Provided technical training regarding material use to Operations teams
- Maintained company's proprietary construction estimation software
- Supported design and construction of Branson Landing, a \$300M retail development

Training/Certifications

- AutoCAD
- Maximo
- SQL

Professionally Appointed Roles

- Multiple Leadership Roles within Liberty
 - Served on numerous committees and in various leadership positions within the committees:
 - Chair of the Reliability Modality Team,
 - AMI Momentary Outage Analysis- Subject Matter Expert Team Lead
 - Reliability Team Chair,
 - OMS Implementation Reporting Prime,
 - Core Team Member for Enterprise Resource Planning Implementation.
- Deacon at Carthage Church of Christ
 - Since 2019, Joshua has served his fellow church members as a Deacon.
- Assistant Scoutmaster, Boy Scouts of America
 - From 2013-2015, Joshua served as Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 77.

Skills

- Electricity System Planning
- Power Systems Analysis
- Smart Grid Technology
- Project Management
- Software Development
- Specification Writing
- Solutions Implementation

Drew Landoll | Empire District Electric
Senior Director, Engineering and Project Management
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417-489-0999

Intended Project DA Role

Design and Construction Lead

Education

- Missouri University of Science and Technology: Bachelor of Civil Engineering

Experience

Drew provides senior level management in directing projects and leading a varied team of employees. He provides technical expertise to various parts of the organization as requested, including testimony to regulatory bodies and due diligence activities. He develops strategic plans for energy supply and delivery, capital expenditure planning, potential growth plans, and environmental strategy. Drew oversees the execution of commercial contracts, purchasing, and budgeting. He is an integral part of utility acquisitions during due diligence and regulatory approval stages. In his prior role of the Director of Strategic Projects, Drew provided leadership to operations, construction, environmental, and regulatory areas. He assured the timely completion and management of economically installed traditional and renewable energy generation and major transmission and distribution projects throughout all areas of operations. As part of this role, he also planned and directed the company's compliance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations. He negotiated contracts and oversaw the review of contracts, procurement, construction, reporting, and ongoing operations and maintenance to ensure that Liberty's interests were being met.

Empire District Electric Company

Senior Director, Engineering and Project Management (2022- Present)

- Directs multi-disciplined staff of approximately 65 including accountants, environmental professionals, engineers, project managers, and technicians
- Leads and directs project development activities including interconnection, equipment supply, final engineering, land control, and construction
- Provides financial analysts, report project costs, and variances for the purpose of compliance with project budget, projected cash flows, and expected returns

Empire District Electric Company

Director of Strategic Projects (October 2019- 2022)

- Directed the project management of large-scale capital projects >\$500MM
- Directed high functioning, multi-disciplined staff of 30 accountants, environmental professionals, engineers, and external consultants

- Facilitated accelerated change by utilizing disciplined process management methodologies, techniques and influence execution strategies
- Led the preparation of required documentation for environmental permitting processes and ongoing compliance for the utility
- Delivered on the company's growth plans by increasing net plant-in-service in excess of \$700MM over two years
- Responsible for stakeholder and reputation management (including public relations); role was highly visible in the community and in the electricity sector

Empire District Electric Company

Senior Manager of Strategic Projects (2015-2019)

- Directed large-scale capital projects >\$150MM
- Managed high functioning, multi-disciplined staff of accountants, environmental professionals, engineers, external consultants and contractors
- Supported Utility Rate Cases to ensure company and customer goals are achieved

Empire District Electric Company

Local Projects Manager (2013-2015)

As Local Projects Manager, Drew was responsible for risk management and SPCC plan administration, training, reporting, and updates. He scheduled projects and contractors and prepared big specifications and packages. He ensured regulatory compliance and managed vendor contracts, purchasing and budgeting.

- Coordinated projects and contractors during plant outages
- Managed air emission monitoring data collection systems (CEMS)
- Prepared and submitted environmental reporting

Training/Certifications

- Professional Engineer certification
- AutoCAD

Skills

- EPC Contractor Management
- Construction Planning and Oversight
- Groundwater Remediation
- Environmental Compliance
- Environmental Engineering
- Construction Quality Control
- Hydrogeology
- Power Plant Operations

Jeff Westfall | Empire District Electric Company
Central Region Director of Operations T&D
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417-459-8578

Intended Project DA Role

Organized Labor Liaison and Senior Line Operations SME

Education

- Galena High School- Completion diploma (1985)

Experience

Jeff is a proven network operations leader with nearly 30 years of progressive utility experience, built on a strong technical knowledge, relationship building and hands-on fieldwork experience. He plans and implements successful strategies that build commitment and create a climate where people excel. He has an outstanding reputation for quickly and accurately identifying opportunities, planning, organizing, and executing to consistently delivering results. His objective is to build and lead a highly skilled and motivated workforce in a rapidly evolving industry.

Empire District Electric Company

Senior Director of T&D Operations (October 2017- Present)

- Leads both the union and non-union workforce by supporting corporate and regional goals
- Responsible for budget planning and management
- Provides operation support and guidance for accounting, legal and regulatory

Empire District Electric Company

Director of Line Operations (October 2016- October 2017)

- Responsible for 7 line operations areas spanning 4 states
- Improved safety practices and outcomes
- Participated in budget planning and management
- Managed contracts
- Managed outages and storm restoration

Empire District Electric Company

Director of Line Operations- East (June 2015- October 2016)

- Met reliability goals and initiatives
- Assisted in budget planning and management
- Managed contractors
- Conducted trainings
- Managed outages and storm restoration

Empire District Electric Company

Manager of Line Operations (July 2008- October 2016)

- Managed line operations safety performance
- Assisted with budget development and management
- Met reliability goals
- Managed contracts
- Managed outages and storm restoration

Training/Certifications

- Microsoft Excel
- Planning and Design Software
- Labor Relations Management
- Negotiations

Skills

- Electric Power System Operations
- Budget Development and Management
- Power Generation Maintenance
- Smart Grid Planning and Implementation
- Project Management
- NERC Compliance

Michael Fobair II | Empire District Electric Company

Program Manager I, GIS

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417-529-3546

Intended Project DA Role

Project Analytics and Operations Technology Lead

Education

- Vatterott College: Diploma of Education in Computer Technology (2001)
- Vatterott College: Associate of Computer Systems Network Technology (2002)

Experience

Michael's passion is gaining efficiencies through process improvement, making technology useful and bringing data sources together to provide context to complex issues. He seeks to provide context to complex issues through compelling data analysis. Throughout his tenure, he has transformed Empire's geospatial data analysis capabilities and field equipment asset information availability, enabling planning process efficiencies and modernizing the company's Asset Management capabilities in the transmission and distribution parts of the business. Mike leads with his actions and works hard to bring up the skillsets and knowledge of others.

Empire Electric District Company

Program Manager I, GIS (January 2022- Present)

- Enhanced the company's GIS capabilities to above industry standard
- Oversees the operating diagnostics of reliability-improvement projects
- Analyzes project outcomes to improve future process planning and work execution
- Researches and test the capabilities of emerging Smart Grid technologies
- Works with business owners to assess needs and suggest solutions
- Assists corporate-wide strategic Grid Modernization planning activities
- Develops rate case testimony and regular regulatory reporting products

Empire Electric District Company

GIS Resource Manager (December 2019- December 2021)

Oversaw the maintenance and expansion of the attribute rich, fully connected, geographically correct electric network mode.

- Performed asset data mining and analysis
- Oversaw the enhancement of asset data capturing processes and integration with GIS
- Supported planning and execution of a \$100M+ reliability capital program
- Created innovative ways to utilize the information to increase value to customers by improving operational efficiencies that lead to decreased outage duration and streamline day-to-day service work

Empire Electric District Company

GIS Resource Coordinator (December 2013- December 2019)

- Responsible for the accurate data modeling (including phasing, connectivity, and ownership) of the company's distribution assets
- Provided geospatial analysis support to engineering and design projects
- Researched and implemented new capabilities for data presentation

Empire Electric District Company

GIS Data Technician (May 2002- December 2013)

- Responsible for the accurate data modeling (including phasing, connectivity, and ownership) of the company's distribution assets
- Provided geospatial analysis support to engineering and design projects

Training/Certifications

- Hexagon- G/Technology
- Hexagon- GeoMedia
- Hexagon- Smart M. Apps
- Hexagon- InService

Skills

- GIS Data Analysis
- Problem Solving
- Reliability Data Analysis and Forecasting
- Team Leadership
- Mobile Technology
- Computer Proficiency

Shawn Pingleton | Liberty Utilities-Empire District Electric
Director, Customer Solutions- North America
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417-337-2292

Intended Project DA Role

Community Engagement and Economic Development Lead

Education

- College of the Ozarks: Bachelor of Business Administration

Experience

Shawn considers it a privilege to partner with customers and communities in economic development, innovative energy, and efficient solutions in Empire's service areas as well as those of other Liberty group of companies' affiliates throughout North America. He leads the customer solutions team that includes business and community development, conservation, and local economic development professionals. The team strives to be the energy provider of the future through alternative fuel vehicles, and renewable and local energy sources. He is responsible for the new growth, expansion, and retention of all commodities within Liberty's US portfolio.

Empire District Electric Company / Liberty Utilities

Senior Director, Customer Solutions- North America (February 2017- Present)

- Oversees a team of 60 professionals in over 20 US and Canadian jurisdictions
- Provides strategic direction on community development efforts
- Maintains close contact with companies' Key Customer Accounts
- Leads the Conservation function for electric, gas, and water modalities
- Responsible for attracting new industrial customers to the service areas
- Oversees Tribal and Local governments relationships

Empire District Electric Company / Liberty Utilities

Senior Manager, Business and Community Development (February 2013-February 2017)

- Supported Key Customer Accounts in the portion of Empire's service territory
- Liaised on behalf of the customers with Engineering and Construction Teams
- Arranged planning logistics for customer-specific reliability enhancements
- Worked with municipal chambers of commerce on collaborative projects

Empire District Electric Company

Manager, Business and Community Development (December 2007-February 2013)

- Supported Key Customer Accounts in the East Region
- Main contact for billing, power quality and expansion
- Arranged planning logistics for customer-specific reliability enhancements
- Worked with municipal chambers of commerce on collaborative projects

Empire District Electric Company

Key Accounts Representative (December 2007-February 2013)

Key Accounts Customer Representative

- Worked closely with electric, industrial, and large commercial accounts
- Liaised with industry contacts on growth opportunities
- Acted as community liaison for community contracts, economic development and power quality issues

Empire District Electric Company

Manager, Business and Community Development (December 2007-February 2013)

- Primary contact for new service residential and small commercial customers
- Local and Tribal governments key contact
- Drew electrical distribution schematics

Training/Certifications

- Economic Development Certification

Professionally Appointed Roles

- President of the Branson- Hollister Chapter of Rotary International
 - Rotary International provides service to others, promotes integrity, and seeks to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through their fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. An active member of his community, Shawn has been a member of Rotary International since January 1995. He served the chapter as president.
- Vice Chair and Board Member for the Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
 - As part of his professional career, Shawn is an active member of the Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. The organization serves as the voice of nearly 1000 businesses in the Branson and smaller surrounding areas.

Skills

- Strategic Partnerships
- Customer Relationship Management
- Process Improvement
- Economic Development
- Alternative Energy
- Microsoft Office