



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET™

For more information, contact: Freddy Doss  
Public Information Officer, City of Kirkwood  
139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122  
314-822-5894 or 314-495-7382 (cell)

***For Immediate Release***

## **Kirkwood Electric Rakes in Industry Awards**

April 13 , 2021

**Kirkwood, Missouri:** The City of Kirkwood received notice that Kirkwood Electric has been designated a 2021 Tree Line USA utility by the Arbor Day Foundation, and a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3 designation) by the American Public Power Association (APPA). They are also the recipients of the 2020 Safety Award of Excellence from the APPA. Each award, described below, is a reflection of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by Kirkwood Electric personnel every day on the job. “Kirkwood Electric is committed to delivering safe and reliable electricity to the Kirkwood community, and prioritizing the health and safety of their utility workers, no matter what,” said Mark Petty, Director of Kirkwood Electric.

### 2021 Tree Line USA Utility

Tree Line USA is a national program recognizing public and private utilities for practices that protect and enhance America's urban forests awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation. A collaboration of the Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, Tree Line USA promotes the dual goals of delivering safe and reliable electricity while maintaining healthy community trees. In order to earn this designation Kirkwood Electric must train employees in quality tree-care practices that protect and enhance Kirkwood’s urban forest, educate the public about planting trees for energy conservation and help homeowners plant appropriate trees near utility lines.

### RP3 Reliable Public Power Provider

The Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) program is a national designation given by the American Public Power Association. Currently, more than 265 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities hold an RP3 designation recognizing them for providing communities with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. This designation recognizes community-owned, not-for-profit public power utilities that exhibit operational excellence and demonstrate leading practices in reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria for designation also includes sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. Kirkwood Electric has received this designation every year since 2011.

### 2020 Safety Award of Excellence

The American Public Power Association’s Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2020 is awarded to utilities that have demonstrated that they have made the health and safety of their employees a core value. 329 utilities from across the country entered the annual Safety Awards. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2020. The incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2020, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). As one of the most competitive awards, the APPA gives out, this is among the hardest to get. The last time Kirkwood Electric received this award was in 2018.

“Kirkwood Electric is ecstatic about being recognized as a Tree Line USA utility, reliable public power provider and receiving the Safety Award of Excellence this year. We’re serious about delivering safe and reliable electricity while prioritizing employee safety and maintaining healthy community trees. We will continue to step up, do our part, and remain committed to effective employee safety, power reliability and urban forest management to keep the lights on in spite of ever changing global challenges in the energy market,” said Petty.

###