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# The Gas Lines

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## Inventories at record high levels

**T**he latest data from the Energy Information Administration shows that U.S. propane and natural gas inventory are at all-time high levels for this time of year.

Propane inventory stands at 103.928 million barrels. Normally, this time of year U.S. inventory levels average slightly less than 80 million barrels. Unless exports are unusually high this winter, there should be more than adequate levels of propane for the U.S. Consumer.

Locally, we plan to have our large propane tanks full, as the winter's heating season begins. Of the 1.7 million gallons that we expect to deliver to our customers this fiscal year (April 2016—March 2017), slightly over 1.1 million will be delivered during the winter months. On an average winter day JCCUD propane drivers deliver 12,400 gallons to customers but on peak days they sometimes deliver over 18,000 gallons per day depending on the needs of our customers.

On the natural gas side, U.S. inventory levels ended the winter of 2015-2016 with 2,468 Bcf of gas in storage, the second largest amount on record (2012 record high of

2,472 Bcf). Even with lower storage injections over the spring and summer, storage remains at an all-time high for this time of year at 3,759 Bcf. There should be no shortage of natural gas heading into this winter.

Locally, we plan to have our Saltville Storage 100 percent full and storage on the Tennessee Gas Pipeline at 80 percent full. With the mild winters we have experienced in recent years, we leave room in one of our storage locations to inject into, just in case we experience a warm winter.

Storage primarily allows us to meet load variations and balance on the pipeline system. The main pipeline requires distributors, such as ours, to meet certain balancing requirements, which help the pipeline to maintain operational integrity and ensures the pipeline pressures are kept with design parameters. Without access to storage facilities, any imbalance situation could result in a sizable penalty.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you. ■

From the Desk Of

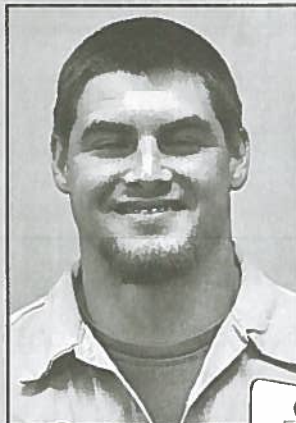


Tommy Bible,  
JCCUD General Manager

# WE WELCOME All Our Employees



**Bradley Troutman** of Dandridge came to work for the Utility on March 28, 2016 in the Service and Installation Department. Bradley stays busy in his off time farming and installing and servicing garage doors. Bradley and Brandi are proud parents of son Decker. We have added another outstanding employee to our workforce.



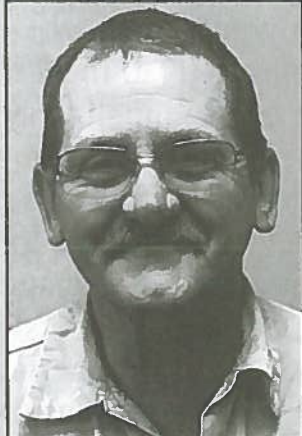
**Dakota Wright** of New Market joined the JCCUD team on August 1, 2016 in our Service and Installation Department. In his spare time, he hunts and fishes. Most of his free time is spent working out at the gym. We feel very lucky to have him on our team.



**Elbert Lee Reed Jr.** joined our operation team in the Construction Department as a welder and utility technician. Lee came to work on August 22, 2016. He and his wife Brook and daughter's Kentlee and Makayda live in Newport. We welcome him aboard and look forward to Lee being here for many years to come.



**Steve Stokely** joined our Construction Department May 9, 2016. Steve came to us as a highly trained and an experienced technician. Ask any member of our Construction Department and they will tell you he is a great addition and a joy to work with. It is with pleasure I welcome him to our JCCUD team.



**Scott McCandles** joined the JCCUD team on March 30, 2016 as a multi-talented employee. Scott takes care of our IT work as well as assisting in our warehouse. He and wife Jo live on the lake in Jefferson County and enjoy fishing every minute they have time. They also enjoy making crafts and selling their products at craft shows. Scott is an asset to our Utility and we are glad to have him aboard.

## NOTICE

### Customer Owned Pipe

Jefferson Cocke County Utility District would like to inform all customers of what is known as "customer owned pipeline". Customer owned pipe is any piping that is downstream of your natural gas meter. It is the responsibility of the customer to maintain this piping. We urge you to periodically check this piping for sever rust, unusual straining, or anything that does not appear to be safe. Thank you!

# Service comes with a smile



JCCUD takes pride in giving excellent customer service. Whether you come into our office being greeted with a smile or you call on the phone and reach a pleasant voice, our employees are focused on you, our valued customer, in helping you with all your natural gas or propane needs.

JCCUD's service department is no exception, when it comes to customer service. Our service men are trained professionals dedicated to help you with your natural gas or propane appliances whether you need a repair, installation or instructions on how to use them.

The gas appliances we can service are fire logs, heaters, water heaters, dryers, ranges and grills. We are very proud to say that by working together, as a team, this allows JCCUD to efficiently bring the best service to you.

If you add any gas equipment to your home and someone other than JCCUD installs it, give our office a call to schedule an appointment for a job inspection. We will at "no charge" come to your home and make sure your appliance has been installed properly. If more than two trips are required, there will be a charge. SAFETY is a priority at JCCUD.

Visit Steven Chambers in the Appliance Center of our Newport office to see a large display of propane and natural gas appliances. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING JCCUD TO SERVE YOU! ■

*REBATE PROGRAM EXTENDED THRU JUNE 30, 2017*

# Gigantic Savings



## for Natural Gas and Propane Customers



### Call us for any questions you might have

Natural Gas is the Fuel for Savings!

Our mission is to provide high quality and safe energy and related services in Cocke and Jefferson counties while meeting the expectation and needs of customers, employees and the community at large and striving to continuously improve all services.

If you have questions, or suggestions, for The Gas Lines, please contact Newsletter Editor Carolyn Ramsey. Employees, customers, and citizens are invited to share in our newsletter. The Gas Lines is a publication of Jefferson-Cocke County Utility District. Call 623-3069 in Newport, or 475-7911 in Jefferson City. [www.jccud.com](http://www.jccud.com)

## Be safe: Please call before you dig

Natural gas is America's most popular home heating fuel — heating more households than all other energy forms combined. In all, 52 percent of all heated U.S. households have natural gas.

Natural gas is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories, and electric power-generation plants, because it is efficient, clean, reliable, and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources.

Jefferson Cocke County Utility District provides natural gas to more than 7,400 customers through a network of underground distribution lines. Main gas lines branch into household service lines. The pipes are typically made of "caution yellow" plastic or tar-coated steel which helps prevent corrosion. As an industry, steel pipes are being replaced with the more durable plastic piping. The main lines are typically 2-inches in diameter and are located roughly 2-feet below the surface, while service lines are typically three-quarter-inch to one inch in diameter:

That's why it's important to "Call Before You Dig" or move earth in any way. Whether you're installing an underground dog fence, running water to an outbuilding or post-hole digging for a new mailbox post, underground piping



### PUBLIC SERVICE NOTES

Danny Barding  
*Operations Manager*

and utilities can be damaged. When you call Tennessee One Call at 811 or 1-800-351-1111, they will locate all buried utility lines on your property, so you can safely dig and prevent a potentially hazardous condition. In 2004 the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety recorded 48 cases of third party excavation damage to distribution lines nationwide resulting in

more than \$10 million dollars worth of property damage and four injuries. Calling before you dig can prevent a costly or even deadly mistake.

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. If you smell gas, or just think you might smell gas, leave the area immediately and call 423-623-3069 (Newport) or 865-475-7911 (Jefferson City) or 911 from a neighboring home or business. Never turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas odor, because an electric spark could ignite the gas causing an explosion.

Do your part to familiarize yourself and your family with these natural gas safety tips and continue to enjoy the value, comfort and benefits of America's cleanest, most efficient energy sources. ■