

# WattsNew

NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBUS LIGHT & WATER • SUMMER 2009



## Partnership Creates “GREEN” Energy

Think of energy and conservation, and the word “green” comes to mind. Columbus Light and Water has been going green since before 2002. One project treks 17 miles to achieve green results by using treated wastewater as a resource for energy generated by natural gas.

In efforts to conserve resources and save money, rather than using the city’s existing water supply, the Columbus Utility Commission contracted with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. to explore other options for supplying potable water for cooling purposes to the TVA-leased Caledonia Combined-Cycle Plant. The study confirmed the Columbus Light & Water Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent treated wastewater could be utilized for cooling purposes within budget.



A 17-mile pipeline project with pumping facilities capable of delivering 7.5 million gallons per day was constructed under a design/build arrangement between Columbus Light & Water and Cogentrix (now Caledonia Combined-Cycle Plant leased to TVA). Approximately 80 percent of the water treatment plant effluent is used for cooling at the Caledonia plant. *(continued inside)*



Twenty percent is returned to the wastewater treatment plant for further treatment before being added to the regular plant discharge.

“The partnership between Columbus Light & Water and TVA benefits all involved including the consumer,” explains Steve Barksdale, water and sewer superintendent at Columbus Light & Water. “We are able to dispose of treated wastewater effluent for industrial use by TVA. This use of recycled water eliminates the need to pull water from our natural water supply, therefore conserving the water supply for future use by our consumer. Columbus Light & Water is proud to be

a part of this green project and is committed to protecting our natural resources.”

The \$15 million waterline project was completed in 2002, making the Caledonia energy facility one of the most environmentally friendly power plants in Mississippi as far as water supply is concerned.

Columbus Light & Water also partners with TVA on its Green Power Switch program. Customers can buy green power in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks (about 12 percent of a typical household’s monthly use). The green power a customer pays for will be added to TVA’s electric system as part of the Valley’s total power mix.

There are many ways the customer can become a partner in energy conservation. To learn about energy saving measures for summertime long on to [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com).

Whether business partnerships or consumer partnerships, by working together we can conserve energy and help the environment. The result is a better quality of life for the residents of Columbus. 💡

**Columbus Light & Water**

*General Manager's Message*

**TODD GALE**  
General Manager

*CHANGING TIMES: Winston Churchill said, “There is nothing wrong with change if it is in the right direction.” The question is, “What is the right direction?” With the changing times, it is hard to recognize what direction to take.*

*Over time, Columbus Light & Water’s direction has been to provide you with reliable and clean electricity and water. Columbus Light & Water is continuing to invest in our infrastructure and striving to provide great customer service while keeping our rates as low and competitive as possible.*

*We are wrapping up a three year capital improvement program which has invested in two new electrical substations, the rehabilitation of the Reynolds Ridgley Wastewater Treatment Plant and the rehabilitation of numerous water and sanitary sewer mains throughout the city. Like most communities dealing with aging infrastructure, we still have a lot of work to do. There is no quick fix, and we will continue to work towards improving our facilities and service.*

*In addition, we understand the economy is down but hopefully rebounding. As you in your daily lives have had to cut your expenses, we at Columbus Light & Water have attempted to do the same.*

*Over the last six months our customers have seen a decrease in electrical cost due to the reduction of TVA’s fuel cost adjustment. However, in today’s economic environment and with upcoming federal legislation, I would encourage you to take this opportunity to reduce your electrical use by weatherization of your home or business and utilize cost savings tips. Suggestions can be found through the TVA link on our website, [www.columbuslw.com](http://www.columbuslw.com).*

*I wish you and yours a happy and safe summer into the future.*

*Todd Gale*

# DEREK CRIDDLE: *Hometown Hero*



Often the sacrifices of the men and women who bravely serve our Nation go unnoticed, as we work side by side with soldiers going about the business of day to day life. Yet, for so many who have answered the call to military service, an extraordinary amount of hard work and dedication is a routine part of living. Among these heroes who humbly serve and defend our freedom is Columbus Light & Water's Derek Criddle.

As a junior at New Hope High School, Criddle was anxious to become a member of the United States Armed Forces and began exploring his options. The Army Reserves offered him the opportunity to begin serving while finishing up school, and he jumped at the chance.

Several influences inspired him to make this commitment at such a young age. He credits his loving and supportive family with instilling a love of country in him at an early age. Criddle has also always loved to be outdoors enjoying hunting, fishing and sports, and he admits that his uncle who served in the Navy was added inspiration. Three years later, Criddle is glad he made the decision to join when he did, and he is looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Unlike active duty military, Reservists can remain in their hometown and work a civilian job, obligated to report for military training and exercises every so often, until their unit is activated. When at home in Columbus, Criddle works in the water department at Columbus Light & Water as part of a water distribution crew that installs and checks water lines. However, last October, Criddle's Reserve unit was activated, and he has been stationed at Fort Benning, GA, since then working full-time on military operations.

As a supply specialist, Criddle is responsible for issuing gear and other necessities, often working long days and weekends.

"I issue everything, from socks to body armor, trying to make sure every soldier gets what he needs. A lot of these guys will be in harm's way, so I do my best to make sure they're equipped to do their jobs," he says.

Despite working so hard, Criddle says he's glad to do it.

He shares, "The camaraderie is like no other. Everyone is working together and is dedicated and focused on the same goal."

Criddle realizes that a deployment for his Reserve unit is inevitable, but he knows he's ready. "This is what we've all trained for. I'm ready, and I'd love to go and do what I can."

This humble soldier demonstrates the qualities of a true hometown hero. Columbus Light & Water salutes Derek Criddle for his service, along with our other brave military men and women. 💡



### Lighting the Way

*The entrance to Columbus onto Main Street from Highway 82 is now pleasantly illuminated with Columbus Light & Water's new street lamps. The light posts at Riverside Park beautify and illuminate the walkway and are maintained by Columbus Light & Water.*



**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

**Call 243-7440**

**CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT:**

- Full or partial power outages
- A downed power line (Please DO NOT touch the line!)
- Water spewing from the ground, road or fire hydrant

PRESORT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBUS, MS  
PERMIT NO. 200

