



Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed...

- Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day
- Monday, July 4, for Independence Day
- Monday, September 5, for Labor Day



Pay your bill online and more
... at ripleypower.com

Office Hours & Locations

We are open 47 hours each week
to serve you better!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

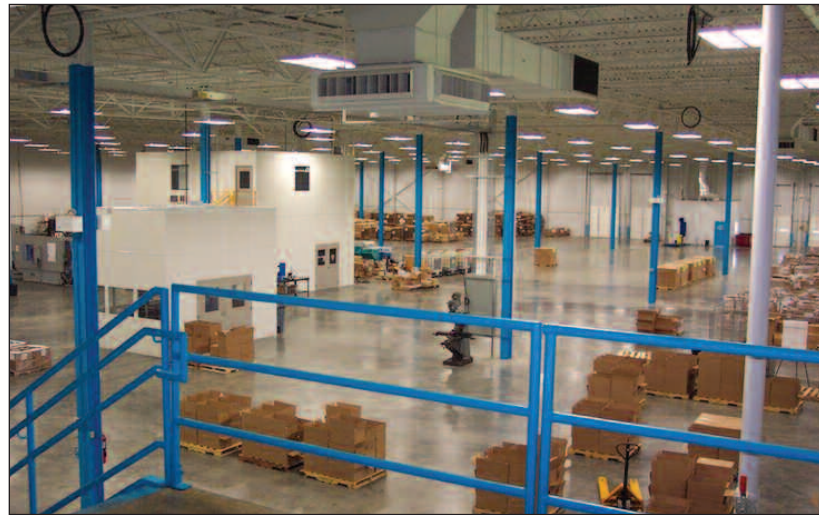
You can pay your utility bill at ...

- 150 S. Main St. in Ripley
- 409 S. Church St. in Halls

If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.



731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595
www.ripleypower.com



An inside look at the FAIST plant in Ripley.

New industry opens in Ripley

Ripley Power & Light welcomes a new industry to Ripley: FAIST Light Metals Tennessee. The automotive components manufacturing company, based in Italy, opened three locations in North America, including the 65,000-square-foot facility on Walker East Drive in Ripley.

FAIST intends to invest \$3.1 million and create 30 new jobs in Ripley; it also purchased more than enough space to allow for future expansions.

Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light, was invaluable by offering his expertise and resources, said Ronnie Jackson, Plant Manager of FAIST Light Metals.

"Mike has been so helpful by guiding, leading and directing us to determine both our current and future utility needs."

State and local officials cheered the news. "We welcome FAIST Light Metals to Team Tennessee and thank the company for choosing Ripley for its newest operations," said Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd. "I look forward to building a strong partnership with FAIST in the years ahead."

FAIST Light Tennessee is a division of FAIST Industrial Group and specializes in high quality aluminum die casting, precision machining and surface plating of components and assemblies for the telecom, automotive, electronics and industrial markets. Over the next six months, FAIST will find ways to maximize its current assets and plans to expand operations in the future.

The Ripley location will function primarily as a manufacturing facility for high precision automotive components, such as engines and power train operations, but plans to expand operations into a die-cast facility.

"FAIST is excited to add the new facility, employees and capability in Ripley, and we are looking forward to the opportunity of growing the business in partnership with our customers and business partners," said FAIST Light Metals CEO Meik Andriani.

As someone who was born and raised in Ripley, Jackson is excited to see his hometown entice and recruit a large industry to the area.

"It's exciting to know that Ripley can compete globally for new industry," he said. "FAIST is a great company with a culture of investing in their employees and in their community, so I think that Ripley will be very pleased to have this new industry in the area."

Ripley POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

Summer 2016

When it comes to public power companies, Ripley ranks among ...

The BEST of the BEST

Ripley Power and Light Company has shown once again that it provides customers safe and reliable electric service. For the third time, the Ripley utility has received the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP₃) award from the American Public Power Association.

This time, Ripley Power and Light earned the Diamond RP₃ Award – the highest of three levels of recognition and the most difficult to achieve and maintain. Utilities that demonstrate high proficiency in reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement are given the title and set apart as one of the best utility companies in the nation.

Criteria get tougher each application cycle, so utilities must be continuously improving to help maintain the designation.

"We're honored to receive the diamond RP₃ designation," said



A lineman from Ripley Power and Light works on a utility pole.



Mike Allmand, center, President and CEO, and Tracy Sellers, Executive Administrative Assistant, Ripley Power and Light Company, proudly display the RP₃ Diamond Award from the American Public Power Association (APPA). With them are Brent McKinney, left, chairman of APPA's RP₃ Review Panel, and Mike Hyland, APPA Senior Vice President.

Public power's the Best of the Best

Ripley Power and Light President and CEO Mike Allmand. "Our employees put in a lot of hard work to serve this community. RP₃ represents a much appreciated recognition of this hard work."

The RP₃ designation lasts for three years.

Ripley Power and Light is one of 29 utilities that earned the designation this year. In total, 219 utilities hold the RP₃ designation and only 62 of them hold the diamond rating.

Here's a closer look at the criteria used for the award ...

► **Reliability:** Ripley Power and Light was judged not only on providing reliable utility service, but also on how it tracks to make sure it provides reliable service and the system improvements it makes to ensure reliability. It also was judged on infrastructure security, cyber security, its identity theft procedures to protect customer information security and a disaster plan.

► **Safety:** The utility company was judged on its safe work practices, safety training and classes for employees,



Reliable Public Power Provider

customer safety information, safety manual use and adoption and safety drills. For example, Ripley Power and Light routinely offers safety classes for employees. Portable defibrillators are on line crew vehicles, Allmand's vehicle and in the office.

► **Workforce Development:** Ripley Power and Light was judged on education classes offered to employees, its cross training program, its lineman certification program and its post high school scholarship program.

► **System Improvements:** Ripley Power and Light has an ongoing program of system improvements. Even though it is a small utility, it is innovative in many ways. It was among the first utilities, for example, to install automated meter reading and electronic meters at all customer locations.

"RP₃ utility companies stand out as industry leaders, who dedicate themselves to providing safe and reliable electricity to their customers," said Brent McKinney, chair of the RP₃ Review Panel. "These designees demonstrate public power's commitment to constantly improving best practices and raising the bar for other service providers."

Two safety awards added to utility's accolades

When it comes to safety, Ripley Power and Light takes its work seriously and has the awards to prove it; the utility was recently recognized twice for excellence in safety.

Ripley Power and Light is one of only four companies to receive a perfect score on the safety audit performed by Distributors Insurance Co. The purpose of the safety audit is to identify deficiencies and follow recommendations to improve the utilities.

"It's a pretty big deal to score 100," said DIC Safety Consultant Steve Powell, who conducted the survey. "There aren't too many of those handed out."



From left, APPA's Safety Chairman Aaron Haderle; Mike Allmand, Ripley Power and Light President and CEO; and Mike Hyland, APPA Senior Vice President.

Ripley Power and Light was also recognized for its excellence in safety by the American Public Power Association. More than 250 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards and were judged based on the incidence rate of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2015. Ripley won first place in the state of Tennessee in its category.

"At Ripley Power and Light, we are proud of the service we provide our customers," said Ripley Power and Light President and CEO Mike Allmand. "But above all else, we are proud of our safety record – proud that we do everything we can to send our people home to their families every night."



This year's tomato festival, clockwise from above left, will include the world's largest tomato sandwich, tomatoes canned and cooked in many different ways, entertainment by the Genre Band and arts and crafts with a tomato theme.

It's tomato time in Lauderdale County!

The best growers – and eaters – around the area are ready to enjoy some tomatoes at the 33rd Annual Lauderdale County Tomato Festival. The two-day festival July 8-9 will give locals a chance to show off and celebrate their world-class tomatoes.

"The Tomato Festival is all about our world-famous tomatoes," said Susan Worlds, Executive Director at the Lauderdale County Chamber and event chairman. "Even if you don't like tomatoes, there are plenty of ways to have fun at the Tomato Festival."

With food, entertainment and contests, the festival is full of events for the whole family.

It will begin with a Chamber Coffee at 7:30 a.m. on July 8 at the Ripley Family Fitness Center, followed by the opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. at City Park. For the competitive crowd, there will be an Action Pistol Shooting Contest, Baby Crawling Contest, Memorial Bike Ride and Run/Walk 5K.

The main attraction – the tomato – has its own list of competitions and events: the Tomato Contest, Tomato Tasting and the World's Largest Tomato Sandwich. With carnival rides, a car show, Tennessee T's Exhibit, Methodist Market, crafts and more, no one will be left out, said Worlds.

The Tomato Festival Idol competition will be on Friday night, and the headline entertainment, the Genre Band, will play as well. The festival will continue all day Saturday with more festivities, music and entertainment.

"The Tomato Festival is important for our area," said Worlds. "It celebrates our history, culture and food."

Ripley has gained notoriety for its tomatoes, which are particularly good because of the local soil, said Worlds. The nearby Mississippi River dumps nutrients into the soil and the hot southern days are ideal for growing tomatoes.

There isn't one type of tomato in Ripley that is necessarily more famous than the other, she said. One farmer in Ripley has grown a variety of crossbred tomatoes, including the "chocolate soldier," the "Granny Smith" (which tastes just like a Granny Smith apple), and the "Cherokee," which has no acid.

Last year, more than 4,000 people attended the Tomato Festival, and even more are expected this year, said Worlds.

"The Tomato Festival is a great attraction for our area. "We are proud of our people and the hard work that they do all year. No one should miss the Tomato Festival; it's just too much fun!"



The carnival lights up the evening sky during the Lauderdale County Tomato Festival.