

JACKSON PURCHASE ENERGY COOPERATIVE



MAY 2026

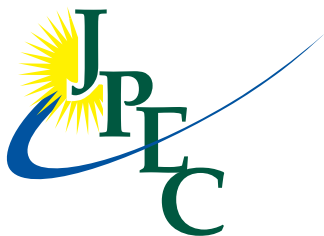
Congratulations to Kelly Russell on his retirement

Congratulations to Kelly Russell, who retired from JPEC at the end of March after 36 years of service to the cooperative. Russell started with JPEC in December 1990 as a groundman. Since that time he has been roaming the JPEC halls with a larger-than-life smile and humor.

Russell started as journeyman lineman, but found his true calling as a meter reader. He became a meter reader in April 1995. From that point forward, Russell served in the position proudly. Over the years, he became well known and liked among our membership. We know he will not only be missed by us, but by all the members he worked with as well. We wish him a wonderful retirement.



At left, Kelly Russell receives a recognition award for his 35 years of service to the cooperative presented by CEO Greg Grissom. At right, Kelly Russell with Sonja Collier, left, and Vanessa Blagg. Photos: Ashley Turner



JACKSON PURCHASE ENERGY
A member-owned cooperative

Official Notice

2026 JACKSON PURCHASE ENERGY ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Jackson Purchase Energy Headquarters
6525 US 60W, Paducah, KY

Drive-thru registration: Noon-5 p.m.

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be recorded and available for viewing online at www.jpenergy.com. Members may submit a question at the drive-thru registration.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Safety first

Building a culture of safety at Jackson Purchase Energy

What comes to mind when you think about electrical safety? Hopefully, we can all remember some basic rules—like staying far away from power lines, using outlet covers in homes with small children and installing ground fault circuit interrupters in kitchens and bathrooms.

But electrical safety is more than just a list of do's and don'ts. Here at JPEC, we cultivate a safety culture—an approach to our work that puts safety first. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and there's no better time to consider how JPEC integrates safety into everything we do.

Electricity powers our lives, but it can also be dangerous. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, electrical fires affect an average of 51,000 homes each year. This is true on the job, too. Over the last 10 years, more than 1,650 workers have been killed in workplace electrical accidents—and 70% of those fatalities were in non-electrical occupations. This is why we are so committed to creating the conditions that keep our employees safe—and helping you and your loved ones stay safe, as well.

JPEC understands that there's a difference between a checklist mindset and a true culture of safety. A checklist mindset treats safety like a set of requirements to get through before the actual work can start. But a strong safety culture embeds safety into the work itself.

Angela Duckworth, a psychologist and bestselling author, defines culture as “the way we do things around here.” Every workplace has a unique culture, and we can shape that culture in ways that are beneficial.

You can see our safety culture at work in the way we approach every job, integrating safe practices from start to finish. We consult with safety professionals from our statewide association, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, to sharpen our skills and improve our processes. We also participate in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, a national effort designed to enhance co-op safety programs.

In addition to looking out for our employees, we care deeply about keeping you and your loved ones safe. That's why, in every issue of *Kentucky Living*, we share safety tips and articles to arm you with knowledge to stay safe around electricity. In the last year alone, we've looked at safety practices for downed power lines, device charging, agriculture, flooding, generators, space heaters and so much more.

Safety is our priority—and we are proud to build a culture that supports what really matters. It's the way we do things around here.



President and CEO
Greg Grissom



JPEC and Big Rivers hit the road on March 30, delivering checks to local nonprofit organizations in our service territory that make a meaningful, lasting impact. This year, we were able to help fund a playground for an addiction recovery center, provide new AEDs for a senior citizens' center, support HVAC upgrades to another senior citizens' center and provide funds for life-saving tools for local emergency management services. These efforts reflect our dedication to improving the quality of life and enhancing safety in the communities we serve. Brittane Johnson, left, and Ashley Turner present checks to Bryan Cutsinger with Marshall County EMS. Photo: Brittane Johnson



1926 Hudson Spar & Zinc Mine

By Lola Guess, Published by Kentucky Publishing Inc.

Plans are underway for commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the collapse of the Hudson Spar and Zinc Mine in Salem. The event, scheduled for August 8, at Fohs Hall in Marion, is being organized by the Clement Museum in Marion, the Livingston County Historical Society in Smithland and descendants and friends of the miners who endured the tragedy.

If you have family stories, photographs or memorabilia related to the Hudson Mine or its miners, please share them with the Livingston County Historical Society at info@lchgs.org. Your contributions will help ensure this centennial event honors the memory of those who endured and those who were rescued.

Five men, U. B. Wilson, George Catiller, Harry Watson, Randolph Cobb and Roy James, became trapped deep underground in the Hudson Spar and Zinc Mine in Salem, when the mine collapsed between 9 and 10 o'clock on that summer night, August 5, 1926. They were trapped for 153 hours, and in a moment of faith and surrender, had penciled on their caps the message: "If we are dead when you find us, we are saved."

The men spent long hours without food and with little water, praying, singing and huddling together to keep warm. When their small supply of water ran out, they caught drippings in a tobacco can. They had their carbide miners' lamps and four matches. By burning the lamps one at a time, they maintained light for as long as possible and were even grateful when they finally lost track of time. Cobb later said it was easier to wait when they could no longer count the days.

None of the men lost hope except for Catiller, who gave final instructions for the care of his family in case he died before rescuers reached them.

These men had been working the night shift when a wall collapsed, blocking their only exit. Their story became one of grit, sacrifice and divine hope. Roy James, who could have escaped, ran back to warn his fellow miners and was cut off. Dewey Wiggins and Alton Grissom heard the sound of rushing water, fled up the shaft and climbed a ladder to safety.

Rescuers worked desperately to bail out water as small pumps became clogged with mud. A larger pump was brought in from the Lafayette Mine in Mexico, and others from surrounding counties, until a powerful pump from a Memphis firm was ordered and shipped on the Illinois Central Railroad to Marion, then transported by truck to the Hudson Mine. Finally, the water began to recede, leaving about 3 feet in the shaft.



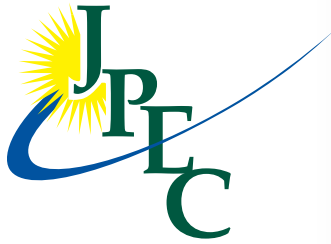
George Catilla and Family. Photo Courtesy of The Crittenden Press A.M. Shelby's Original Report and Random Gleanings

Above ground, crews ranging from 300 to 500 men labored in shifts for days with little or no sleep. They faced equipment failures, debated where to drill, and struggled to get supplies to the site. A nurse was brought in to administer first aid for exposure, weakness and starvation once the miners were rescued. The Ford garage in Princeton furnished three Ford tractors and a large truck with an operator to maintain them. An airplane stood ready in Sturgis in case the miners needed medical transport. Newspaper reporters arrived from across the country to share the unfolding miracle they hoped to witness with an anxious nation.

Below the surface, the trapped men could hear the drills and continued to pray. When they finally saw a light, one shouted, "We are everyone right back here!" Dick Wright and Freeman Cobb, brother of Randolph Cobb, were the first to reach them. One rescuer urged them to keep quiet, but they kept praying until they were brought out. It took 16 minutes to hoist the men to safety. When Watson emerged, he asked, "Where's my horse? I want to ride him home."

The five men ranged in age from 27 to 35. All were married except Watson. They were found in fairly good condition except for Catiller, who had injured his back in a fall when the mine collapsed and was suffering from a cold. At the first-aid station, their muddy clothes were cut away, they were given light food, reunited with tearful families, and sent home to rest.

The miners were weak and worn, but alive. The nightmare was over. Their survival became a lasting symbol of faith, perseverance, and community spirit, inspiring people across Kentucky and beyond.



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TO REPORT OUTAGES CALL

Toll-free: (800) 633-4044 or
Phone: (270) 442-7321
Text OUT to (855) 938-3622

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mail: 6525 US HWY 60 W
Paducah, KY 42001
Fax: (270) 442-5337
www.jpenergy.com

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

**OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MAY 25 FOR MEMORIAL DAY.**

COOPERATIVE DIRECTORS

Chairman | District 6..... Erick Harris
Vice Chairman | District 8 Jack Marshall
Secretary-Treasurer | District 7 Wayne Elliott
Director | District 3.....Lee Bearden
Director | District 4.....Joshua Barnes
Director | District 1..... David Brown
Director | District 5..... Kevin Bell
Director | District 2..... Terry Teitloff

MANAGEMENT

President and CEOGreg Grissom
Executive Assistant Amy Vick
VP Finance & Accounting Meredith Kendall
VP Member Services and CommunicationsMark Lindsey
VP Operations Ward Morgan
VP Engineering..... Travis Spiceland
Director of Safety & Environmental
ComplianceDavid Brandon
Manager of Technical Services..... Mark Brueggert
Manager of Right of Way
& Special Projects Keith Burrow
Manager of Operations.....Jeremy Goodman
Manager of Warehousing & Purchasing..... Bobby Morehead
Manager of Member Services
& Communications.....Ashley Turner

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

JPEC hosts employee blood drive for American Red Cross

Our multipurpose room is usually filled with safety talks and all employee meetings. On March 31, it was transformed into a temporary clinic for the American Red Cross. Donating blood is a lifesaving act that provides essential medical resources for patients while offering several health and emotional benefits for the donor. A single blood donation can save up to three lives.

Donated blood is critical for accident victims, people undergoing surgery and those battling cancer or blood disorders. We appreciate our employees meeting the need of community members who may need the help of the American Red Cross.

Above, Tray Madding and Tyler Richardson. Photos: Ashley Turner



MAY 21, 2026

**JPEC HEADQUARTERS - 6525 US HWY 60W
10AM-2PM (OR UNTIL TRUCKS ARE FULL)**



SUPER SHREDDER