

Daphne Utilities Named One of the Best Places To Work In America by *Inc. Magazine*

Winners Announced Today... Magazine on newsstands now!

Other Recipients include the *New York Jets* and *Patagonia*



Daphne, Alabama, June 7, 2010 - Daphne Utilities, a public utility company serving water, sewer and natural gas to the city of Daphne, Alabama, has made it into the same league as the New York Jets.

The AFC East division? Not exactly. Both organizations have been named by *Inc. Magazine* as one of the best small and mid-sized places to work in the country in 2010.

They are among 18 others who have won the 2010 Top Small Company Workplaces competition and will be featured in the June issue of *Inc.* magazine hitting newsstands today.

“This year, Winning Workplaces, received nearly 500 applications, which were pared down to 40 finalists,” said Kenneth Lehman, founder and chairman of the organization. “A national panel of experts in leadership and small business judged the finalists using quantitative and qualitative criteria related to workplaces that engage employees and deliver successful business results.” This process led to the top 20 companies being named “Winners” to be featured in the June issue of *Inc.*

“People want employers who care for and challenge them. And they want those employers to be financially healthy so

they can keep caring for and challenging them far into the future. The 2010 Top Small Company Workplaces do just that. Their stories are models of smart management and enlightened leadership,” said Jane Berentson, editor-in-chief of *Inc.* magazine.

Daphne Utilities is the only utility company to ever be selected as a finalist or winner in this program in the eight years the competition has been held.

They are also the only company from the South to be chosen this year.

“To be recognized as running one of the best places to work in the country is a great reflection on our company and the entire city of Daphne as well,” said Rob McElroy, general manager of Daphne Utilities.

“At a time when our residents face all kinds of concerns...from the oil spill to the economy... I think everyone can take comfort knowing that we have one of the best run companies anywhere in the country right here at home working for them every single day.”

How can a public utility company maintain a workplace comparable to the New York Jets? It’s all about how you treat your people and what you expect in return says everyone involved with the project.





WINNER

*As named by
Inc. Magazine
and
Winning Workplaces*

The common characteristics of the Top Small Company Workplaces include people working as a team, open communications throughout the company, and investing in each employee's career development.

All finalists were scrutinized through a series of due diligence interviews with randomly selected employees, as well as customers and business advisors.

In the article on Daphne Utilities, the magazine notes, "the company allows employees with divergent job descriptions to split their duties for all kinds of personal reasons—for example, a receptionist works part time as a meter reader because she likes being out in the sunshine."

Among several awards captured in recent months, Daphne Utilities was also recently named as the Best Large Groundwater Utility in the eight southeastern states by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Receiving positive exposure from *Inc.* magazine and the US EPA at this time is a ray of sunshine in the middle of a very dark cloud hanging over our area from the oil spill in the Gulf," said McElroy.

Daphne Utilities serves approximately 11,000 water, 10,000 sewer and 4,000 gas customers. Its five person board is comprised of chairman Bob Segalla, Councilman Ron Scott, Lon Johnston, Mayor Fred Small and Fenton Jenkins.

About Inc. Magazine

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures, *Inc.* magazine (www.inc.com) is the only major business magazine dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies that delivers real solutions for today's innovative company builders. With a total paid circulation of 724,110, *Inc.* provides hands-on tools and market-tested strategies for managing people, finances, sales, marketing and technology.

About Winning Workplaces

Winning Workplaces (www.winningworkplaces.org) is an Evanston, IL-based not-for-profit, whose mission is to help the leaders of small and midsize organizations create great workplaces. Founded in 2001, Winning Workplaces serves as a clearinghouse of information on workplace best practices; provides seminars and workshops on workplace-related topics; and, inspires and awards top workplaces through their annual Top Small Company Workplaces initiative.