



Built to withstand: New transmission operations center keeps power flowing

The forecast calls for a day with falling snow or a night of severe storms. As the weather moves in, Big Rivers employees monitor power outages across 22 Western Kentucky counties and quickly address any issues. Now, these dedicated control room operators, linemen and engineers have a new home base in Owensboro to help improve response times and power reliability.

Big Rivers Electric Corporation is Jackson Purchase Energy Cooperative's generation and transmission partner, delivering electricity to your area through a system of more than 1,300 miles of high-voltage power lines and substations. Once the power arrives at the substation, JPEC distributes it to each house, farm or business. Together, we work 24/7 to keep electricity running from the power plant to your home.

For the past several decades, Big Rivers control room operators, office staff and field crew worked from separate locations in Henderson. Plans to move these



The Big Rivers Transmission Operations Center in Owensboro opened to the first employees last summer. The facility sits just off the Audobon Parkway, providing easy access throughout the 22-county Big Rivers service territory. Photo: Charles Mahlinger

critical teams into a combined workspace began several years ago, with the groundbreaking for a new transmission facility in Owensboro held in late 2023.

The Transmission Operations Center, known as the TOC, was designed to streamline operations between different departments, including engineering, information technology, lines, substation, right-of-way, procurement and more. Much has changed since Big Rivers began in 1961, and today's system requires a facility equipped with modern technology to meet the growing needs of Western Kentucky residents and industries. Some of the TOC updates include a dedicated space for network infrastructure and an

expanded critical parts warehouse.

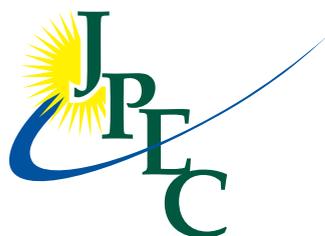
The first employees moved into the TOC facility in the summer of 2025.

"By integrating under one roof, we enable real-time collaboration, allowing us to respond to outages faster, with greater accuracy, and more efficiently than ever before," says Director of Transmission Systems Shaun Cecil.

Whether teamwork is needed for sudden storm damage or a long-term system improvement project, people who work together are now a few steps apart.

"Engineering benefits from being located near the warehouse, as this allows us to monitor the delivery of project materials easily," says Director of

Continued on 26D



Employee Spotlight



Congratulations to Jackson Sutton, son of Line Technician John Sutton. Jackson was chosen to be part of The Western Kentucky Conference. The WKC is an athletic league known for its competitive football. Photo: Jon Hedges



Congratulations to Sam Goodman, son of Manager of Operations Jeremy Goodman and wife, Erin. Sam was chosen to be part of The Western Kentucky Conference and was selected for the MVP Leadership Award at McCracken County High School. Photo: Jeremy Goodman



Preston is ready to go on call with his dad, Dylan Reed. Preston is the son of Allison and Dylan Reed. Photo: Allison Reed

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Co-ops in your corner

Consumer-members come first

If there's one word chilling the blood of politicians across the aisle today, it's this: affordability. From housing to health care, education and energy, costs are rising everywhere—and no one is happy about it.

This time of year is especially hard. Severe winter weather drives up heating costs, and after the cold snaps we've already experienced, many consumer-members are bracing for higher bills at a time when everything else already costs too much.

There are many reasons for increasing costs across the economy and in the energy sector. We discuss some of those factors in this month's *Kentucky Living* cover story, from increased electrification to spiking infrastructure costs and regulatory pressures. Understanding these conditions is important to make sense of how we got here. It's also important to understand how co-ops fit into the picture—and that we are on your side.

Here at Jackson Purchase Energy, we're not just an energy company, and you're not just a customer. Electric cooperatives are different from every other kind of utility, because we are owned by the people we serve. As a consumer-member, you're a part-owner of the company that purchases and distributes power to you. This is a responsibility we take very seriously.

We are speaking up for you in Frankfort and in Washington, D.C., to advocate for commonsense energy policies that protect affordability along with the reliability and safety of our energy supply. Too many interest groups are willing to accept policies that increase costs for everyone in service of their own agendas. Co-ops are the voice of reason on your behalf.

We also look out for you by providing regular and reliable information about our cooperative, issues affecting the energy supply, programs and services to help you reduce energy use and tips to stay safe around electricity in all weather conditions. Knowledge is power, and it's essential to rely on information you can trust.

And as demands on the grid grow every day, we are also planning for the future with you in mind. We understand that economic growth is critical—and we also know that it can't come at the expense of our existing members. This attitude is no accident. It's built into the way we operate. Because we're a cooperative, we are accountable to you, first and last. We're in your corner, and we won't budge.



President and CEO
Greg Grissom

Doing the most good—JPEC rings bell for kettle donations



Lauren Lampley and Sabrina Quertermous. Photo: Amber Daniels



Michelle Pearson and Amy Vick. Photo: Meredith Kendall



Meredith Kendall and Brittany Bushey, bell campaign 2025. Photo: Mark Lindsey



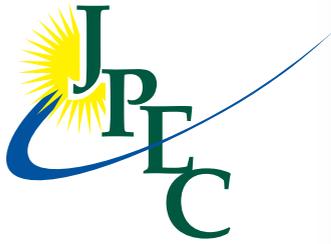
Mark Lindsey Photo: Meredith Kendall



Amber Daniels and Kris Nance, bell campaign 2025. Photo: Mark Lindsey



Brenda and Keith Burrow. Photo: Keith Burrow



JACKSON PURCHASE ENERGY

A member-owned cooperative

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
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, FOR
PRESIDENTS' 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 CEO Greg Grissom
Executive Assistant Amy Vick
VP Finance & Accounting Meredith Kendall
VP Member Services and Communications Mark Lindsey
VP Operations Ward Morgan
VP Engineering..... Travis Spiceland
Director of Safety & Environmental
Compliance David 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.

Continued from 26A

Engineering Jerrod Thomas. “The ability to collaborate directly with support staff on upcoming project work ensures that all departments remain aligned and informed on progress.”

The TOC is strategically located just a minute from the Audubon Parkway, making it easier for crews to travel throughout the entire service territory. In addition to its prime location and integrated workspace, the Transmission Operations Center is built to withstand Kentucky’s unpredictable weather. Field staff trucks are kept in an indoor garage with heated flooring, enabling crews to quickly deploy for system repairs without battling the effects of snow or ice on their equipment. Each of these features helps minimize the time it takes to reach outages and restore power.

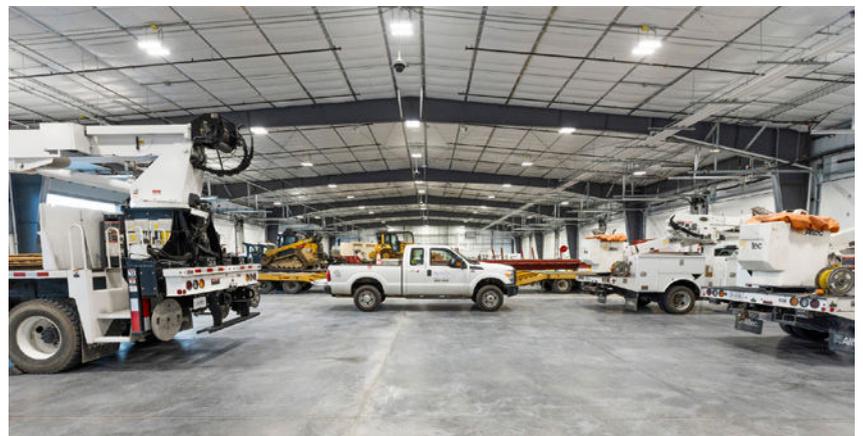
Relocating the 24/7 control room without downtime was one of the most complex steps in the move. In November 2025, Big Rivers carefully shifted operations from the old Henderson site to the new hardened control room in Owensboro. No matter the time or conditions, these operators can continue to manage the entire energy system from a center ready to handle the worst weather.

“One of the benefits of the TOC is a modern control center that is designed and built to withstand severe weather events, such as high winds and tornadoes,” says Energy Control Manager Kevin Johnson. “This includes protection for the business server room, which provides support for Big Rivers and services for our partner cooperatives.”

Altogether, this new facility and its improved technology are expected to lessen the future impact of storms and high-voltage outages on your electric cooperative.



Control room operators now monitor and adjust the power system 24/7 from inside a hardened space designed to withstand severe weather events, like tornadoes. System operations moved into the new Owensboro control room in November 2025. Photo: Stephanie McCombs



One key improvement for the Transmission Operations Center is indoor, heated space for the system repair fleet. Crews will now be able to quickly drive to damaged sites and use equipment without delays from snow or ice on equipment. Photo: Charles Mahlinger