



MESSAGE FROM THE COOPERATIVE

A year to remember

2025 sees culmination of infrastructure improvement projects



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

As 2025 draws to a close, and my retirement nears, I find myself reminiscing on the journey it has been to serve as the President/CEO of the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative for the past 22 years.

When I took on the role as President/CEO in 2004, I was driven by a vision to enhance our services and strengthen the relationship between HWEC and the communities that we serve. Over the years, I have been blessed to watch this vision become reality, with my final year being no exception.

From reaching the \$1 million milestone with the Operation Round Up Foundation and implementation of cutting-edge technology at our West Salem substation to strengthening our infrastructure with the addition of our 138-kV Holmesville Substation, it has been a year to remember.

As a distribution cooperative, we know we must plan for infrastructure improvements to maintain the reliability Holmes-Wayne members expect. To ensure our system has the capacity to meet future demands, HWEC engineers partner with Power Systems Engineering Inc. to perform an extensive analysis of our distribution system. This analysis is instrumental in helping us understand our current capacity and identify areas where updates will be necessary.

Due to the growing industrial and commercial load along State Route 83 and County Road 245, we concluded that additional substation and feeder capacity was needed to meet this growing demand, which would also improve reliability to this area. While economic development is crucial to the communities that we serve, it can strain our existing facilities. Hence, we planned for the new Holmesville Substation.

Constructing a new substation is far from a swift endeavor. It requires a sound financial plan and strategic investment of member capital. With a price tag of \$3.2 million, the new substation required careful

planning and execution. From site selection, land acquisition, environmental studies, permitting, design work, and securing materials to the actual construction, it was an extensive process.



The land for this project was purchased in 2020. However, the path from land purchase to project completion was not without its challenges. Unforeseen delays arose, primarily due to disruptions in the supply chain and availability of materials and equipment. Consequently, the timeline for this project had to be extended. Nearly five years later, the Holmesville Substation was energized on July 30, officially picking up load on August 13.

One of the most significant benefits of this project was transmission diversification. Interconnectivity between the Moreland and Ripley substations allows for more robust network performance, reducing the risk of isolated outages and improving the redistribution of power during maintenance or emergency situations.

It has also allowed us to split one feeder into three smaller sections, minimizing the impact to members when an outage occurs. Smaller feeder sections also make it easier to conduct routine checks, identify

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potential issues, and implement solutions without affecting a large number of our members.

While building new infrastructure is key to our success, protecting our existing equipment is just as important. For the last few years, birds have been wreaking havoc on our West Salem substation. Because birds attract predators, build nests inside expensive equipment, collide with our lines, and cause an accumulation of droppings, we knew it was time to take decisive action.

After an extensive research process that considered both the integrity of our substation and the protection of local wildlife, we concluded that the TransGard Laser Bird Defense system was the most suitable option. We made the decision after evaluating various alternatives, weighing their effectiveness, and considering their environmental impact.

This system is programmable, with multiple patterns making it possible to establish a variety of repelling patterns at different times of the day, enabling us to target trouble spots selectively. When the system is operational, birds perceive its approaching laser beam as a physical danger and disperse to seek safety. Unlike with conventional methods, birds will not

become accustomed to laser bird defense. They will consider the area unsafe and not return.

Be assured that this system is specifically designed to target birds within the substation's perimeter without disturbing nearby residents or drivers. Birds are not harmed, simply redirected away from critical distribution equipment. This system is a wise investment to improve reliability and efficiency to best serve our members.

The completion of these two significant projects required extensive collaboration between employees, consultants, contractors, and material suppliers — showcasing how teamwork among various parties can lead to outstanding results. It's a proud moment that I will cherish as the leader of your cooperative.

Be assured that as I step away into retirement, you are left in good hands with a solid board of directors, dedicated employees, and a new leader, John Porter, who is more than qualified and up for the challenge of guiding HWEC into the future.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a fabulous year to come. As we step into the new year, I look forward to staying up to date with the continued success of HWEC.

U.S. government expands coal leases, invests to upgrade coal plants

Plans will increase generation,
improve reliability

Ohio's Electric Cooperatives President and CEO Craig Grooms traveled to Washington, D.C., this fall to support plans to spur production of coal and boost its use for more reliable, affordable, safe electricity generation.

The Department of Energy announced it will invest \$625 million to upgrade and keep open coal plants slated to be retired amid strict, costly EPA regulations that are now under consideration for repeal. At the same time, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum announced plans to open 13.1 million acres of federal land for coal leases to expand coal-fired power generation to fuel growing demand for electricity — including powering the growth of artificial intelligence technology in the country.

Officials said the move supports President Trump's goal of strengthening U.S. energy dominance by incentivizing production, improving supply chains, and creating more energy jobs, which could boost the economy and improve national security.

The plan lowers royalty rates on coal and speeds up approvals for projects in states such as Montana, Wyoming, and Tennessee. Coal lease sales are moving forward in North Dakota and Alabama, too. Officials say the changes are part of the administration's "all-of-the-above" energy strategy to reduce dependence on foreign fuel sources.



While Ohio's coal comes primarily from private land, an increased supply of coal in the country could help to lower the cost of coal overall and bring down the cost to produce electricity. The EPA said its proposals would eventually save Americans \$200 million annually in electricity costs.

Coal production today is less than half what it was nearly two decades ago. In 2009, Ohio had 21 coal-fired plants producing electricity; today there are just four. Tom Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance, predicts that coal plants slated to close through 2028 will now stay open under President Trump's new energy policies.

"Coal has long been the primary source of the reliable, affordable electricity we provide to Ohio's 24 electric cooperatives and their members, and Ohio's electric cooperatives applaud the administration's plans," Grooms said. OEC also supports and invests in an all-of-the-above approach to energy production, which includes coal, natural gas, hydropower, wind, solar, and biomass.

"Coal has a long future, and it's critical to our country," said U.S. Dept of Energy Secretary Chris Wright. "Coal is by far and away the world's largest source of electricity, and we are going to stop closing coal plants, which drives up electricity prices."

We wish
you a merry
Christmas
and a happy
New Year!

The Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative
office will be
closed Dec. 24 and 25
and Jan. 1
for the holidays.





HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



2026 GRADS

Are your parents Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative members?

If so, you could win up to

\$7,600

in scholarships!

To obtain rules and applications for the Children of Members Scholarship, visit hwecoop.com or talk to your high school guidance counselor.

Deadline to apply: January 23, 2026

Certification of Active Duty Deployment

The cooperative will not disconnect electric service to the residential premises of any residential member who is deployed on active duty for nonpayment for electricity provided to the residential premises.

Upon return of the residential member from active duty, the cooperative will offer the residential member a period of time equal to duration of deployment on active duty to pay any arrearage incurred during the period of deployment. If the time period the cooperative offers the residential member for repayment presents a hardship, the member may request a longer period to repay the arrearage. No late payment fees or interest will be charged to the residential member during the period of deployment or the repayment period.

"Active duty" means active duty pursuant to an executive order of the President of the United States, an act of the Congress of the United States, or section 5919.29 or 5923.21 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The residential member must resume the timely payment of all charges for electric service provided by the cooperative after the return from active duty deployment.

In order to avoid disconnection of electric service for nonpayment of electric service during a period of active duty deployment, a completed Certification of Active Duty Deployment form must be submitted to the cooperative. Certification of Active Duty Deployment forms are available from the cooperative upon request.



**Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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