

# STATE GAZETTE

## Governor Lee, Commissioner Rolfe announce ERMCO to expand manufacturing jobs in Dyersburg

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Company to invest \$12 million in expansion, create 150 new jobs



On Tuesday, Governor Bill Lee visited Dyersburg to help announce that ERMCO would be expanding operations, investing \$12 million and creating approximately 150 new jobs. The governor, along with Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe, addressed those in attendance at ERMCO's newest facility on Hoff Road during an announcement and ribbon cutting ceremony. Following the ceremony, both Lee and Rolfe toured the facility.

State Gazette photo/ Brandon Hutcheson

Special to the State Gazette

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe, and ERMCO, Inc. officials announced Tuesday afternoon that the company will expand its manufacturing operations in Dyersburg. The transformer manufacturer will invest approximately \$12 million and create 150 new jobs in Dyer County.

Headquartered in Dyersburg, ERMCO is a wholly owned subsidiary of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI). With all of its products produced in the United States, ERMCO is one of the largest producers of oil-filled distribution transformers and transformer components in the U.S. The company has been in operation in Dyersburg since 1971.



Tennessee ECD Director Bob Rolfe (above) and ERMCO President and CEO Bill Refert (below) speak to those gathered during Tuesday afternoon's announcement and ribbon cutting ceremony.

State Gazette photo/ Brandon Hutcheson

Tuesday's announcement and ribbon cutting was due to ERMCO adding to its Dyer County footprint by expanding its operations into a third building to keep up with the company's demand. The company's new building was the former home of Caterpillar, Inc., located at 2000 Hoff Road in Dyersburg, adding an additional 8,000 square feet to the facility.



State Gazette photo/ Brandon Hutcheson

The announcement occurred shortly after 12 Noon Tuesday at ERMCO's newest facility. A large gathering of community members, Dyersburg and Dyer County officials, state officials, Dyersburg/ Dyer County Chamber of Commerce staff and diplomats, and ERMCO administration and employees were in attendance.

Governor Lee and Commissioner Rolfe were also present at Tuesday's event.

"Tennessee's strong advanced manufacturing industry, which employs 170,000 Tennesseans, makes it the perfect location for a company like ERMCO to expand operations. I'm pleased that ERMCO sees the advantages of doing business in Dyer County, and I thank them for creating 150 new jobs in Dyersburg," stated Governor Lee.



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“I congratulate ERMCO on its decision to expand its operations in Dyersburg,” added Commissioner Rolfe. “Tennessee continues to see major growth in the manufacturing sector, with Tennessee’s advanced manufacturing job creation far outpacing national growth. I thank ERMCO for continuing to strengthen our advanced manufacturing industry in our state with the creation of these 150 new jobs in Dyersburg.”

ERMCO President and CEO Bill Reffert praised the nearly 1,400 employees that make up the company. Reffert stated, “Our dedicated workforce in Dyersburg has enabled ERMCO to become the premier distribution transformer manufacturer in the U.S. We have been able to increase our business by over 10 percent for five years in a row. The new factory we are adding to our footprint in Dyersburg will allow us to continue to serve our partners with the short lead times they depend upon. We are very excited about our future.”

Dyersburg Mayor John Holden and Dyer County Mayor Chris Young issued the following statements:



Governor Lee tours the newest ERMCO facility with Bill Reffert, the company’s president and CEO (above). Below, Governor Lee also took a moment to chat with ERMCO employees.

State Gazette photo/ Brandon Hutcheson

“This is certainly an exciting day for Dyersburg. Existing manufacturers are very important to

us, and I appreciate the confidence and trust ERMCO has in our community by continuing to grow and expand in Dyersburg,” said Holden. “I am thankful for a great relationship with ERMCO and the employment opportunities available as a result of its continued growth.”



State Gazette photo/ Brandon Hutcheson

“ERMCO has been one of our leading employers in Dyer County for many years and is currently our largest employer. We are blessed to have ERMCO as part of our community and couldn’t ask for a better partner to move Dyer County forward,” added Young. “Congratulations to plant manager Bill Reffert and his staff for this expansion.”

State Senator Ed Jackson stated, “This is great news that ERMCO is expanding its operations into Dyersburg and Northwest Tennessee. I congratulate Mayor Holden, Mayor Young, Commissioner Rolfe, Governor Lee and the Dyersburg Chamber for working closely with ERMCO to make this happen. This will be a much-needed boost by bringing quality jobs to Northwest Tennessee. Thank you, ERMCO, for growing in our community.”

“TVA and Dyersburg Electric System congratulate ERMCO on its decision to expand operations in Dyersburg and create new job opportunities,” added TVA General Manager of Global Business Heidi Smith. “It’s always an exciting day when we can celebrate a company’s continued commitment to invest in the region. We are proud to partner with Dyersburg Chamber of Commerce, City of Dyersburg, Dyer County and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to help facilitate ERMCO’s continued success in the Valley.”



Following the facility tour, Governor Lee and Reffert conduct the ribbon cutting ceremony.

State Gazette photo/ Brandon Hutcheson

Following the ceremony, Governor Lee and Commissioner Rolfe toured the new facility. The governor also took a moment to speak with ERMCO employees to learn more about their job in

the company.

Following the tour, Governor Lee spoke with the State Gazette and other media sources.

“Rural Tennessee job creation is really important. ERMCO has been in this part of the country and this part of Tennessee for many, many years, and they are continuing to invest here. We came here to celebrate a company that is creating jobs and that is creating investment and they are doing it in northwest Tennessee and a part of rural Tennessee that particularly matters to me.



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee speaks with those in attendance at ERMCO’s expansion announcement Tuesday afternoon.

State Gazette photo/ Brandon Hutcheson

“These types of jobs [manufacturing] are the backbone of our economy, and we need to create an education system that develops this type of workforce,” the governor added. “We need to celebrate when these type of jobs are created and expanded.”

When asked about his tour of the facility and what he learned from ERMCO employees, Governor Lee responded, “What I saw were hardworking folks who are getting it done. They are creating products right here in Tennessee that are being used all across the country. This is a manufacturing facility that has had expansion upon expansion because of the workforce in this particular community. It is an example of when a community partners with private sector and state government – jobs are created, products are created, and wields prosperity for Tennessee.

Since 2013, Tennessee Economic and Community Development has supported 23 projects in Dyer County, resulting in the creation of more than 1,700 new jobs and approximately \$158 million in capital investment.