



EVERGY — EOC

ABOUT EVERGY

- In 2018, Westar and Great Plains Energy, the parent company of Kansas City Power & Light, merged to create Evergy.
- Serving 1.6 million customers, the company creates sustainable energy and solutions that meet residential and business needs in both Kansas and Missouri.
- With operations in Topeka, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, Evergy employs nearly 5,000 people across its service area.

THE CHALLENGE

The Evergy Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in Kansas City, is essential to the company. Used to monitor the company's energy transmission system, the EOC room plays an important role during natural disasters and other events that threaten Evergy's transmission lines. But the technology used in the EOC was outdated and difficult to maintain.

In addition, when the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact the United States, Evergy leaders needed to re-evaluate their mission-critical facilities to ensure they were sterile for the essential workers tasked with monitoring their transmission systems.

THE SOLUTION

Partnering with AVI Systems' Control Room Group, a specialized team consisting of highly skilled engineers and technicians, Evergy examined the facility design and technology used in the EOC.

In the EOC, which is used to monitor disruptive weather systems that could impact transmission lines, AVI's team recommended a redesign of the space that included updated technologies. A large visual display wall that shows the entire Evergy transmission system had been supported with rear video projection cubes that were outdated and difficult to maintain. The cubes were replaced with 12 new, integrated 55-inch display panels.

AVI installed a new Barco UniSee LCD video wall platform to provide added brightness and color uniformity across the entire display wall. In addition, the new display provides an uninterrupted canvas for Evergy's EMS application and also reduces user fatigue.

AVI also updated conference room technologies including wireless connectivity, Microsoft Teams communication software for audio - video conferencing and new point-to-zoom and mobile cameras that further enable the space to be used for multiple purposes.

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THE RESULT

“The new technology solutions in Evergy’s EOC gives the leadership group a system they can count on for mission critical requirements,” said Mike Scott AVI Systems Senior Account Manager. “We also provide Evergy with a 24/7 PRO Support agreement, which means our technicians are just a phone call away if an issue with the system develops unexpectedly.”

In addition to new and improved technology that eliminates the sharing of computers and keyboards, AVI recommended solutions to limit the number of surfaces users of the EOC need to physically touch. With new touchless features, such as motion lights and sensors, Evergy is able to limit the potential spread of coronavirus and other bacteria.

“The new EOC system has improved our workflow and functionality dramatically,” said Alex Cambiano, P.E., Supervisor, Distribution System Operations at Evergy. “The old system required manually positioning the camera and required the use of an employee’s laptop for conferencing. Now we have a dedicated meeting device and can quickly change cameras to focus on whomever is speaking, while the broadcast image is seamless and sharp. And, when we need to conduct a press conference in our lobby area, we can use the mobile camera, which remains connected to the room’s AV system. We could not be happier with AVI’s work and post-completion support.”



Twelve integrated 55-inch display panels make up the new display wall in Evergy’s Emergency Operations Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Call 855-521-0050 or visit avisystems.com for more information.

