



Bringing science to life at Kiewit

LUMINARIUM

Imagine a place where you can bend light, see a sound wave and envision your own city.

It's all possible at Kiewit Luminarium in Omaha, with a hand from OPPD. OPPD is powering hundreds of new, interactive science exhibits at the Luminarium with energy from a rooftop solar panel that is pulling double-duty as an electrical source and an educational tool.

The Luminarium opened to the

public April 15 at Lewis and Clark Landing on the Missouri River, giving visitors a chance to learn firsthand about science, technology, engineering and math and possibly spark a newfound interest. Designed by the Exploratorium, a public learning laboratory in San Francisco, the 82,000-square-foot Luminarium is designed as a regional attraction and a big draw for tourism and education in Omaha.

Exhibits give visitors the chance to explore natural phenomena, such as sound, motion and temperature.

The new museum also allows OPPD to highlight its push for more renewable and sustainable energy sources. OPPD has partnered with the Luminarium to place 336 solar panels on the building's roof, a project expected to produce 188,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per year, the equivalent of taking 21 passenger vehicles off the road.

Surging demand drives need for more OPPD power

For years, demand for electricity in OPPD's service area stayed flat or grew slightly.

Not anymore.

With a surge in new homes, businesses and economic growth, we expect to add an unprecedented 100 megawatts annually over the next five or six years.

It's exciting, but also challenging, and requires a forward-looking approach to ensure a continuous supply of reliable, affordable and environmentally sensitive power. To prepare for the rapid growth, OPPD is seeking to expand its generation portfolio.

OPPD's plan calls for 1,000 to 1,500 megawatts of renewables

(wind and solar), up to 125 megawatts of battery storage, 600 to 950 megawatts of thermal power (such as natural gas), at least 32 megawatts of demand response (shifting or shedding electricity demand to help balance the grid) and approximately 320 megawatts of added fuel capability and fuel oil storage at existing

(Continued on back)

AUGUST BOARD MEETINGS

(Note: no July board meetings.) **All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, Aug. 15 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Aug. 17, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.



(Continued from *Surging demand...*)
generation facilities – essentially, upgrading current facilities to allow for additional winter and resilient capacity.

By 2030, OPPD is projected to nearly double its nameplate capacity.

Factors driving the load growth are

wide-ranging and include customer movement toward more electrification, such as electric vehicles, and an expanding economy.

As more people arrive, the need for electricity will continue to grow. Last year, the Omaha area alone drew 61 new projects totaling \$2.1 billion in

capital investment.

OPPD's proposal calls for an estimated capital investment of \$2 billion to \$2.2 billion by 2030 to build everything that's needed. Annual operating and maintenance costs would grow by approximately \$310 million by 2030.

OPPD recognized for work with trees

OPPD has received national recognition for its commitment to tree-planting and proper forest management in urban areas.

The Arbor Day Foundation recently named OPPD a Tree Line USA Utility for the 23rd year. Tree Line USA is a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters that recognizes public and private utilities that take proper steps to protect and cultivate America's urban tree canopy.



OPPD has steadily increased its tree-trimming budget over the past several years, resulting in fewer trees and limbs falling on power lines during severe weather. OPPD

has also taken steps to educate the public about planting the right trees in the right location to avoid interfering with power lines. We also maintain the OPPD Arboretum, a public space at 108th and Blondo streets in Omaha.

To qualify for Tree Line USA recognition, utilities must demonstrate a commitment to quality tree care, worker training, tree planting and public education. Utilities must also sponsor or participate in an Arbor Day celebration and promote tree-based energy conservation.

Reliability is a top priority

OPPD's work to shorten and reduce the number of power outages is making a positive impact, according to a recent report shared with the OPPD Board of Directors.

OPPD earned high marks for minimizing the number of customer service disruptions, placing in the top quartile among similarly sized utilities. OPPD also ranked in the top quartile for outage duration, keeping outages that do happen as short as possible.

OPPD has continued to reduce the amount of time customers are without power for the past five years, to half of what it was in 2018.

A strong focus on tree trimming

has made a big impact in reducing both outage frequency and duration. OPPD's Forestry Department works with new neighborhood and business developments, as well as residential customers, providing education on how to plant the "right tree in the right place" to avoid interference with power lines.

Additionally, underground cable replacements and "critter guards" have helped to prevent animals from interfering with lines.

The board reviewed, discussed and accepted the report during its April committee meeting. The report was produced as part of OPPD's Strategic Directive 4: Reliability.



7"x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2023 Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email lskinghoman@oppd.com.

Proceeds from the sale of advertising space in *Outlets* are donated to OPPD's Energy Assistance Program. An advertisement in *Outlets* does not constitute an endorsement by OPPD. For information about this space, call 531-226-3756.