



## Gas turbines help meet demand for power

If you've ever flown on a large passenger jet, you know the feeling during takeoff when those powerful airplane engines press you back into your seat.

A similar type of engine helps generate affordable, reliable electricity for customers throughout OPPD's service territory. Natural gas turbines are a key part of OPPD's diverse and fast-growing generation fleet.

Turbine engines inhale filtered air with special blades spinning at extreme speeds. Just like a blowing fan, the blades suck air into the engine for use. Air passes through one set of blades, and then another, and then another.

Two types of blades help the process. Rotor blades connected to a

central shaft spin to keep air moving through the engine.

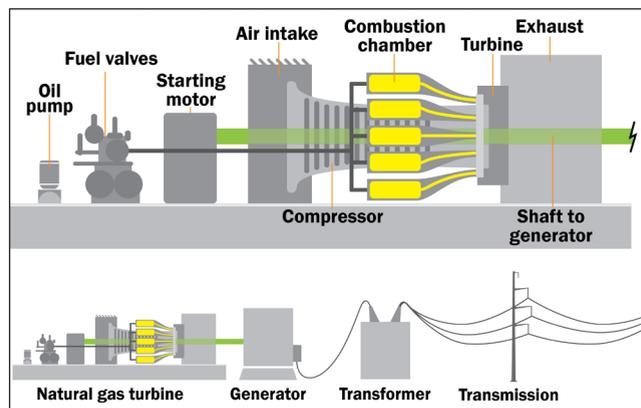
As air flows deeper into the turbine, the spinning rotor-blade shaft becomes wider and closes in on the turbine's inside walls, which reduces the space available for air.

The high-pressure air then spills into the turbine's combustor, where fuel injectors spray a steady stream of fuel (natural gas or diesel fuel) into the chamber.

The mixture ignites, and the resulting heat spikes the pressure even higher. From there, the super-pressurized air-and-gas mixture roars into the

main turbine area. In that area, the mixture hits another set of blades, causing them to spin.

The turbine blades do two jobs. They connect to the same shaft as the rotor blades and they drive the engine's compressor to draw more pressurized air into the combustion section. They also spin a generator, producing electricity.



### JANUARY BOARD MEETINGS

**All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, Jan. 16 (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting) for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Jan. 18, 5 p.m. (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://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](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting).

# Outlets

#### OUR MISSION

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

Your Energy Partner<sup>®</sup>  
**OPPD**  
 Omaha Public Power District



in the field. Those responders are guided by, and work closely with, a group of specialists behind the scenes in a crucial, high-stakes job.

Distribution system operators (DSOs) are the air traffic controllers of OPPD's restoration efforts, providing clarity and guidance in even the toughest of situations.

DSOs work proactively to minimize the size of outages, oversee restoration efforts, talk directly with 911 dispatchers in emergencies, and – most

importantly – ensure the safety of OPPD's field workers.

During outages, DSOs work remotely – and often creatively – to reroute power to as many affected customers as possible. They monitor OPPD's distribution system at all hours, year-round. Even on slow days, their job demands quick thinking, excellent communication skills and the ability to remain calm under pressure.

DSOs come from a variety of backgrounds. Some have worked in power plants. Others were line technicians, electricians, in the military, or worked at other utilities.

## Helping restore power, keeping crews safe

Any time an emergency triggers a power outage or creates an electrical hazard, OPPD jumps into action with troubleshooters and line technicians

## OPPD rate proposal seeks to support reliability, system health

Faced with rising costs and the need to maintain reliable, robust electrical service, OPPD is seeking a modest general rate increase in 2024 to keep up with growing customer demand.

The exact increase would vary based on the type of customer and their usage, but the average among the different customer classes would be 2.5%. OPPD leaders proposed the rate adjustment in the utility's \$2.1 billion annual budget, known as the Corporate Operating Plan.

Budget priorities for 2024 include modernizing infrastructure and putting into place programs that allow customers to better manage their energy use.

If approved by OPPD's Board of Directors, the new rate would go into effect on Jan. 1. Residential rates would rise by 1.6%. For average residential customers with a monthly bill of \$111, the increase amounts to 44 cents per month or \$5.28 per year.

OPPD sets rates for different customer classes based on a cost-of-service study, a standard practice among utilities. Costs are allocated based on how much each customer group contributes to OPPD's expenses, and thus, customers with the highest usage will see the biggest increases.

OPPD's rates have also become

more competitive compared to the national average over the last five years, with retail rates 26.5% below the national average in 2022, according to the Energy Information Administration. The proposed increase would maintain OPPD's competitive edge while preserving the health of the utility's operations.

### Switch to paperless billing for peace of mind

If you've ever misplaced your bill or had a due date slip your mind, it's time to sign up for paperless billing. It's simple to enroll, a way to be green, and it's free.

Paperless billing has a few key benefits:

Email notifications with the amount due and due date.

Online pay options, including automatic bill-pay.

Reducing paper clutter and helping the environment.

To sign up, scan the QR code shown here. Or, call 402-536-4131 in the Omaha area or 877-536-4131 outside the metro.



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