



## OPPD's Fort Calhoun Station Reenergized

The Missouri River flood of 2011 was historic. It tested the resolve of the people of OPPD's Fort Calhoun Station as they worked around-the-clock filling sandbags, deploying aqua berms and fortifying an array of defenses, all to protect the plant from floodwaters that crested at more than 1,006 feet in June of that year (*the plant was protected to well above that level*).

The plant had shut down for a regular refueling and maintenance outage on April 9. As it readied to restart in May, it received word that melting snowpack and heavy rains upstream meant record amounts of water would be released from dams in Montana and the Dakotas. The Missouri would be out of its banks all summer long.

As the waters receded, some of the toughest work and biggest challenges presented themselves. More than eight million person-hours went into the subsequent recovery that included some 69,000 task completions and a checklist of more than 400 items required for restart.

In 2012, OPPD entered into a 20-year agreement with Exelon Generation to operate the plant, while OPPD maintains ownership. Exelon is the largest operator of nuclear plants in the United States, and fleet expertise has already proved a great benefit to FCS during its recovery.

At 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013, OPPD's Fort Calhoun Station reenergized, synchronizing with the power grid and closing breakers, generating electricity for the first time in more than two-and-a-half years.

Throughout the recovery and reenergizing process, OPPD's commitment to public health and safety, and to the safe operation of Fort Calhoun Station (FCS), did not waver. The intense scrutiny and frank self-assessment that the extended outage brought to the people, the plant and the processes at FCS had many hard-won results. Now, the plant is better protected against floods, tornado-borne debris, high winds and other potential threats. The facility is upgraded with new digital turbine controls, improved cooling systems, new or overhauled electrical breakers, and comprehensive security enhancements across the site. The technical and leadership training as well as the climate and culture have advanced at FCS, better equipping its people with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve sustained excellence.

All of these significant improvements will serve FCS well through the life of its license. **Until then, safety will remain the number one priority in the operation of Fort Calhoun Station.**