



No Rate Increase Planned for Customers in 2014

OPPD has great news for its customers – there will be no increase in electric rates in 2014.

The Corporate Operating Plan approved by the district's board of directors calls for rates to remain steady for this year, a result of the utility successfully managing challenges in 2013.

Prominent in the 2014 Corporate Operating Plan: rates remain below regional and national averages; expenditures sufficient to maintain system reliability; and significant energy from renewable resources (wind and landfill-gas).

The steady price for electricity – a positive for individuals and businesses facing increases in other areas – reflects extensive efforts to hold down costs for our customer-owners. Among

the reasons OPPD is able to avoid a rate increase are:

- Setting a flat budget for 2014, enabled by OPPD's ability to hold the line on operating expenses this past year.
- Spreading the cost of purchasing additional power this year, during Fort Calhoun Station's extended outage, over three years' time. To offset some of the expenses associated with restart and minimize the impact on ratepayers, the district cut \$11 million from its operating budget, while saving another \$11 million through employee benefit reductions.
- Negotiating very favorable fuel-supply (coal) and transportation (rail) contracts. The fuel-supply contracts

include a four-year, long-term deal, while the short-term contract is for one year. Each of the individual fuel supply contracts covers 50 percent of the district's fuel supply needs. The rail contract includes all coal delivery for a seven-year term.

- Further reflecting the district's solid financial picture, OPPD residential customers paid an average of 10.12 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in 2012, almost 15 percent below the national average. Retail rates were nearly 20 percent below the national average.

For more details on the utility's Corporate Operating Plan, visit our website, oppd.com.

Upcoming Events

February Board Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m., Energy Plaza, 444 S. 16th St., Omaha. Hearing-impaired may call TTY phone at 402-345-6737 or 402-616-3208 72 hours prior to request an interpreter.

Heat the Streets Run and Walk for Warmth - Preview Run Rally: Saturday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. at Midtown Crossing, 31st and Dodge, in Omaha.

Heat the Streets Run and Walk for Warmth: Saturday, March 1, at Turner Park at Midtown Crossing, 31st and Dodge, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., heatthestreetsomaha.org

For additional information regarding upcoming OPPD events, visit oppd.com/events.

Fort Calhoun Station Receives Green Light to Restart

Omaha Public Power District received formal permission from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Dec. 17 to make electricity with nuclear energy at OPPD's Fort Calhoun Station (FCS).

Marc Dapas, NRC Region IV Administrator, told the utility, "The NRC has concluded that the plant, people, and processes are ready to support the safe restart of the Fort Calhoun Station."



OPPD employees reload fuel into the reactor core in July 2013.



Safely reenergizing the nuclear plant has been a long journey for OPPD and its customer-owners since FCS shut down for normal refueling in early April 2011.

Missouri River flooding prevented the station from restarting that summer, and longstanding technical issues that needed to be addressed kept it offline until now.

"The last few years have been challenging for OPPD and our customers as we worked to bring this plant back online," said OPPD President and CEO Gary Gates, "I'm extremely proud of the extensive effort that went into the successful and safe restart of this plant."

Benefits Gained

The reenergizing of Fort Calhoun Station restores 478 megawatts of clean, carbon-free power to OPPD's diverse fuel portfolio. FCS will provide reliable, carbon-free electricity day and night, in windy and calm situations.

Gates pointed out that the money invested in the plant to bring

Continued on back



Danielle Cram, nuclear engineer, is shown in the FCS turbine building.

Green Light to Restart ... *continued from front*

it back online means better protection from flooding, better protection from debris blown by tornadoes and other high winds, stronger steam and high-pressure lines, enhanced barriers to radiation inside the plant and numerous other upgrades to operating and safety systems.

"We now have a power plant with significant major upgrades to numerous vital systems," Gates said. "This sets us up well to run through the term of the plant's operating license."

Major changes to the plant's equipment, processes and procedures were overseen by the country's top nuclear operator, Exelon Generation. OPPD hired Exelon Generation in 2012 to run the plant with the experience it has garnered running the nation's largest commercial nuclear fleet.

Although FCS is back online, it will remain under increased NRC oversight, with public reporting sessions held periodically, as has been done recently.

Public Service Announcement: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands is looking for men and women eager to positively impact a child and improve their community. Our organization makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers and children, throughout the Omaha metro area. For more information, contact Diane at 402-505-3075 or enroll@bbbsomaha.org.

Tree Grants Offered to Nonprofit Groups

Every year, OPPD offers a limited number of tree grants to nonprofit groups, schools and organizations in its 13-county service area. OPPD is now accepting applications.

Nearly 111,000 trees and shrubs have been planted in south-east Nebraska since 1990 thanks to this program. Last year, OPPD awarded 22 grants, distributing nearly \$30,500 to organizations.

For information or applications, visit oppd.com/treepromotion, or call OPPD Forestry at 402-536-4131 or 1-877-536-4131. The application must include a planting plan that meets the guidelines. The plan can include both trees and shrubs.

Applications are due by March 21, 2014.

Dial 2-1-1 for Energy Assistance Programs

Each year, thousands of people in our community struggle to heat and cool their homes. OPPD's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) raises money to help those in need.

Customers who would like to request financial assistance should dial 2-1-1, the United Way resource line.

OPPD employees raise money for EAP through various fundraising events during the year. The next event, Heat the Streets Run and Walk for Warmth, is Saturday, March 1 at Midtown Crossing.

These efforts, combined with customer contributions and revenue from *Outlets* advertising, make it possible to provide critical year-round assistance.

If you'd like to donate to EAP, you can call OPPD at 402-536-4131 or toll-free at 1-877-536-4131 to donate by phone. Or you can simply make a pledge by checking the appropriate box on your billing statement.

6 Space Heater Safety Tips

An electric space heater is a great way to add supplemental heat, but when using one, safety should be a top consideration. OPPD urges its customers to follow safe operating practices when using space heaters.



Safety Tips:

1. Purchase models that are Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certified, and have all the current safety features.
2. For portable space heaters,

buy a unit with a tip-over safety switch.

3. Keep the unit at least three feet away from flammable materials, including such things as bedding, furniture and drapes.
4. Never place it near plumbing or water.
5. Keep children and pets away from the heater.
6. Never leave it running unattended or when sleeping.

For more tips on electric safety, visit oppd.com/safety or call the Energy Advisor at 402-636-3850 in Omaha or 1-800-648-2658.

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