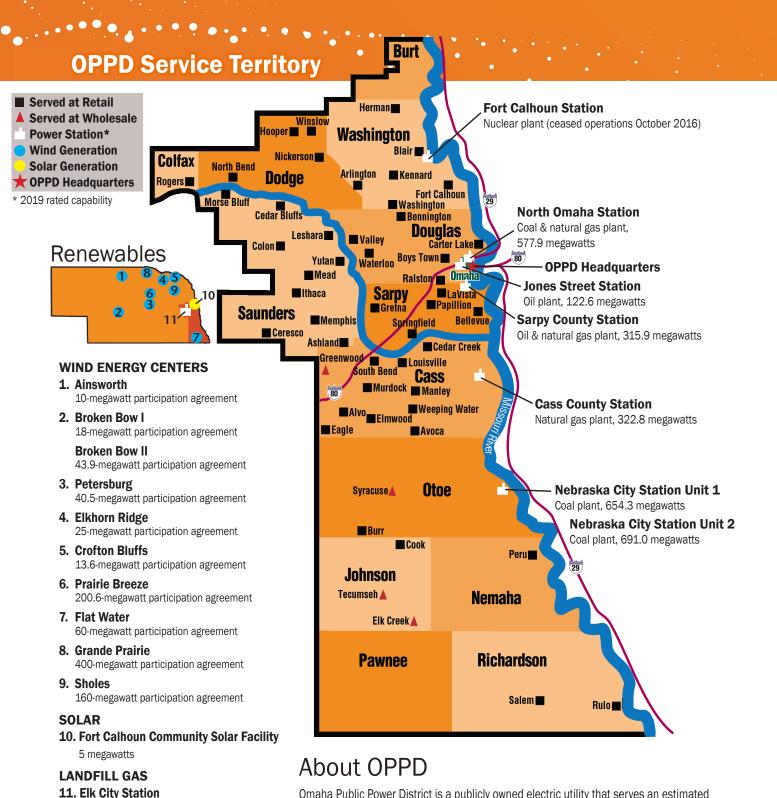


## Every day, everywhere





6.3 megawatts

81.3 megawatts

From Western Area Power Administration

**HYDRO** 

Omaha Public Power District is a publicly owned electric utility that serves an estimated population of 855,000 people, more than any other electric utility in the state.

Operating since 1946, the public utility is governed by an elected board of eight directors. While its headquarters is located in Omaha, Neb., OPPD has several other locations in its 13-county, 5,000-square-mile service area in southeast Nebraska.

OPPD uses baseload power facilities fueled by coal and natural gas, peaking units fueled by natural gas and oil, and renewable energy, including wind, landfill gas and hydropower. OPPD's first community solar facility was operational at the end of 2019.

## Every day, everywhere

Serving our customers and communities involves small moments few people ever see.

The mechanic tuning up a truck in a garage. An energy marketer monitoring prices to ensure affordable energy. A lineman double-checking the safety of his rig before heading out for the day. A meter technician meeting with a customer affected by flooding.

These moments, often unseen, allow OPPD to provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy to our customers. They are at the core of what we do every day. Last year, we chronicled this work in near-real time.

These small moments allow bigger moments to shine.

And 2019 saw some big moments: the announcement that OPPD would add hundreds of megawatts of solar energy to our portfolio, welcoming a new Google data center to our service territory, and heroic efforts to keep the lights on despite historic flooding in eastern Nebraska.

It all starts with that one, small moment. Like a knock on a customer's door or braving floodwaters to keep a substation dry. But OPPD is there, every day and everywhere.



Sam Adams, infrastructure engineer, discusses STEM careers with a high school student at a Connect the Dots event in Syracuse, Neb.

**On the cover:** Jeremy Leech, a line technician working out of Humboldt, worked with a crew installing new electrical service out near Tecumseh, Neb.



Transportation mechanic Dane Drahota from the Transportation Department in Papillion services an OPPD fleet vehicle.

### Contents

Board Chair and CEO Message2
Board of Directors
Senior Management3
Operations Review
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)12
Report of Management24
Independent Auditor's Report25
Statements of Net Position
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position28
Statements of Cash Flows29
Statements of Fiduciary Net Position32
Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Notes to Financial Statements
Required Supplementary Information (Unaudited)76
Notes to Required Supplementary Information (Unaudited)82
Statistics (Unaudited)
Investor Relations and Corporate InformationInside back cover

#### OPPD ANNUAL REPORT 2019 1

# Board Chair and CEO Message



President and CEO Timothy J. Burke, left, and Board Chair Craig C. Moody

At Omaha Public Power District, we pride ourselves on being here for our customers and our community each and every day.

Our customers enjoy some of the nation's most affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services, thanks to the hard and innovative work of our employees.

Across 13 counties in Nebraska, our employees do their part to help our customers thrive. Whether it's local business owners, new homeowners or community leaders, our reliable and affordable services help others achieve big things.

This past year, our employees did work that made us all proud to be part of this utility. In March, historic flooding caused two-thirds of Nebraska's 93 counties to declare emergencies. The OPPD service territory, much of which sits along the Missouri River, was one of the hardest hit. Employees rallied to fill sandbags that protected our generating stations and other infrastructure from rising floodwaters, made emergency repairs in local communities and staffed our operations around the clock for two weeks as our business continuity team monitored those efforts.

Employees were able to protect our infrastructure and keep power on to customers and help those hardest hit return to normalcy.

OPPD's Board of Directors agreed with the recommendation to move Fort Calhoun Station decommissioning from the SAFSTOR method to Deconstruction in 2018, and hired EnergySolutions as our partner on the project in 2019.

The year also saw the completion of our community solar facility, which sits on five acres in Washington County. Shares for this sold out in just 49 days. Later in the year, we announced plans to pursue what will be the state's largest utility-scale solar project at between 400 and 600 megawatts (MW) of solar with natural gas backup.

OPPD also announced plans to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by the year 2050, furthering our role as leaders in the industry. The utility provided more than 30% of retail sales from renewable energy last year and commissioned 165 MW of additional renewables as the Sholes Wind Energy Center (160 MW) and the community solar facility (5 MW) came online at the end of 2019.

OPPD has also maintained its commitment to customers to have no general rate increase for five years. The area received another big economic boost when Google announced plans to build a new data center in Papillion, Neb. OPPD's work was cited in both preparing the area for development and the utility's Rate 261M, which enables large-load, high-voltage-transmission-level customers to meet their renewable energy needs.

In 2019, OPPD also won a number of awards, including Habitat for Humanity's Corporate Partner of the Year and the Urban League of Nebraska's Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award, as well as being named one of Nebraska's Safest Companies by the National Safety Council.

As this report shows, OPPD remains in a strong financial position. At OPPD, we continue to do our part as the valued and dependable energy partner to our customer-owners, making sure our communities continue to thrive, both today and tomorrow.

Finolly Benke

Timothy J. Burke President and CEO

Craig C. Moody Chair of the Board

### **Board of Directors**



**Craig C. Moody** Chair of the Board Business Owner



**Rick M. Yoder, P.E.** Vice Chair of the Board Consultant



**Eric H. Williams** Secretary Natural Resources Planner



Amanda E. Bogner, P.E. Treasurer Business Owner



Michael J. Cavanaugh Board Member Omaha Police Lieutenant (retired) Security Contractor

**Senior Management** 



**Tim W. Gay** Board Member Governmental Advisor



Anne L. McGuire Board Member Nurse Educator (retired)



Janece M. Mollhoff Board Member U.S. Army Nurse Corps Colonel (retired)



Mary J. Fisher Vice President – Energy Production & Nuclear Decommissioning Assistant Secretary



**Timothy J. Burke** 

**Chief Executive Officer** 

President &

**Lisa A. Olson** Vice President – Public Affairs Assistant Secretary



Kate W. Brown Vice President & Chief Information Officer Assistant Secretary

Martha L. Sedky

Assistant Secretary

Vice President -

Human Capital

3



Juli A. Comstock Vice President – Customer Service Assistant Secretary



L. Javier Fernandez Vice President & Chief Financial Officer Assistant Secretary



**Troy R. Via** Vice President – Energy Delivery Assistant Secretary



Scott M. Focht Senior Director – Corporate Strategy & Governance



Kevin S. McCormick Senior Director – Safety & Technical Training

### **OPERATIONS REVIEW**

### In the community

The towns and cities OPPD serves come in all shapes and sizes, spread across 13 counties. But we work every day to ensure they thrive and grow. That includes working to bring jobs and economic development to the area, as well as volunteering our time and talents to groups that serve those in need.

In 2019, OPPD's economic development team was recognized for its efforts to bring a new Google data center to Sarpy County. At an announcement event in October, Google said their partnership with OPPD was one of the key reasons they chose to invest in the area. The relationships the economic development team built with the company will result in hundreds of jobs in the area and growth of the Highway 50 corridor.

Also in 2019, OPPD lent a helping hand in different ways to the communities we serve. Last year, we partnered with Habitat for Humanity Omaha for their Rock the Block event, a partnership that earned OPPD the organization's Corporate Partner of the Year award. OPPD employees participated in many other community events as well. Walking in local parades, rebuilding a ballfield scoreboard and retrofitting motorized cars for children with special needs are just a few of the ways employees honored their community.



OPPD employees like Justin Gallegos, a Legacy I3 student, participated in the Cinco de Mayo parade in South Omaha.

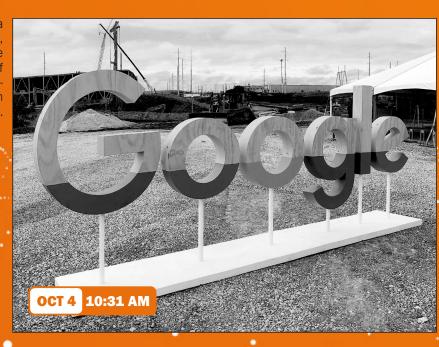


An Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium employee is shown feeding a giraffe some of the tree trimmings OPPD supplies the zoo to feed the animals.



OPPD employees are shown gathering for Rock the Block before heading out and working on some neighborhood homes.

Google announced plans to build a \$600 million data center in Papillion, Neb. The tech giant cited OPPD's rate designed to help meet the needs of large-power, high-voltage transmission-level customers as one of the main reasons for choosing the area.





Power lines and poles are the most recognizable symbols of an electric utility, and they are vital to the reliability and service customers expect. Keeping that equipment in top shape requires small moments like replacing streetlights with more efficient LED fixtures, and large projects like replacing a transmission line as bitter November winds howl.

At every level, maintaining and improving our system allows OPPD to be both reliable and resilient, and ensures stability of the system for decades to come.

The past year presented some unique challenges for the utility, including reinforcing transmission line towers in the middle of a river channel. The historic flooding in March moved the Platte River channel 900 feet west. This meant a tower that used to sit on a river bank was now sitting in the middle of a river current. The thorough planning and evaluation by OPPD engineers ensured the structure would be reinforced prior to potential flooding in 2020.

OPPD also committed to a reliability initiative in 2019 that included a focus on gathering data and monitoring the system to make sure programs put in place are making a difference. Wet weather in recent years resulted in increased tree growth, which also means OPPD must diligently trim trees to prevent outages. Vegetation or trees cause approximately 30% of all outages. By balancing vegetation guidelines with the satisfaction of our customers, we can all work together to keep the power on.



Wyatt Story, an apprentice cable splicer, works in a downtown Omaha vault.



Danielle Cram, senior project manager at Fort Calhoun Station, speaks with a reporter during the March flooding.



A line of trucks roll out for the morning from the Elkhorn Service Center.



An employee loads supplies, including this power pole, for a day's work at the North Bend office.





Each year, OPPD trims hundreds of miles of trees to help reduce outages from wind, storms and contact with power lines.

### Behind the scenes

Every day and everywhere, OPPD employees understand how vital electricity is to our customers' daily lives. That's why we work hard behind the scenes to ensure it arrives to our customers' homes and businesses.

Much of the work we do is never seen by customers: performing maintenance on a power plant generation unit, selling and buying energy for the best price, testing instruments at North Omaha Station, helping a customer on the telephone. These projects may be out of sight, but they are a vital link to serving our customers.

Great examples of this are the complex pieces of machinery and instruments within a power plant. The equipment requires constant monitoring and maintenance. That's why tradespeople such as electricians, welders and steamfitters are so important. Without them and their expertise, OPPD plants would not perform as efficiently as they do. And maintaining efficient power plants means maintaining reliable power for our customers.



Troubleshooter Jessie Robinson, foreground, and several other employees participate in rescue training during OPPD's Annual Safety Training Day.



Wade Hatzenbuehler, combustion turbine technician, is among the many trades people, such as electricians, welders and steamfitters, who constantly monitor power equipment.



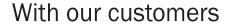
Maintenance worker Tyler Christensen tests all the gloves and other safety equipment used by OPPD's frontline workers.





OPPD's energy traders buy and sell energy on the marketplace. Pictured above is Jeremy Benson. At left, steamfitter mechanic, Dave Rakes performs maintenance during a planned outage at Nebraska City Station.

C



Hearing their concerns on their front porch, answering their phone call or talking with them at a rural office, OPPD is available to customers, no matter the situation, every day.

In 2019, historic flooding struck eastern Nebraska and affected many OPPD customers. The road to cleanup and normalcy was a long one. We understood. That's why OPPD worked closely with emergency management agencies and county governments. Together, we ensured the process of reconnecting power to these homes went smoothly. Our community outreach teams set up stations in affected areas where OPPD and county representatives could answer questions and hear concerns about the next steps for these homeowners.

We also joined with Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) in 2019 to combine our customer service centers at OPPD's downtown Omaha headquarters. Now, customers can pay both bills in the same location, and MUD and OPPD personnel are available to answer questions.

But our contact with customers extends beyond the metro area. For example, our rural office in Louisville is

a regular stop for some customers who choose to pay their bills in person. At the office, they find a friendly and familiar face to help with any questions they may have regarding their bill. Those who work at the office are also members of the communities they serve.

That commitment to customers and their needs is something that will never change. It will remain the same today and tomorrow, and every day after. Everywhere.



An OPPD customer and his daughter participate in the 2019 City Nature Challenge at the OPPD Arboretum in Omaha. During the event, cities compete against each other to see who can make the most nature observations.



Matt Patrick, meter apprentice, talks with a customer affected by flooding along the Missouri River. Several teams from the utility fanned out across the hardest-hit areas to help customers and answer questions.



OPPD joined with Metropolitan Utilities District to combine customer service centers at our downtown Omaha headquarters. Customers can pay both bills in the same location and get other assistance.

