

# Monitoring Report SD-5: Customer Satisfaction

Public Information Committee Report April 13, 2021

Ms. Juli Comstock, Vice President Customer Service

# **SD-5: Customer satisfaction**

Achieving a high level of customer satisfaction is key to OPPD's vision.

The Board will ensure that OPPD shall obtain feedback from its customer-owners through nationally syndicated studies, which allow OPPD to evaluate and prioritize its strategic plans, and to guide investments and operational activities to ensure high satisfaction in all aspects of OPPD's interactions with our customer-owners.

OPPD establishes a goal to achieve top quartile performance in customer satisfaction for similar-sized utilities in the region across customer classes.

As a part of this policy:

- Interact with customer-owners in a respectful, dignified and civilized manner.
- Communicate a procedure to customers who believe they have not received fair treatment from OPPD.
- Provide periodic customer-owner trend updates to the Board.



# **SD-5** Accountabilities

Aligned with OPPD's Core Values, we are committed to the following actions as part of this policy:

- 1) Regularly obtain feedback from customer-owners
- 2) Measure customer satisfaction
- 3) Use voice of customer (VOC) to prioritize investments and operational activities

- 4) Interact with customer-owners in a respectful, dignified manner
- **5)** Communicate a procedure to customers who believe they have not received fair treatment from OPPD.
- 6) Provide periodic customer-owner trend updates to the Board



# 1) Regularly obtain feedback from customer-owners

## **Syndicated Customer Satisfaction Studies**

Provides national satisfaction benchmark data on a wide range of electric service attributes

## **Online Power Panel & Oppdcommunityconnect.com**

Allows OPPD to get rapid feedback on pertinent issues that is projectable to the customer base

#### **Transactional and Journey Surveys**

Provides rapid feedback on service interactions

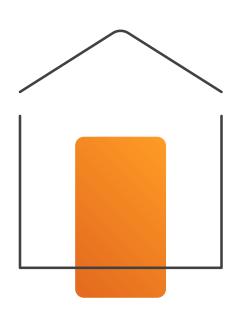
### **Communications tracking study**

Allows for broad sentiment and awareness tracking on key messages and events

## **Qualitative, in-person and virtual sessions**

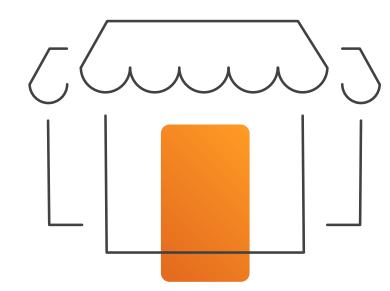
Provides nuanced initial insights, opportunities for dialogue and engagement

# 2) Measure customer satisfaction



## Residential

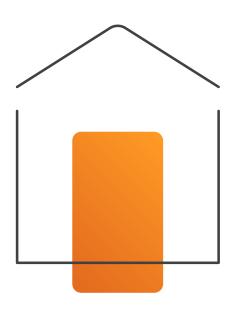
customer satisfaction measured via J.D. Power syndicated study



# Commercial & industrial

customer
satisfaction
measured via
Escalent's Cogent
syndicated study.

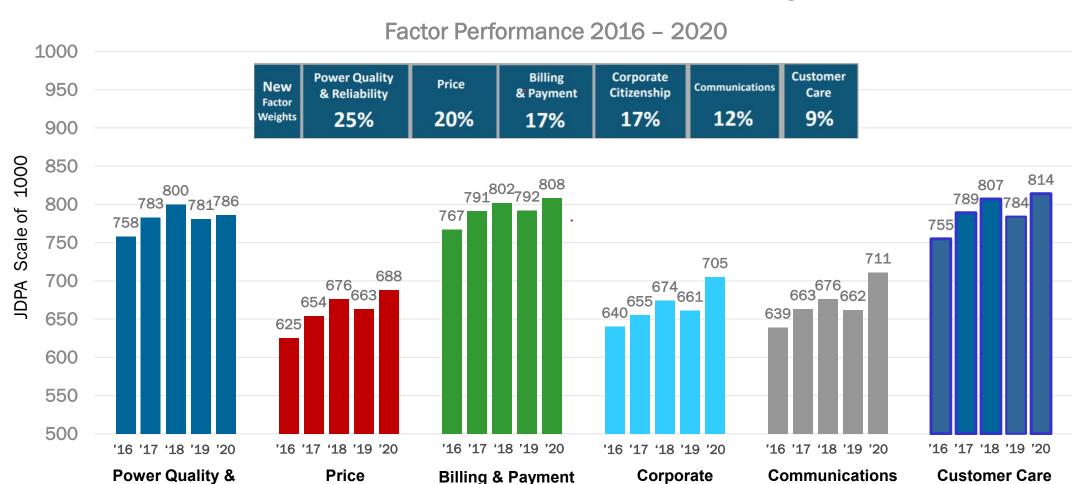




# 2020 Residential customer satisfaction



## **OPPD Factor Performance Recovery in 2020**



Source: 2016-2020 JD Power Associates Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>

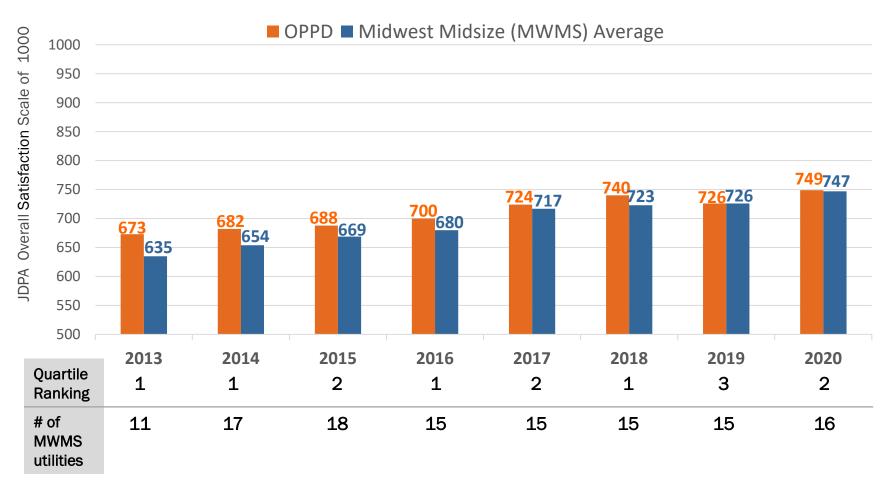
Citizenship



Reliability (PQ&R)

## In 2020, OPPD continued to regain ground with overall satisfaction

# **Residential** JDPA Customer Satisfaction Index 2013-2020 Historical Results<sup>1</sup>



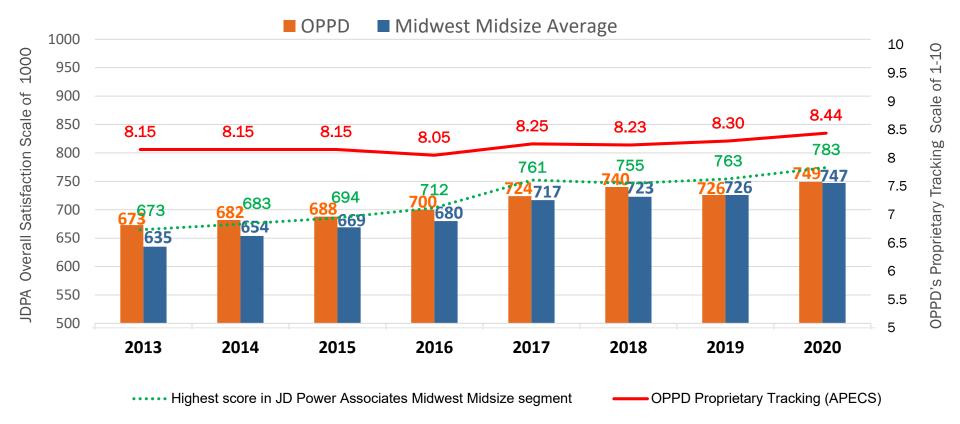
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Results are from 2013-2020 JD Power Associates Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>



# Satisfaction is trending upward, and our own tracking results show greater satisfaction compared to JDP

## **Residential JDPA Customer Satisfaction Index**

2013-2020 Historical Results<sup>1</sup>

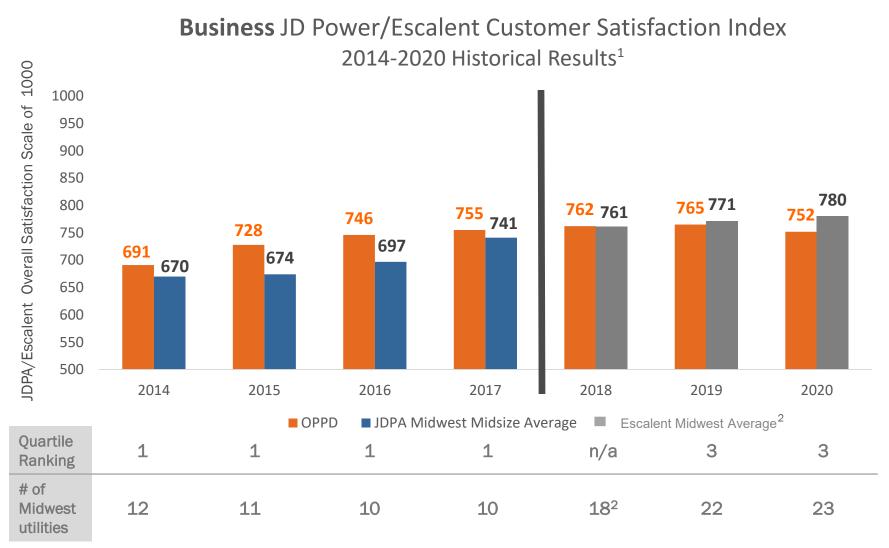




<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Results are from 2013-2020 JD Power Associates Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>



# Overall Business Customer Satisfaction is down, but we have direction moving forward



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Results are from 2014–2017 JD Power Electric Utility Business Customer Satisfaction Study <sup>SM</sup> and 2018–2020 Escalent Business Customer Engagement Study



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Midwest Midsize utility scores were not available at this point so comparison is to Midwest overall

# 3) Prioritize using Voice of the Customer (VOC)

Use VOC to prioritize strategic plans, investments, and operational activities to ensure high satisfaction in all aspects of OPPD's interactions with our customerowners.

Customer feedback has influenced the following initiatives in positive ways:

- Customer First Solutions package
- Green Power 'What Does Green Mean to You' customer workshop
- Green Power Phase I and II product testing with Power Panel
- Customer-Owned Generation Customer outreach efforts for launch of new COG process(es)
- Electric Line Plan research around program value, benefits, and desired price (for the price increase)

- Rates Project Power Panel, external customer focus groups an internal employee focus groups
- New EAP Administrator Dollar Energy Fund
   Survey and discussions
- CARES Act Outreach with non-profits to figure out how to best implement new funding
- Empathy interviews for customer-owned generation and solar calculator
- Auto-calls, door hangers
- Reliability improvement webpage



# 4) Interact respectfully

Interact with customer-owners in a respectful, dignified and civil manner.

- OPPD's Core Values
- Robust Call Monitoring Program
- Customer Surveys
- Customer Service Training



# **Customer First Solutions Overview**



## **Objective:**

Reduce the financial burden of those impacted from the pandemic by providing simple, effective and financially responsible solutions for all Customers.

## **Areas of Focus:**

- Monitoring Economic and OPPD Impact
- Offer New Billing & Payment Solutions
- Expand the Flexibility of Existing Offerings
- New and Improved Utility Assistance Options
- Providing Customer Education











# 5) Treat with fairness

OPPD shall communicate a procedure to customer-owners who believe they have not received fair treatment from OPPD.

## **Escalation Options**

- Account Supervisor
- OPPD.com
- Dispute process on disconnect notice



## 6) Provide trends and updates

Provide periodic customer-owner trend updates to the Board.

Trends in the following topics have been reported to the Board:

- Credit & Collections
- Customer Experience
- Income Qualified Programs
- LED Street Lights
- Electric Vehicles



# **Summary**

1) We're making gains.

Overall, OPPD continues to make progress to meeting its SD-5 objective of top quartile performance within its regional segment(s).

2) Residential customer satisfaction continues to rebound.

OPPD moved up to 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile in 2020 with above average overall performance within our peer segment.

3) Business customer engagement is down, and we're learning more about what that means.

OPPD is tasked with improving a few key areas – digital customer experience, reducing customer effort and focusing on communications. That being said, we're looking even more closely at the measurement tools themselves.

4) Additional OPPD efforts have correlated to higher scores.

Correlation is not causation, but areas in which we've invested have shown improvement.

5) The industry continues to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on customer satisfaction.

Many utilities reported higher satisfaction earlier in 2020 only to have scores fade over the course of the year. OPPD's performance is relatively stable and is slightly ahead of the industry average in perceptions of utility response to the pandemic.

The team is nearing the end of its residential analysis and recommendations on next steps to continue our climb. We'll partner across the business to present and implement recommendations.



## Recommendation

The Public Information Committee has reviewed and accepted this Monitoring Report for SD-5 and recommends that the Board find OPPD to be sufficiently in compliance with Board Policy SD-5.

