

#### **Reporting Item**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

April 13, 2021

#### <u>ITEM</u>

Customer Trends Update [Note: Not presented due to time. Update posted on oppd.com.]

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide an update on customer trends during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### **FACTS**

- 1. In response to COVID-19 Directed Health Measures declared in March 2020, the Omaha Public Power District developed a Customer First Solutions Package, a variety of programs to assist customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2. The Board requested that management provide regular reports on the progress of customer programs and trends.
- 3. Management will provide an update on aged debt and related trends as of March 31, 2021.

RECOMMENDED:

—DocuSigned by:

Juli a. Comstock

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Juli A. Comstock

Vice President – Customer Service

APPROVED FOR REPORTING TO BOARD:

DocuSigned by:

Timothy J. Burke

Timothy J. Burke

President and Chief Executive Officer

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# **Customer Trends Update**

Public Information Committee Meeting April 13, 2021 Continuing to monitor and adjust OPPD's solutions as our customers' needs are changing.



## **Summary of Q1 Customer First Solutions**

- · Maintain flexible bill payment options to help customers financially
- Automatically waive collection & reconnect fees on first field visit in 2021
- Empower customer service representatives to waive up to 3 late payment charges for a customer in a 12-month period
  - Additional fees may be waived upon approval and customer request (e.g. late payments, return check fees, collection & reconnect fees, etc..)
- Suspend assessing additional deposits due to field collection visits
- Small and mid-sized business customers will continue to receive personalized collection efforts prior to disconnection
- Continue personalized field visits and outreach to ensure impacted customers are aware of their options (via Connecting with Customers effort)



## **Energy Assistance**

Electronic Application for Douglas County COVID-19 Utility Assistance Program reopened on March 30, 2021.



## Promotional/Marketing Campaign

- Once all Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Programs are open throughout the service area, we will explore communication opportunities through multiple channels.
- Transitional communications to begin for Remote Learners as we transition back to collection/disconnection activities.



## **Next Steps**

Operationalize Customer First effective Q2 while continuing Q1 solutions.



# **Summary of Aged Debt**

Total Service Agreement Count > 30 Days (in thousands)

Total Service Agreement Count > 91+ Days (in thousands)

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	Residential				Commercial & Industrial			
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020		March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	
% of Accounts Current	91.3%	90.1%	89.7%		93.3%	92.8%	95.2%	
% of Accounts in Arrears	8.7%	9.9%	10.3%		6.7%	7.2%	4.8%	
Total Aged Debt > 30 days (in millions)	\$5.0	\$6.3	\$5.7		\$2.0	\$2.5	\$3.1	
Total Aged Debt 91+ Days (in millions)	\$.9	\$1.8	\$1.2		\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.8	
Total Service Agreement Count > 30 Days (in thousands)	33.0	37.6	38.4		1.8	2.1	2.1	
Total Service Agreement Count > 91+ Days (in thousands)	6.3	9.4	6.8		0.4	0.6	0.4	
LIHEAP Only Accounts	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020					
% of Accounts Current	66%	61%	65%					
% of Accounts in Arrears	34%	39%	35%					
Total Aged Debt > 30 days (in millions)	\$0.6	\$0.7	\$0.5					
Total Aged Debt 91+ Days (in millions)	\$0.3	\$0.5	\$0.2					

4.7

1.3

5.2

1.9

4.2

1.1

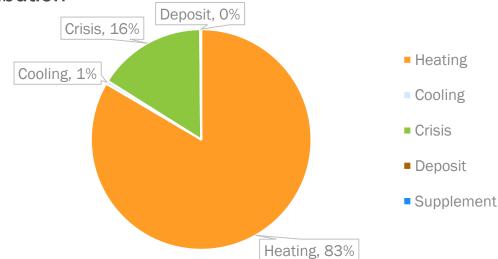


## **Energy Assistance March 2021 YTD**

Funding Source	March 2021 YTD	Average Benefit	Distinct Accounts	# of Payments	2020 Year End Total
Energy Assistance Program	\$56,824	\$325	175	175	\$377,571
COVID Relief Programs	\$1,142,928	\$341	3027	3,335	\$1,641,914
LIHEAP	\$409,484	\$378	1,061	1,082	\$5,846,198
Other Agencies Assistance	\$514,355	\$301	1,491	1,707	\$1,489,902
Total	\$2,123,591*	\$337	5,468	6,299	\$9,355,585

<sup>\*</sup>YTD 2020, OPPD had received a total of \$580,361 in Energy Assistance Payments





Douglas County COVID-19 Utility Assistance Program	4/5/2021
Completed Applications*+#	2,419
Approved Applications^	1,403
Average benefit	\$500
Total Dollars Granted	\$701,500

<sup>\*</sup>Total applications completed for the program.



<sup>+</sup>Program closed for application on 3/2/2021. Dollar Energy Fund received 2,229 applications as of 2/28/2020.

<sup>#</sup>Electronic application for application on 3/30/2021.

<sup>^</sup>Customers approved for the Douglas County COVID-19 Utility Assistance Program.