



OPPD temporarily extends current North Omaha Station operations

District remains committed to goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

At its August meeting, the OPPD board voted to approve a recommendation to delay the refueling and reconfiguration of our North Omaha Station (NOS).

In June, OPPD management recommended this delay due to several factors, including a backlog in the interconnection approval process with the Southwest Power Pool. SPP is the regional transmission organization that oversees grid operations in the multi-state area that includes OPPD.

The interconnection backlog is a nationwide challenge, due to the large number of generation interconnection requests that must be carefully studied before being approved for connection to the grid.

This decision postpones the retirement of NOS units 1-3 – currently available to run on natural gas during times of high demand

– and the conversion of units 4 and 5 from low-sulfur coal to natural gas. (NOS units 1-3 were retired from coal operation in April 2016, then converted to run on natural gas when needed.)

The postponement is only until OPPD’s new natural gas generating plants – Standing Bear Lake Station and Turtle Creek Station – gain final approval for grid interconnection in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and administered by SPP.

The board’s vote to approve this resolution helps enable OPPD to continue to supply its customers with reliable power as we await this approval.

“We believe this decision is clearly the best option for OPPD and our customer-owners,” said Javier Fernandez, OPPD president and CEO. “While this is a difficult decision, it

is necessary to maintain the reliable electric service our communities have come to expect.”

Originally, OPPD planned to make these changes to NOS by the end of 2023. However, we are experiencing unexpected delays due to the large number of new projects requesting to come online within SPP’s footprint.

The board resolution that passed is based on milestones that must be achieved, but OPPD is preparing to bring its new natural gas plants online by the end of 2026. At this time, OPPD estimates all milestones associated with regional grid interconnection approval could be completed by then.

The board discussed the issue at length during its August committee and regular board meetings. You can view the video-recordings of these meetings at oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Between the initial proposal in June and the August vote, OPPD made

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OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 18 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Oct. 20, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

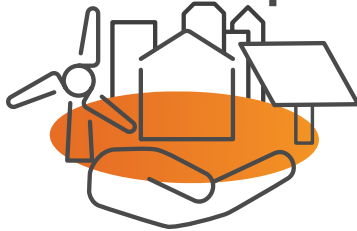
Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.



North Omaha (From front)

a considerable effort to educate community leaders and the public on the need for the delay, including OPPD board member outreach and meetings with city, county and state leaders.

Power with Purpose



OPPD is forging ahead with plans to incorporate more utility-scale solar in its generation portfolio.

The shift toward solar is part of the utility's continued commitment to embrace renewable energy and offset its greenhouse gas emissions, becoming a net-zero producer by 2050.

OPPD is pursuing up to 600 megawatts of utility-scale solar generation and up to 600 megawatts of natural gas generation through its Power with Purpose initiative, currently slated to be one of the largest renewable energy investments of its kind in Nebraska.

One piece of that effort is a planned, 81-megawatt solar array south of Yutan, Neb., in Saunders County.

OPPD has partnered with the project's owner, the AES Corporation, to buy electricity from the company once the array goes online. Once complete, the facility will have the capacity to power about 14,000 average homes to serve OPPD's customers. Work on the project is expected to begin next year and is anticipated to be operational by spring 2024.

As with any project, OPPD is working with local officials and customers to answer questions, address concerns and pave the way for additional sources of affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive electricity.

Working through challenges

The push to add more solar to OPPD's energy mix comes despite challenges confronting utilities nationwide. Many solar projects have experienced delays because of a national backlog of requests for interconnection to the transmission grid. OPPD's projects must undergo a required study process through the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a regional transmission

The natural gas plants are part of OPPD's Power with Purpose initiative to add a total of about 1,200 megawatts of natural gas and solar capability online.

The diverse generation will help us power our growing communities into the future – prioritizing reliability

and resiliency, while also continuing OPPD's commitment to environmental stewardship.

OPPD's new natural gas plants and solar generation projects have both experienced challenges, including generation interconnection and supply chain issues.

OPPD committed to solar development, continues to work with local officials

organization that includes OPPD's service area.

Projects nationally have also experienced delays due to the U.S. Department of Commerce's review of potential anti-circumvention of solar panel imports. This follows allegations from an American solar panel company that Chinese manufacturers were evading U.S. tariffs by routing their operations through Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia.

The investigation by the Department of Commerce effectively halted many solar imports, impacting supply and planned project timelines. In June, President Joe Biden implemented a 24-month moratorium on any anti-circumvention tariff that would impact solar panel imports from those countries.

As a new generation asset, the Platteview Solar project is also subject to the SPP generation interconnection backlog. However, SPP has already given the project interim generation connection approval. This interim agreement will be reviewed annually until SPP completes its final study. OPPD and AES will continue to work together on the grid interconnection study to mitigate any challenges.

AES will own and operate the Platteview solar facility and sell electricity to OPPD through a power purchase agreement. At the end of that contract, a decommissioning plan will ensure the land is restored to its original condition.

OPPD's two natural gas generation facilities in Douglas and Sarpy counties will serve as balancing energy sources for utility-scale solar facilities. As *balancing stations*, they will help OPPD balance out how we're generating electricity when needed due to peak demand.

Technology at both sites will enable the plants to ramp up quickly to support renewable energy (solar and wind) generation when demand is highest. OPPD estimates the facilities will operate 10% to 15% of the time, and only as needed.

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