



Helicopter helps with transmission line construction

The district has started construction for its Sarpy Southwest Transmission Project.

OPPD works hard to meet the current energy needs of its customer-owners, while planning and preparing for their future needs. Papillion and Sarpy County are experiencing rapid commercial, industrial and residential growth.

To keep pace, construction started in April for our Sarpy Southwest Transmission Project. This involves building three transmission lines to maintain system resiliency and reliability, and to support customer load growth and future generation.

Part of Power with Purpose

This project relates to Power with Purpose, the district's effort to add up to 600 megawatts of utility-scale solar generation, backed up by 600 MW of natural gas.

For this backup power, OPPD is building two modern natural gas

plants: Standing Bear Lake Station in northwest Omaha and Turtle Creek Station in Papillion.

The three transmission lines for the Sarpy Southwest Transmission Project will originate at Turtle Creek Station and connect to OPPD substations.

OPPD is contracting with Dietzel Enterprises Inc. and Brink Constructors Inc. to build the lines in an area bounded roughly by Interstate 80 to the north, Highway 50 to the east, Platteview Road to the south and South 180th Street to the west.

Helicopter helps string wire

In July, Brink used a helicopter to help string wire for the 345-kilovolt and 161-kV transmission lines around the future site of Turtle Creek Station.

Using a helicopter speeds and simplifies several steps of such line construction, as it eliminates the need to move large cranes to each support structure multiple times.

Helicopters used for this type of work hover very close to these structures, and at times, a specially trained lineman hangs off the lead line to receive material. This eliminates the need to set up a bucket truck near each structure.

Using helicopters adds greater efficiency to this type of work, but they are not suited for all types of line construction. This is only the second time an OPPD contractor has used a helicopter in support of such projects.

Community engagement effort

During the line-routing phase of the Sarpy Southwest Transmission Project, OPPD sought input from

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SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 20 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 22, 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.



Transmission line construction (From front)

community leaders and stakeholders on potential routes.

The district also encouraged public feedback through **OPPDCommunityConnect.com**

and two online public meetings.

OPPD held a public hearing in October 2021 to meet with impacted landowners along the final transmission line routes, enabling

people to learn more about OPPD's plans and ask questions.

The district expects construction of the three lines to continue through June 2023.

Scam phone calls take a new twist this summer



Starting in June, OPPD customers reported receiving both automated and live phone calls threatening their electric service will be interrupted unless they make immediate payment. **This is a scam.**

Sometimes, scammers say the customer could be included in a planned power outage unless they make an immediate payment.

OPPD would never ask you to pay to avoid a planned outage. With national news reports about rolling power outages this summer, some scammers are using this topic to scare customers into paying them money.

Other tactics surfacing include various approaches to getting your credit card info. Scammers claim:

- Customers will save \$50 (or whatever) on their monthly bill for a year if they provide their credit card info to maintain on file
- Senior citizens will get a percentage discount on their bill for a year by providing credit card info
- Customers have been overpaying their bill by a

certain amount for several months, and they can get a refund by pressing #1

All of these are scams. If you receive a call like this, contact OPPD at 402-536-4131 or 877-536-4131 outside the Omaha metro. After business hours or on weekends, call 1-800-554-6773.

For many years, callers claiming to represent OPPD have been trying to convince customers they owe money, threatening to disconnect service if they do not pay.

The callers can be quite aggressive, telling customers to use a pre-paid card or use a cash app to settle up.

In some cases, scammers call from an 810 area code. Scammers are also known to use "spoofing" technology that makes the customers' caller ID appear to show a legitimate OPPD phone number.

None of these calls is from OPPD

- Our contact center representatives never cold-call customers, demanding immediate payment.
- Customers overdue on their bills to the point where service could be disconnected receive written notice first.
- Authentic utility representatives never request payment via a purchased payment card or app.

Never provide personal or financial information during an unsolicited phone call. Customers who have questions about their bill or need financial assistance should call 402-536-4131 in Omaha or 877-536-4131 outside the metro.

Make the switch to paperless billing for more peace of mind

If you have ever misplaced your bill or had a due date slip your mind, consider signing up for paperless billing.

It's easy to enroll, it's a way to be green and it's free.

Benefits of paperless billing

- Receive an email notification with the amount due and due date
- Pay your bill online or sign up for automatic bill-payment

- Reduce paper use and clutter
- Help the environment

Two ways to sign up

- Scan this QR code
- Or call 402-536-4131 or 877-536-4131 outside the Omaha metro



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