

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES ON THE HORIZON



OPPD customers will get faster and more precise outage information, a more detailed picture of their energy usage and other helpful tools under some big technology upgrades expected soon.

The utility is adopting advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), a modern ecosystem of technology that will allow two-way communication between OPPD

and individual customer meters. Other utilities have embraced the technology, with good results.

A new online outage map will feature outage causes if known, the number of customers affected and estimated restoration times, if available.

A new customer platform, MyOPPD, will provide customers with a detailed breakdown of their usage. Customers will be able to

stop and start service, pay bills, and determine how they receive OPPD communications.

By this time next year, OPPD expects to install 11,500 customer meters in different areas (urban and rural) and with various customer types (residential, commercial, industrial). When fully implemented over the next few years, AMI will help OPPD identify and pinpoint outages faster and with greater precision.

AUGUST BOARD MEETINGS

(Note: no July board meetings.) **All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, Aug. 19 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Aug. 21, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3515, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

ELECTRICITY 101



The role of electricity in our lives is growing all the time, and demand for power is skyrocketing. But have you ever wondered how it all works?

In a new series, Electricity 101, OPPD is going to explore the basics of electricity and then expand to a variety of topics. We'll start with a

weekly series of stories and video on OPPD's news website, The Wire, which you can visit at oppdthewire.com.

From the creation of electricity at a generation station to the delivery of it to your home, we'll walk you through each step, explaining how various pieces of electrical system infrastructure work together to provide reliable power to your home.

We'll also explore issues that affecting you, such as energy efficiency and ways you can reduce your power usage and energy costs.

COPPER THEFT NOT WORTH IT



Thieves who have tried to steal copper from OPPD are causing power outages, injuring themselves with potentially fatal electrical shocks and creating unnecessary dangers for OPPD field workers.

Copper theft is illegal, and OPPD's high-voltage power lines are extremely dangerous. The utility recently saw four incidents in a recent 10-day stretch where thieves caused outages, fires or explosions.

Each incident created extra expenses for OPPD, which ultimately hurts rate-paying customers. Anyone caught stealing copper wire will face criminal charges that could result in prison time.

The utility is working to minimize any incentive thieves might have to steal. Steps include the use of new materials that limit the need for copper wiring.

SUMMER FUN SHOULD INCLUDE SAFETY

Summer is here, and it's important to remember some common safety tips to enjoy the season.

Pools: If you're thinking of adding an above-ground pool or planning to do some landscaping, OPPD reminds you to put safety first.

Be mindful of electrical equipment on your property. Lines can be both overhead and underground, depending on your area. Safety codes require homeowners to honor clearances between pools and power lines.

If you are installing a pool or landscaping, call 811 before you begin to dig or insert stakes.

Kites: Flying kites near power lines and electrical facilities is dangerous and can potentially disrupt electrical service to customers.

If the wind pushes your kite near a power line or electrical facility, let go of it. Your safety is never worth chasing a kite into a dangerous area. Fly kites in an open area, far from these types of facilities.

Avoid flying kites that contain parts made out of metal or wires. Don't allow children to fly kites without adult supervision.

If you do get your kite tangled in power lines, NEVER attempt to remove it. Contact OPPD at 877-536-4131 for assistance.

Summer Heat: Drink plenty of cold water or a sports drink. Find a cool location. Apply cool, wet cloths to your neck and wrists to cool down quickly. Wear loose, light-colored clothing and sunscreen. And limit outdoor activity.

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