

# BOARD CHAIR & CEO MESSAGE

Every day at OPPD, we work tirelessly to prepare our fellow Nebraskans for a strong and prosperous future.

This held true yet again in 2025, as we invested in critical infrastructure to serve our customers' needs, strengthen the grid and meet new demand for electricity that would have seemed unfathomable just a decade ago.

The whirlwind of change is breathtaking and a good reminder that, for OPPD, Tomorrow Starts Today.

OPPD added two dual fuel (natural gas and fuel oil) plants to our portfolio in 2025, made important progress on the transition to advanced smart meters, launched state-of-the-art online customer tools, and grew our existing foundation for even more development to power the future.

We entered the building stage of our Cass to Sarpy Transmission Project, the largest and most complex joint transmission-distribution project in our history. The 23-mile, 345-kilovolt line will run between OPPD's Cass County Station (CCS) and the new Turtle Creek Station (TCS) in Sarpy County, supporting long-term community growth.

TCS began commercial operation in June with two simple-cycle combustion engines, capable of producing 450 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Standing Bear Lake Station (SBLs) began commercial operation in November with nine reciprocating internal combustion engines which can produce 150 MW. And, we're adding a total of four more simple-cycle combustion engines to TCS and CCS.

We hurdled challenges as well. In March, a major blizzard caused the worst outage in OPPD's history in terms of damage to the utility's infrastructure. Thick layers of ice and severe, gusting winds knocked down power lines. About 132,000 customers lost power. Yet we responded in massive force, and our team did not stop until every last customer regained electrical service.

At the same time, we worked proactively to expand our energy reserves as required by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) to ensure a resilient regional supply. Starting in summer 2026, SPP will require OPPD and other member utilities to maintain adequate generating capacity to

serve their peak consumption, plus an additional 16% planning reserve margin in the summer and a 36% margin in the winter.

Our front-line workers scored some major accolades. In October, an in-house rescue team at OPPD's Nebraska City Station claimed first place for Individual Rescue Skills in Roco Rescue's annual Rescue Challenge. The challenge is a hands-on educational event that tests the capabilities of industrial and municipal rescue teams using realistic crisis situations to simulate safety issues in confined spaces.

Our Greener Together program, in partnership with United Way of the Midlands, supported local community improvement groups. The funds awarded in 2025 will help educate children about sustainability, solar energy and battery storage; add solar panels for an affordable housing development; and install solar and battery technology at a youth-focused community center.

We unveiled a new, comprehensive outage map as part of our MyOPPD customer platform to provide detailed, real-time information on outages, along with a new and updated MyOPPD app.

Our mission as a public power utility remains to serve our customers and community.

Our colleagues who keep power flowing are our friends and neighbors, from the plant employees and field technicians to the engineers and customer service representatives who work behind the scenes.

Public power utilities are customer-owned, and not for profit, allowing them to keep rates much lower than the national average and invest in crucial infrastructure without having to divert money to shareholders. That gives Nebraska a competitive advantage when attracting new families and businesses.

Our 2026 Corporate Operating Plan includes a rate increase for all customer classes to ensure reliability and resiliency. However, OPPD's rates are still far below the national and regional averages, and we remain committed to affordability.

As always, we're grateful for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to a bright energy future.



**L. JAVIER FERNANDEZ**  
President & Chief  
Executive Officer



**MATT R. CORE**  
Chair of the Board