

OPPD LINE WORKERS SHOWCASE SKILLS AT RODEO

OPPD competitors came home from the annual Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo well-decorated with honors.

The rodeo at the Custer County Fairgrounds in Broken Bow promotes line work as a profession and offers those workers a chance to showcase best practices.

OPPD award winners this year include:

- Ted Gyhra and Takoda Batenhorst, who were first in the hurt man rescue, which involves rescuing a mannequin from the top of the pole in a simulated injury accident. They also took first in the insulator change-out event, second in the primary transfer and second overall in the Journeyman Division.
- Diego Zarazua Gonzalez, who

finished third in the written apprentice test.

- Andrew Hansen, who finished third in the apprentice obstacle event.

The rodeo also doubles as a networking opportunity. Line technicians can learn new techniques from and build relationships with their counterparts who work for utilities throughout Nebraska.

OPPD sent four journeyman competitors to the rodeo: Takoda Batenhorst, Brent Foxhoven, Ted Gyhra and Andrew Walter. Five apprentices also competed: Gage Champion, Andrew Hansen, Elijah Medina, Fernando Ramirez-Soto and Diego Zarazua Gonzalez. And three OPPD employees served as judges: Dave Benak, Aaron Prohaska and Dave Tonjes.



BIG UPGRADES UNDERWAY AT CASS COUNTY STATION

Major upgrades are moving along swiftly to add much-needed generation at OPPD's Cass County Station and expand the capabilities of the plant's existing units.

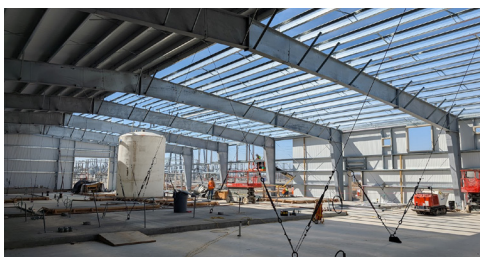
The ongoing project calls for three new, state-of-the-art natural gas turbine units and the retrofitting of the plant's two existing units so they can use different types of fuel. The upgrades will give OPPD more flexibility in its operations at the plant southwest of Plattsmouth.

Crews are preparing to convert the two current natural gas units into dual fuel turbines, allowing them to use either

natural gas or fuel oil.

Newly installed tanks are ready to receive fuel. A fresh foundation was poured for one of the new generators. Workers have dug trenches for pipe and electrical lines, and new buildings are going up for water treatment, fuel oil treatment and maintenance.

Cass County Station plays a big role in OPPD's efforts to provide reliable, affordable and environmentally sensitive energy throughout eastern Nebraska while supporting the larger regional grid.



SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting:

Tuesday, September 15, 10 a.m.

Regular board meeting:

Thursday, September 17, 5 p.m.

(See oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details.)

OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting:

Tuesday, October 13, 10 a.m.

Regular board meeting:

Thursday, October 15, 5 p.m.

(See oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details.)

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting:

Tuesday, November 17, 10 a.m.

Regular board meeting:

Thursday, November 19, 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.

BELLEVUE TRANSMISSION UPGRADES WILL BOOST RELIABILITY

OPPD electrical equipment in Bellevue is getting a major overhaul to ensure robust and reliable electrical service.

The upgrades, collectively known as the **Bellevue Reliability Project**, include new transmission and distribution lines to route electricity more efficiently, plus new and upgraded substations to protect OPPD's infrastructure while converting electricity into the correct voltages for effective transmission.

For customers, the project means greater reliability and a stronger, more durable local grid that promotes community growth. Routing and siting work began this year, with project completion in the next few years.

The project is also designed to protect OPPD infrastructure against

the kind of historic flooding the area experienced in 2019. Some of the poles and substations getting replaced are decades old, and the work will allow the utility to incorporate more modern technology into the system.

The work will unfold in different phases.

The Southeast Bellevue Transmission Project will add and expand substations and a new transmission line,

replacing older ones that are sitting in the Missouri River floodplain.

For the Olde Towne Transmission Project, OPPD will replace another transmission line in the floodplain and possibly add lower-voltage neighborhood distribution lines beneath those transmission lines, where feasible. Consolidating lines into one route saves space and affects fewer property owners.



PUBLIC INVITED TO INTEGRATED SYSTEM PLAN WORKSHOP

OPPD is hosting another online workshop this month to reveal the initial modeling results of its Integrated System Plan (ISP).

The ISP is a broad, high-level roadmap to guide the new project work and upgrades that OPPD tackles over the next decade.

The workshop is scheduled for **Sept. 22 at 5 p.m.** A recorded version will be made available for those unable to attend.

You can register for that session, view previous public workshops and learn more about the ISP at oppdcommunityconnect.com/isp.

OPPD will release its final report and schedule one additional workshop in the final quarter of 2026.

IN 2026, OUTLETS WILL PUBLISH ONCE EVERY OTHER MONTH.

The publication months are January, March, May, July, September and November.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS FOR RENTERS

Many home energy-efficiency tips tend to include changes that folks who rent their home might not be able to make. But if you're a renter, there are still plenty of steps you can take to improve your home's energy efficiency and lower your electricity bill.

Here are four suggestions that won't break the bank or forfeit your security deposit.

1. Replace bulbs in frequently used light fixtures with LED light bulbs.
2. Keep out the summer heat by closing window shades and drapes. In the winter, keep drapes open to take advantage of the sun's warmth.
3. Use smart power strips to turn off power to devices that aren't in use.

4. Keep air registers clear of furniture and décor. This helps air circulate more efficiently.

If you can, install a smart thermostat to adjust the temperature when you are away from home, then return it to the temperature you prefer when you return. On vacations, use the "hold" button to keep the energy-saving temperature constant.

