



**OVERTON POWER DISTRICT NO. 5**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
May 20, 2026  
3:00 P.M.  
Overton, Nevada

**PRESENT:**

Seat 2 – Logandale,	Mr. Jack Nelson, Chairman	Mrs. MeLisa Garcia, CEO / General Manager
Seat 1 – Overton,	Mr. Richard Jones, Vice-Chair	Mr. Scott Fullman, Administrative Services Manager
Seat 3 – Moapa	Mr. Chad Leavitt, Trustee	Mr. Kyle Leavitt, Line Operations Manager
Seat 4 – Bunkerville,	Mr. Bob Bunker, Trustee	Mr. Randall Ozaki, Engineering Services Manager
Seat 5 – Mesquite,	Mr. Mike Young, Sec / Treas	Mr. Jonathan Denninghoff, Financial Services Manager
Seat 6 – Mesquite,	Mr. Dale Rust, Trustee	Mrs. Becky LaGrow, Executive Assistant
	Mr. Byron Mills, Attorney	Mr. Steven Brown, IT Administrator
		Mr. Shane Robison, Substation Operations Foreman

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Randy Laub, Trustee, Seat 7 – At-Large  
Mr. Keven Hansen, Substation Operations Manager

Note: The minutes of this meeting have been tape-recorded and will remain on file in the OPD5’s main office for a period of one year for public examination

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:00 p.m. Jack Nelson called the meeting of the Overton Power District No. 5 Board of Trustees to order. The agenda items were addressed in the following order:

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chad Leavitt led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

All Public Comments are recorded and are available at the OPD5 website ([www.opd5.com](http://www.opd5.com)) for a period of one year.

**D. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mike Young and seconded by Richard Jones to accept the May 20, 2026 agenda as posted. The Board voted six (6) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

## E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike Young and seconded by Chad Leavitt to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2026 meeting as written. The Board voted six (6) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

## F. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Jack Nelson presented Dale Rust with his NRECA Director's Gold Credential (DGC) Certificate
- Jack Nelson & Richard Jones attended the Moapa Valley High School Senior Awards night on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and presented OPD5 scholarship awards of \$1,000 to ten seniors
- Jack Nelson & Dale Rust attended the Virgin Valley High School Senior Awards night on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and presented OPD5 scholarship awards of \$1,000 to ten seniors
- McKayla Brooks (MVHS): Sent a thank-you note acknowledging her \$1,000 OPD5 scholarship

## G. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Byron Mills had no report at this time

## H. MANAGER REPORT'S

### *Line Operations*

Kyle Leavitt Reported on the following items:

#### 💡 Safety

##### 💡 Training

- 💡 Utility Corner: Launched as a new segment of the safety meeting. May's topic focused on unreported vehicular hits to transformers.
- 💡 ESCI: May's topics were Ladder Safety, Enclosed Space & Vault Rescue
- 💡 Fifty (50) employees were in attendance

#### 💡 Outages

##### 💡 April 2026

- 💡 There were sixteen (16) planned outages for maintenance. Customers are notified approximately forty-eight (48) hours in advance of a planned outage
- 💡 There were four (4) unplanned outages for the month affecting six hundred fifty-seven (657) customers

#### 💡 Service Installations –

- 💡 April 2026 – Twenty-eight (28) residential and zero (0) commercial service installations
- 💡 2026 YTD – A total of one hundred fifteen (115) commercial and residential service installations combined

#### 💡 NRECA Safety Summit

- 💡 Attendees were Kyle Leavitt, Luke Whitney, Steve Barlow & Shane Leavitt
- 💡 Industry Engagement – Over 1,300 utility professionals in attendance
- 💡 Targeted Objectives: 480V Arc Flash Mitigation, Leadership Development, Safety Committee Effectiveness
- 💡 Key Takeaways: Speak Up / Listen Up, peer utility support for moderation & safety improvements

## 💡 Jobs

### **Mesquite**

#### 💡 Switch Fire –

- 💡 The decision was made to de-energize
- 💡 The actual unit on fire was a communication box next to our vault
- 💡 More training is being planned for EMS personnel to educate them on how to deal with an electrical fire

#### 💡 Jobs Closed

- 💡 Hidden Hills and Dancing Boot Subdivisions
- 💡 Adobe Mesa Commercial Complex

### **Overton**

#### 💡 Fire

- 💡 Cause Unknown. High winds that day
- 💡 Pole charred but put out quickly

#### 💡 Vault Installation

- 💡 The team installed a vault emphasizing the shoring and emergency rigging practices

#### 💡 Storm Damage

- 💡 Sunday night during a high winds storm a pole blew down in Glendale
- 💡 Seventy-eight customers were out of power
- 💡 The team proactively decided before leaving the warehouse the equipment and tools that would be necessary for a broken pole

## **Engineering**

*Randall Ozaki reported on the following items:*

#### 💡 Tortoise – Gila 138kV Line at Tortoise Substation

- 💡 The three poles, that are the beginning of the line, are in the ground and all anchors are set
- 💡 The project was delayed due to the contractor equipment breaking down
- 💡 The next five to six weeks, the conductors and Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) will be pulled
- 💡 Due to the minor delay, the project completion date is now June

#### 💡 Tortoise – Gila 138kV Line between poles one and nine

- 💡 Three locations have been deemed cultural or historic sites
- 💡 We are now required to hire monitors at \$2,500/day to ensure we do not disturb the sites

#### 💡 WECC Update

- 💡 80% of all required standards have been submitted
- 💡 Still no response on the implementation plan that was submitted last month
- 💡 Increased utility oversight by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) has resulted in a backlog of submission reviews
- 💡 We are currently at 85% completion and are firmly on track to finish by the end of the year
- 💡 Kudos to Steven, Shane, and Eldon for doing an outstanding job with the compliance reporting

*Chad Leavitt asked about hawk nests on the utility poles. Department of Fish And Wildlife guidelines say you cannot disturb a nest during mating season. The nests can only be removed and destroyed miles away during the off season*

## Substation Operations

Shane Robison reported on the following items:

- 💡 Long Drive Switchyard
  - 💡 Apparatus testing is complete. A total of 208 individual components underwent approximately 500 electrical tests to verify safe and reliable equipment operation
  - 💡 Commissioning Update: The commissioning process is approximately 90% complete. The switchyard was successfully energized today, and in-service checks are currently underway. We anticipate the switchyard will be fully operational by the end of next week.
- 💡 Painted Hills Substation Bay 4
  - 💡 This bay was successfully placed in service and actively serving load since May 7. Prior to energization, comprehensive testing was conducted on all internal equipment to ensure system reliability
  - 💡 This substation bay was relocated from Arrowhead Substation; comprehensive electrical testing was conducted to mitigate any risks associated with transport and equipment vibration. All components were successfully verified and cleared for energization
- 💡 Summer Loading Preparation
  - 💡 In preparation for anticipated summer loads, each substation feeder was assessed, resulting in the reconfiguration and balancing of several distribution circuits
  - 💡 The team will actively monitor real-time data and remote alarm notifications throughout the summer to ensure grid reliability
- 💡 Aclara 360 Metering
  - 💡 OPD5 hosted metering vendor Aclara and several peer utilities at our Mesquite boardroom. Aclara engineers presented an upcoming software rollout designed to enhance topology correction, phase detection, advanced load analysis, fault location detection, and event analysis

*Trustees asked for a status report on Raptor Substation*

- 💡 Raptor Substation Update
  - 💡 Construction and relay testing are 100% complete. Next steps include finishing the apparatus testing and installing the underground distribution switches and cables. The team will transition to this work over the next 30 to 60 days, with full completion targeted for mid-summer

## Administrative Services

Scott Fullman reported on the following items:

- 💡 *Cyber Security Training* – 100% participation by employees in April. The topics included Social Engineering starts small, IT and operational systems must be separated, and fast incident response matters
- 💡 *Information Technology* – In April, two relatively new employees clicked on internal spam email.
- 💡 *Servers* – All servers were up and running 100% of the time in April. All servers were successfully backed up and stored offsite in April.
- 💡 *Electric Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC)* – This month there were one hundred nine emails giving information on cyber and physical incidents. The top three threat patterns were phishing and impersonation attacks, exploiting software weaknesses, and physical attacks on utility infrastructure

Vernon Robison reported on the following grant opportunity:

💡 NRECA Consortium

- 💡 Grid Resilience Grant Opportunity: In mid-March, the Department of Energy announced \$1.9 billion in available funding through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) program, specifically targeting advanced transmission technologies and line reconductoring
- 💡 Project Selection: Under a tight deadline, staff identified the capital improvement project to reductor the 69kV line across the Mesa using existing structures, which minimizes right-of-way and structural costs while maximizing capacity
- 💡 NRECA Consortium Collaboration: OPD5 submitted a project summary and was selected as one of approximately a dozen entities to join an NRECA-led consortium for a joint application
- 💡 Successful Submission: Following intensive budget and application preparation, the full consortium proposal was successfully submitted on time by Vernon with Randall's help
- 💡 Funding Request: The total project request is \$6 million, which requires a 25% cash match by OPD5. The consortium group has expressed strong optimism regarding our application's competitive standing

**Financial Services**

*Jonathan Denninghoff* reported on the following items:

- 💡 Gave the financial report for April 2026, a copy of which is on file

**General Manager**

MeLisa Garcia reported on the following items

- 💡 Governor's Joint Interim Committee Presentation
  - 💡 Wildfire Liability Caps: Requested a legislative cap on non-economic damages from wildfire litigation to protect not-for-profit and cooperative utilities from multi-billion-dollar lawsuits, while still fully supporting coverage for actual property damage
  - 💡 Operational Reforms & Structural Differences: Advised lawmakers on critical needs for right-of-way clearing and permitting reform, emphasizing the distinct operational differences and constraints between not-for-profits, cooperatives and large investor-owned utilities (IOUs) like NV Energy
  - 💡 Insurance Market: Highlighted the tightening insurance market, noting that wildfire underwriters available to the cooperative network plummeted from over twenty-four down to just three in 2026, putting small co-ops and power district's at risk of becoming uninsurable
  - 💡 Cooperative vs. IOU Resilience: Contrasted cooperative limitations with IOUs like NV Energy, which have backing from shareholders and parent companies (e.g., Berkshire Hathaway) to absorb catastrophic risks and access separate insurance pools
  - 💡 Service Territory Visual Impact: Presented an impactful state map overlay showing that while NREA members serve a tiny fraction of Nevada's population, they are responsible for over 50% of the state's total landmass—a visual that strongly resonated with Chairman Watts and the committee

- 💡 Silver State Energy Association (SSEA) Board Meeting
  - 💡 Jack and MeLisa attended the Silver State Energy Association (SSEA) board meeting
  - 💡 Jack has been elected Vice Chair of the SSEA Board. His leadership highlights the immense value and respect his expertise brings to our organization and the broader utility community
- 💡 Station Power Customers
  - 💡 New Station Power Projects: OPD5 is adding three new station power customers to its service territory, which includes an expansion of the Gemini project plus two entirely new developments
  - 💡 Contract Development: Contract drafts are currently being prepared and will be sent to Byron for legal review. Two of the projects require immediate written agreements to secure their project financing. Management will soon bring these preliminary agreements to the Board for approval
  - 💡 Pricing & Commitment Structure: Because all projects have a Commercial Operation Date (COD) of 2029, initial agreements will feature indicative pricing, which will be firmed up closer to the launch dates
- 💡 NV Energy Meeting
  - 💡 MeLisa met with Tony Sanchez CEO of NV Energy to discuss regional industry growth, shifting load dynamics, and self-serving loads
  - 💡 Data Center Focus: Established a direct connection with NV Energy's newly appointed data center specialist to streamline future coordination on major data center developments
- 💡 Governor's Office of Economic Development Meeting
  - 💡 MeLisa attended a meeting in Reno to discuss data center growth. Key topics included tax abatements, development incentives, and establishing regulatory guardrails for self-serving renewable energy requirements
  - 💡 This group comes from a different lens when discussing taxes and revenues for the state showing the value of having a seat at the table
  - 💡 These proactive engagements ensure that rural electric utilities have a voice in shaping data center legislation before it reaches the Governor. Our input is essential to guarantee that new policies protect rural grid stability and interests
- 💡 Utility Software
  - 💡 Software Upgrade Evaluation: OPD5 has been exploring a much-needed upgrade to its antiquated UPN/Meridian accounting and billing software. Due to a significant \$250,000 upgrade cost, management established a committee—led by Jonathan—to evaluate transitioning to NISC, Meridian's main industry competitor
  - 💡 Meridian and NISC Merger: Last week, Meridian announced it is merging with NISC to form a single entity. The combined company plans to transition users to the NISC software platform while integrating select features from Meridian
  - 💡 Next Steps: The internal committee is working closely with the vendor to evaluate the transition timeline, software integration plans, and final financial implications for the software upgrade

#### 💡 Escape Solar

- 💡 Tomorrow, Escape Solar will conduct federally mandated NERC compliance testing. While we are contractually obligated to facilitate this testing, our team has established a rigorous monitoring protocol. Shane is leading our coordination efforts, working closely with Lincoln County Power and maintaining direct communication with the testing technicians. In the event of any system anomalies, Shane has full authority to order an immediate disconnect to protect grid integrity

#### 💡 CREDA

- 💡 Effective in June, Andy Colosimo will succeed the retiring Leslie James as the Executive Director of CREDA. Mr. Colosimo brings over two decades of utility government affairs experience to the role. Randall will represent OPD5 at the upcoming CREDA meeting to participate in critical discussions regarding Colorado River hydrology and regional power impacts

#### 💡 NV Energy Substation Breach

- 💡 In response to a confidential physical security breach at an NV Energy rural substation and subsequent alerts from DHS, Staff executed our security response protocols. The local Metro Police personnel were briefed.
- 💡 The Substation Operations team audited all substation surveillance feeds, and deployed field personnel to inspect our physical assets. No security anomalies were discovered.
- 💡 E-ISAC briefings continue to highlight an increase in targeting of rural utility infrastructure, underscoring the necessity of our ongoing grid security investments

## I. DISCUSSION ON DEBT STRUCTURING

Upon approval of the \$36m borrowing through NRUCFC, Staff is presented information regarding the strategic importance of debt structuring in supporting the OPD5's long-term financial stability, infrastructure investment needs, rate affordability, cash flow management, and overall fiscal stewardship.

Debt Structuring & Financial Modeling: Jonathan presented a comprehensive review of OPD5's debt-structuring options, CFC discount mechanics, and covenant ratio reconciliations (specifically targeting MDSE and DSC thresholds). Financial modeling of a prospective \$20M borrowing demonstrated that key financial ratios would remain above covenant thresholds, though they remain sensitive to interest rate fluctuations and payoff timing.

Loan Repricing & Borrowing Strategy: The presentation included an analysis of historical loan repricing options, prepayment penalties, and a \$10M case study comparing short-term repricing against long-term amortization schedules. To support the 2026–2029 capital plan, incremental borrowing needs are projected at \$25M, of which \$10M has already been borrowed for 2026.

Capital Planning & Asset Policy: Capital planning discussions clarified the 2026 approved funding requirements. Management also reviewed vehicle capitalization thresholds, asset useful lives, and the strategic financial tradeoffs between utilizing operating margins versus debt to fund ongoing system investments.

This was a discussion item only; no action was taken.

## J. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**NRECA Legislative Conference Overview:** In late April, MeLisa represented OPD5 at the NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., joining 1,500 cooperative leaders. Opening remarks by NRECA CEO Jim Matheson emphasized that cooperatives are viewed as non-partisan "truth tellers" laser-focused on community service, providing a powerful differentiator in policy discussions.

**Key Advocacy Priorities:** The conference focused advocacy efforts on four critical areas: streamlining federal permitting, mitigating wildfire risk and liability, expediting FEMA disaster relief, and increasing funding for RUS loan programs.

**Congressional Speaker Insights:** Cooperative leaders heard from key policymakers, including:

Rep. Bruce Westerman (AR), Chair of House Natural Resources: Addressed the necessity of permitting reform for energy growth and infrastructure development.

Rep. Jeff Hurd (CO): Advised cooperatives to persuade lawmakers by presenting concrete examples of how federal policy delays are impacting specific projects and escalating costs.

Julie Fedorchak, ND Public Service Commissioner: Advocated that the U.S. has the capacity to generate sufficient power for future growth but emphasized that users requesting new power must be responsible for the associated costs.

Strategic "Hill Day" Advocacy: NREA CEOs optimized their congressional meetings by assigning each leader a specific, consistent topic. Key talking points across all meetings included the public power model, IJJA grant funding, affordability, the Help Hoover Dam Act, Colorado River drought impacts, wildfire liability, broadband expansion, and permitting reform.

**High-Impact Meetings & Outcomes:** The Nevada delegation met with Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto, and staff, Senator Rosen, and Representatives Lee, Titus, Horsford, and Amodei. Specific highlights included:

Direct Staff Contact: During a meeting with Senator Cortez-Masto's staff, Melisa immediately provided a letter from CREDA sent to the Secretary of the Interior, Doug Bergum regarding Bureau of Reclamation water priority decisions impacting hydropower generation, which was shared with the Secretary later that week by the Senators staff.

Appropriations Discussions: Meetings with Senator Rosen's staff confirmed ongoing work regarding appropriations for regional projects.

This was a discussion item only; no action was taken.

## K. PUBLIC COMMENTS

All Public Comments are recorded and are available at the OPD5 website ([www.opd5.com](http://www.opd5.com)) for a period of one year.

## L. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Mike Young – Commended the staff for their proactive approach in identifying and applying for grant opportunities to support system infrastructure improvements and critical system reliability upgrades

**M. APPROVAL OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

A motion was made by Chad Leavitt and seconded by Richard Jones to approve Wednesday, June 17, 2026, as the next Board Meeting date. The meeting will be held in the Overton Board Room at 3:00 p.m. The Board voted six (6) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

**N. EXECUTIVE – CLOSED DOOR SESSION**

A motion was made by Mike Young and seconded by Bob Bunker to enter executive session. The Board voted six (6) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

*Bob Bunker left the meeting*

A motion was made by Mike Young and seconded by Dale Rust to exit executive session. The Board voted five (5) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:30pm a motion was made by Richard Jones and seconded by Mike Young to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted five (5) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

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Chair

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Vice Chair

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Secretary / Treasurer