



OVERTON POWER DISTRICT NO. 5

BOARD MEETING

February 21, 2024

3:00 P.M.

Mesquite, Nevada

PRESENT:

Mrs. Judy Metz, Chair	Mr. Mendis Cooper, General Manager
Mr. Jack Nelson, Vice Chair	Mr. Scott Fullman, Administrative Services Manager
Mr. Mike Young, Secretary / Treasurer	Mr. Keven Hansen, Substation Operations Manager
Mr. Robert Bunker, Trustee	Mr. Randall Ozaki, Engineering Services Manager
Mr. Chad Leavitt, Trustee	Mrs. MeLisa Garcia, Financial Services Manager
Mr. Richard Jones, Trustee	Mr. Corey Dalley, Line Operations Manager
Mr. Dale Rust, Trustee	Mrs. Becky LaGrow, Executive Assistant
Mr. Byron Mills, Attorney	

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. Mrs. Judy Metz 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. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Young and seconded by Mr. Bob Bunker to accept the OPD5 agenda as posted. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and (0) nays in approval.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Dale Rust and seconded by Mr. Mike Young to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Board Meeting. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and (0) nays in approval.

E. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Judy Metz had no report at this time.

F. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Byron Mills had no report at this time.

G. MANAGER'S REPORTS

Administrative Services

Mr. Scott Fullman reported on the following items:

- 💡 *Cyber Security Training* – 100% Participation by employees in January.
- 💡 *Information Technology* – This month three employees clicked an internal spam email.
- 💡 *Servers* – All servers were up and running 100% of the time in January. All servers were successfully backed up and stored offsite in January.
- 💡 *Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC)* – offers quality analysis and security information sharing in real time. This helps to mitigate complex and constantly evolving threats to the grid. Sixty-eight (68) e-mails were reviewed this month by IT and the General Manager.

Mr. Aaron Walker reported on the current weather patterns and water conditions. Lake Powell water level is at approximately 3,563 ft having risen 41.45 feet from one year ago. Lake Mead water level is at approximately the 1,076 ft level and is up approximately 28.21 feet from one year ago.

Engineering Services

Mr. Randall Ozaki reported on the following items:

- 💡 *Reid Gardner 230 kV Line* – Grading has finally started on this project. Unfortunately due to NV Energy Right-of-Way (ROW) issues, our portion of the project will not be able to be completed until October or November 2024.
- 💡 *Tortoise – Gila 138 kV Line* – The materials list has arrived, the request for materials quotes will go out soon. We will then have an idea of when the materials will arrive and be able to set the schedule for the build-out. Also, the process to cut in the access road has begun.
- 💡 *Raptor Substation* – Grading has been completed and the company will begin the block wall and retaining wall soon.

Line Operations

Mr. Corey Dalley reported on the following items:

- 💡 *Hook-ups* –
 - 💡 *January* – forty-seven (47) residential and one (1) commercial hookups.
 - 💡 *Year-to-Date* – Forty-eight (48) total hook-ups for 2024
- 💡 *Line Locates & Inspections*
 - 💡 *January System Audits* – Seven hundred seventy-six (776)
 - 💡 *January Locates* – Two hundred seventy-six (276)
 - 💡 *January Inspections* – One hundred nineteen (119)

💡 Outages

💡 January 2024

- 💡 There were eighteen (18) planned outages for maintenance. There was one (1) unplanned outage for the month.
- 💡 The unplanned outage affected one hundred nineteen (119) customers for approximately seventy-eight (78) customer hours.
- 💡 In the month of January, OPD5 customers had power for 99.999% of the time.

💡 Safety

- 💡 *January Safety Topic* – Emergency Action Plans & Fire Extinguishers
- 💡 *Since Last Lost Time Accident* – Six (6) years, four (4) months, eight (8) days

💡 Jobs: In addition to their many jobs this month, the crews worked on:

- 💡 *Monthly Department Meeting & Training* – These are held following safety meetings. This month the experienced linemen were teaching the apprenticed the lost art of tying aluminum and copper ties to the conductor on the wrap block insulators.
- 💡 *Mack Lyon Middle School* – This project consists of underground work and dead end some conductors on the overhead lines.
- 💡 *Virgin River Crossing* – An external engineering firm designed a new structure to span the Virgin River. The crew did a great job of pulling the new conductors in. All but one phase has been installed.
- 💡 *Moapa Valley Fire Department Training* – Gave a pole-top rescue and high voltage demonstration to the Moapa Valley Fire Departments with instruction on why it is important to wait for OPD5 personnel when power equipment is involved. A demonstration in Mesquite will be held when an acceptable date is determined.

SCADA & Substation Operations

Mr. Keven Hansen reported on the following items:

- 💡 *Falcon Ridge Substation* – The substation was energized on February 6th and will temporarily feed Crown Cork until Raptor Substation is completed
- 💡 *Metering Department* – For February and March, the metering department will be visiting all inactive meter locations to see the status of the site.
- 💡 *Tortoise Substation Breaker (69T17)*- The old breaker was becoming unreliable. The new breaker uses a 125-volt DC motor to charge the actuator spring, requiring little to no maintenance.
- 💡 *Substation Foreman* – Mr. Shane Robison will be filling the vacant position on the organizational chart of Substation Foreman.

General Manager

Mr. Mendis Cooper reported on the following items:

- 💡 *Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation* – Senator Scott Hammond has resigned his position in the State Senate to become the executive director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation. We had a call to discuss improving training capabilities in Nevada.
- 💡 *Growth & Infrastructure Interim Committee* – This is a committee of the Nevada Legislature to help them understand the difference between an investor-owned utility and a cooperative utility. In attendance were representatives from Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), NV Energy, Southwest Gas, Valley Electric and NREA.

- 💡 *NREA* – A discussion was held on the PUCN docket regarding Nevada joining an energy market by 2030. Nevada is not big enough to create its own market, so we can join a new market or join CAISO. A list of approximately 25 questions has been created to ask the PUCN regarding the implementation of the law in 2030.
- 💡 *Federal Legislation* – A letter was sent to Representative Susie Lee asking her to co-sponsor the HYDRO Act in the House of Representatives. She seems to have backed off at this time, as Congress seems to be in a stalemate this year.
- 💡 *CFC Economic Forum* – Discussion on the current economic climate, potential future economic slowdown, market condition and rate cuts, bank stress. A reminder to control costs while maintaining a strong balance sheet with positive cash flow.
- 💡 *CREDA* - New Congresswoman Celeste Maloy attended the meeting virtually. A representative from the Department of Homeland Security gave a report on climate change.
- 💡 *CREDA Legislative Report* – The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) may be used as a vehicle for the HYDRO Act. The Farm Bill is getting a lot of focus but will require cooperation from both republicans and democrats to move forward.
- 💡 *Joint Action Agency (JAA)* – This agency may bring opportunities for transmission in southern Nevada.

Financial Services

Mrs. MeLisa Garcia reported the financial report for January 2024, a copy of which is on file.

H. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A USDA GRANT OFFER TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR A BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT

OPD5 has applied for grant funding to improve reliability. OPD5 has been notified that a recent USDA grant application to install battery storage was successful. OPD5 would have 12 months to purchase and install a battery system to receive matching funds. The grant requires the battery to be charged by PV solar generation. Since battery storage is expensive and existing OPD5 owned PV solar projects are small, staff estimates that the project would be a small battery project of 1 MW or a little smaller. The grant is for a maximum of \$2,000,000 with a restriction of 50%/50% matching funds for a maximum fiscal impact to the District of \$1,000,000.

After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Bob Bunker and seconded by Mr. Dale Rust to decline accepting the USDA grant. The Board voted six (6) ayes and one (1) nay by Mr. Mike Young. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE – CLOSED DOOR SESSION

A motion was made to enter Executive Session

A motion was made to exit Executive Session

I. **REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL TO ADD AND FILL AN ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER POSITION ON THE OPD5 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

In OPD5's past, there have been several times on the Organizational Chart when an Assistant General Manager (AGM) position has been added and filled. Recently, the responsibilities and workload of the general manager (GM) have grown as the company and OPD5's customer base have grown.

The Board received resumes from three senior management candidates who are interested in the AGM position. The AGM may have an opportunity to be named the successor of the GM.

After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Mike Young and seconded by Mr. Chad Leavitt to approve the addition of the Assistant General Manager (AGM) position to the OPD5 Organizational Chart. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

After discussion by the Board regarding filling the AGM position from the three qualified candidates, a second motion was made by Mr. Mike Young and seconded by Mr. Richard Jones to name Mrs. MeLisa Garcia to fill the Assistant General Manager (AGM) position. The Board voted six (6) ayes and zero (0) nays, with one (1) abstention by Mr. Jack Nelson. The motion passed.

Mrs. Judy Metz commented on the benefits of mentoring employees and hiring from within. It was difficult to decide between three exceptional candidates.

Mr. Chad Leavitt commented how grateful he is to each of the candidates for their tremendous service to OPD5.

Mr. Bob Bunker agreed with Mr. Leavitt's comments and also added that the Board does not want to hurt the feelings of the candidates who were not chosen because of the respect felt for all of them.

Mr. Jack Nelson commented it is amazing to have three candidates whose are as qualified and articulate.

Mr. Mike Young commented on what a tough decision it was to choose from three wonderful candidates. They were all qualified to be chosen as the Assistant General Manager. All the staff know their jobs and how to run this company.

J. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

K. **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Mike Young received a complaint from a constituent regarding the year-end removal of the solar over-generation credit on his account in the amount of \$35. He would like staff to review the policy.

Mrs. Judy Metz spoke to a resident of Moapa, and they complimented the great customer service of our outside workers, going above and beyond to be helpful.

L. APPROVAL OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Young and seconded by Mr. Chad Leavitt to approve Wednesday, March 20, 2024, as the next Board Meeting date. The meeting will be held in the Overton Board Room at 3:00 p.m. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and (0) nays in approval.

M. EXECUTIVE – CLOSED DOOR SESSION

There was no further Executive Session.

N. ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:18 P.M.

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary / Treasurer