

OPD5 WATTS UP

Est. 1935

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Visit us online at
www.opd5.com

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

January 19, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Overton Office
Board Room

February 16 2022
3:00 p.m.
Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

March 16, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Overton Office
Board Room

Board meetings are subject to change. Please check our website, Facebook page or twitter feed a day prior to the meeting for a copy of the agenda.

A message from Mendis Cooper

2021 was an interesting year with plenty of uncertainty and lots of challenges, but there were also many opportunities and lots of progress. As we begin a new year and welcome in 2022, I want to give you a state of the power company update.

In 2021, OPD5 placed approximately 450 new meter accounts. We welcome our new customers and hope you love this area as much as we do. With the new meters our loads increased by 6% last year.

I am happy to report that according to the data, OPD5 was able to keep the power on 99.99% of the time, which is at the high end of the industry standard. Unfortunately, that is not 100% and we know some of you experienced a power outage during the year. While zero outages are impossible to achieve, safety and reliability are always on our minds. We are focused on providing safe and reliable power.

Last year, some outages were caused by faulty pad mount switches. Our records show that a majority of the problems are associated with one particular switch manufacturer. We also found that other utilities around the country were experiencing the same problems with the same switch manufacturer. OPD5 identified the locations of the problem switches and prioritized their replacement based on the condition of the switch and the number homes and businesses they served. Replacing the switches has been a large undertaking as we had approximately 150 switches which take 6-8 hours to replace and have a replacement cost of approximately \$20,000 per piece. We hope to complete these change-outs in 2022.

In 2020, OPD5 created a reliability plan that addresses reliability and projected system growth through 2030. The plan calls for \$54M in improvements during the time period. OPD5 has engaged two engineering firms to engineer and design the projects and we have kept them busy to meet our timelines.

The first of the reliability projects was to construct a new substation in the Riverside area of Virgin Valley. Although complete buildout of the substation will take many years, engineering and design were completed, the site has been leveled, fenced, foundations were excavated and filled with concrete, steel towers were erected, buss work and switches were installed, and construction of a control building have all been completed.

A new 10-mile section of transmission line, designed to provide reliability and capacity for growth in Mesquite, was completed between the Mesquite Long Drive Sports Complex and the new substation in 2021.

OPD5 Update

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Engineering and design on the next 17-mile section of line are nearly complete and material orders will be placed in early 2022. This line section will give OPD5 the ability to remove one line from service for maintenance or repairs without causing an outage, which will increase reliability for all customers.

In 2019, OPD5 made arrangements with NV Energy to build a second supply line into our system. NV Energy has been making progress on the right-of-way, engineering, and design work required to complete the new line in the first quarter of 2023.

The last few years, OPD5 has been working with the Moapa Band of Paiutes to build a transmission line to their travel plaza on Interstate 15. Right-of-way, engineering, and design work have been completed and OPD5 plans to construct the new line in 2022. In addition to the transmission projects, OPD5 has completed many distribution projects and upgrades. Two new planned distribution substations are currently in the engineering and design phase.

OPD5 began installation of new control, monitoring, and outage management software in 2021, which will allow OPD5 to improve reliability by collecting data and responding to problems faster. The software installation and set-up will be completed in 2022.

Many have inquired about our hydropower resources and how those resources are affected by current drought conditions. In 2022, OPD5 will lose about two megawatts of hydropower due to low water levels. Two megawatts represent less than 1.8% of OPD5's peak load. OPD5 has secured two options to replace lost energy and associated capacity. OPD5 has participated in talks with other regional and national organizations to keep replacement costs low. Additionally, OPD5 continues to work with government, public, and private entities to discuss future drought impacts and to develop replacement strategies. One of the strategies OPD5 is developing is participation in a utility scale renewable energy project. We hope for better water conditions in the future, but we are putting plans in place in case drought conditions persist.

I want you to know that despite all of the work on these projects and their associated costs, OPD5 has not increased your power bill since 2012. OPD5 has no plan to raise rates during the next year.

Finally, with new growth, transmission reliability projects, switch replacements, and distribution projects, it has been a very busy year for OPD5. I express gratitude to the OPD5 Board of Trustees for their support and commitment to safety and reliability. I am also grateful for the OPD5 staff who have accomplished so much in the past year. They are excited to serve you and to continue work on the remaining reliability projects.

Our offices will be closed on February 21st - Presidents' Day. Regular office hours will resume the next business day after the Holiday is observed.

It's a great time to go paperless!

On October 1, 2021, the USPS announced changes to service standards for certain First-Class Mail items, resulting in delivery times of up to five days. This means, it may take longer to receive mail from us and for us to receive mail from you. Avoid delays, sign up for e-bill today!

Energy Conservation



Are Portable Space Heaters Efficient for My Home?

By Abby Berry

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater



TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety

features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of

clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact OPD5. We're here to help you manage your energy use.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

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WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD

Did you know there are several ways you can fight the winter chill *and* save energy at home? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how to save energy during winter months.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM @OPD5

Our Facebook page and twitter feed are valuable resources to provide our customers with news and updates whenever an unplanned power outage occurs.

You can access both thru our website, they are setup in a way that does not require you to have a Facebook or twitter account to view the information.

We also post great tips on energy conservation, safety and emergency preparedness on Instagram.

Please remember, in the event of a power outage, do not report it via Facebook or twitter, we can't guarantee the delivery of messages received via social media to the right personnel in a timely manner.

In case of an unexpected power outage, please call us at (702) 397-2512 or (702) 346-5710. OPD5 has personnel on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including weekends and holidays to respond as quickly as possible in the event of an emergency.

1 Down: Open curtains and blinds during the day to allow _____ in to warm your home.

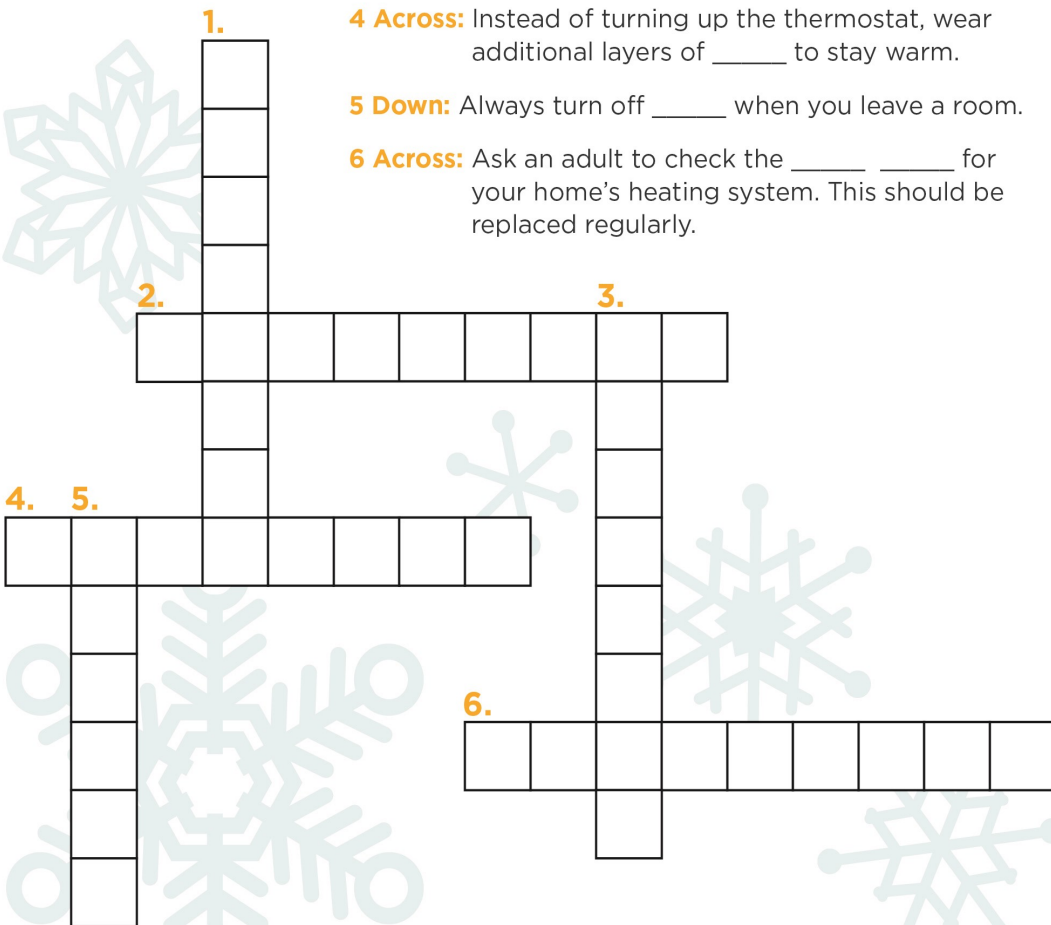
2 Across: If you have a _____ at home, ask an adult to close the flue when a fire is not burning.

3 Down: Unplug phone and tablet _____ when they're not in use.

4 Across: Instead of turning up the thermostat, wear additional layers of _____ to stay warm.

5 Down: Always turn off _____ when you leave a room.

6 Across: Ask an adult to check the _____ _____ for your home's heating system. This should be replaced regularly.



Answer Key: 1 Down) sunlight 2 Across) fireplace 3 Down) chargers 4 Across) clothing 5 Down) lights 6 Across) air filter

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