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So what about businesses? Will they benefit from the Energy Choice Initiative? Some of the very largest businesses in the state with high consistent usage may see a benefit. For the great majority of businesses, including small business and larger commercial customers, your power bill will be affected in the same way residential customers will be affected. The PUCN report supports this and says that ECI "is reasonably likely to increase the monthly electricity bill across customer classes."

The average cost of power in Nevada for a residential customer is 12.49 cents per kilo-watt hour (kWh). The average OPD customer pays less than 8 cents per kWh for electricity. Even with the base charge entered into the calculation the average OPD residential customer pays 10.6 cents per kWh or 14% below the Nevada average.

I am not going to tell you how to vote. But before you go to the polls in November, I encourage all of you to carefully study the facts. Please feel free to check the OPD website (www.opd5.com) for data and news regarding this topic. As always, I welcome you to reach out to us. My staff members and I are prepared and willing to answer your questions.

Get rewarded for reading our Newsletter!

During this quarter, we have something new and cool for you, our quarterly contest. To enter, send us an email titled "Cool Summer with OPD" with your name, address, account number, and code word "SUMMER" to customerservice@opd5.com or stop by your closest Overton Power District office with a copy of the Newsletter. One entry per customer only. Winners will be announced in the October Edition.

Our offices will be closed on :

JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY
SEPTEMBER 3RD LABOR DAY

Regular office hours will resume the next business day after each Holiday is observed.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND TWITTER FEED

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 for you to have a Facebook or twitter account to view the information.

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

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. Overton Power District No. 5 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.

Follow us on:



A message from Mendis Cooper, OPD General Manager

Recently, a number of articles regarding Ballot Question 3, also known as the Energy Choice Initiative (ECI), have appeared in the local newspapers. You may have also noticed increased television advertisements regarding this issue. All of the information can be confusing. In a recent article in the Mesquite Local News Thomas Mitchell predicted that you will be "inundated in the coming months with 'facts and figures' that are wildly contradictory...". That day has arrived.

I assume many of you will think I am talking about the Energy Choice Initiative (ECI) because I am fighting for my job. That is not the case. I decided to respond because first of all, I have 31 years of experience in the electric industry and I have met with business leaders, government officials, and the sponsors of the ballot question, and finally, I am an OPD residential customer just like you. I pay the same cost for power that you do. That is why I am concerned and that is why I want to share my thoughts with you.

Why am I concerned? Because the ECI promise of a lower power bill cannot be substantiated. All of the data that I have seen which includes a report from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), a study by Harvard University, and various studies from other states point out that choice has not lowered power bills. In fact, the PUCN report states that, "Concerns exist that the Energy Choice Initiative will have considerable negative financial impact to the rural communities of Nevada."

During the PUCN investigatory hearings, the PUCN Commissioner asked repeatedly if any of the proponents in the audience could step forward and state for the record that this initiative would lower bills and he never received a response.

ECI cannot guarantee lower power bills as promised. Consider this, OPD is a non-profit entity with hydro power contracts and a market based contract. If ECI passes, OPD may lose all existing hydro power contracts and the market based contract. Those contracts will be replaced with a market based contract of your choice.

If ECI passes, you will see new items on your power bill, including charges for transmission service, distribution service, and customer related items such a metering. You will also pay a new charge for a wholesale market to provide for generation of electricity, a new charge for the retail market (among other things this charge will be for the regulated website where you can choose your electric provider), you will also see a new charge for government regulation and oversight of the energy market, another new charge for stranded costs that will be incurred in the switch over to ECI, and then you may need to add taxes on top of that because you will be buying retail product.

Does all of this sound confusing and expensive? It is.

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15% OFF
On Power Surge Protectors and Power Strips when you present this coupon.



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*Ace Stores are independently owned and operated. This coupon is good only in-store at the Mesquite and Overton Ace Hardware locations. Limit one coupon per customer. Not to be combined with any other offer. Additional exclusions may apply. See store for details. Expires October 1, 2018.

Customer Service



We are working hard to Serve You Better!

By Linda Perkowski, Customer Service Supervisor at Overton Power District No. 5

Our Goal in Customer Service is to provide superior service to all of our customers. We are committed to achieving this goal by being accessible and responsive to our customers' comments, questions, and concerns.

We understand that life has a way of getting very busy; we hope that some of the options we have developed to manage your account provide you with the solution you need to simplify some of your tasks. My favorite tool is our Overton Power District #5 app found in any App Store. It is easy to set up, however, if you are experiencing a problem come into the office and we will help you with it. Our App allows you to view your bills, past or present, and make a payment quickly any time of the day.

Levelized Billing is another program that you can consider using. This program allows us to spread the burden of higher bills in the summer months across all 12 months, making budgeting easier. If you are interested in learning more about this, give us a call or come into the office.

Alerts & reminders are another great tool that keep you on time with your payments, saving you from additional late fees. You choose when you want the alert, or reminder, sent to your cell phone via text message or to your e-mail address. You can choose 1-10 days prior to the due date. You can also elect to receive a past due alert, which gives you a second chance to pay before penalties are assessed. Just make sure to pay before 9 AM on the following Monday.

The Round Up program is a partnership between OPD and local schools to help raise money to fund education. If you want to help local teachers and students, consider rounding up your bill and donating the cents to the schools. For example, if a bill is \$120.47 OPD would round that up to \$121.00, and the .53 cents difference is donated to fund schools. It does not seem like much, but the more participation we have, the greater the impact on our communities.

You can choose to receive your bill via e-mail, or in standard mail. Payments are accepted in person, through the mail, online at our website, at any of our drop box locations, or over the phone. You can even make payments after hours using our IVR system.

In closing I would recommend that you be very careful when making payments online, to make sure that you are on OPD's official website - www.opd5.com and not a third party website, like doxo which charges you a fee to send us a check and can take a couple of weeks. We are at your service. **Don't forget to hydrate!!!**

ASK KATIE

What is levelized billing? Levelized Billing allows customers to pay approximately the same amount for electric service every month. For example, they pay a lower amount than their actual bill amount during the high-bill summer months, but are required to make it up with higher payments during the low-bill winter months. This creates manageable bills regardless of temperature, and usage. Under this program, bills are essentially an average of the customer's monthly utility costs over a 12-month period. Bills will vary slightly each month. The benefit of Levelized Billing is that fluctuations in bill amounts are averaged out over the year. You can sign up simply by calling your local Overton Power District No. 5 office.



Energy Conservation



Summer Energy Savings Tips

By Keith Buchhalter, Public Affairs Specialist at Overton Power District No. 5

There is a lot to celebrate this time of the year, our Independence Day, summer vacations, and having time to spend with our families during the long Holiday weekends. Add another one to the list, how about lowering our Summer electric bills? Yes, this is not an impossible task, just remember, simple and inexpensive actions can help you save energy and money during the hot summer months. At Overton Power District No. 5, we are always looking for energy saving tips to share with our customers, and this year is no exception, below you will find 7 of my 2018 favorite Summer Energy Saving Tips:

Ready, set, go! Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be. Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower your thermostat setting to 78° F only when you are at home and need cooling. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature.

Join the Fan Club. A fan doesn't cool a room; however, ceiling fans can save you money by maximizing air circulation, effective air circulation can make a room feel 5 - 8 degrees cooler, just make sure to turn them off when no one is enjoying it, otherwise you just waste electricity.

It's Ok to Vent. When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).

Make the light choice. When you replace light bulbs, choose energy-efficient products such as LED's and CFL's, these light bulbs not only use less power but generate less heat.

Turn it down. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

Daylight savings, literally. Take advantage of daylight instead of artificial lighting but avoid direct sunlight.

Delay those chores. Delay chores that produce heat such as dishwashing, laundering and cooking until cooler times of the day or night.

If you have any questions or if you would like to share with us your favorite Summer Energy Savings Tips, please contact us at customerservice@opd5.com. Please visit our Facebook page for more Energy Savings Tips that we will be posting thru the season.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.