

OVERTON OFFICE

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MESQUITE OFFICE

731 Turtleback Road
Mesquite, NV 89027
Telephone: (702) 346-5710
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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

October 21, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

November 18, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

December 16, 2020
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.

Same Energy Charges, Different Format

Back in the spring, we made some changes to your OPD5 power bill. The new format makes bills easier to read and provides helpful information about monthly power usage.

What we want to clarify is the ENERGY CHARGES portion of the bill and remind you that while the visual format may be different, our rates remain the same. Our customers should keep in mind that our power rates haven't increased since 2012. We're very proud of keeping costs low for our customers and our communities.

OPD5 uses a tiered rate system, charging higher rates for those who use the most electricity and lower rates for those who use the least. The old bill format presented energy charges as a one-line item, while the new bill format presents energy charges as blocks that break down the tiered charges.

- Block 1** 0 - 500 kilowatt hours (kWh) are charged a rate of **0.0672**
- Block 2** 501 - 1,999 kilowatt hours (kWh) are charged a rate of **0.0872**
- Block 3** 2,000 or more kilowatt hours (kWh) are charged a rate of **0.0980**

During the summer and winter months, you are likely to see higher charges on your bill due to increased energy use. This is also when you are most likely to see a third block on your bill that reflects high usage.

Here is an example: "John" from 08/07/20 - 09/07/20 used 2,262 kilowatt hours. This information is available under the "METER READING" section.

METER READING					
Billing Period - 31 Days					
Meter Number	Read From	Read To	Prev Read	Current Read	Usage
77730934	08/07/20	09/07/20	31586	33848	2262
Multiplier					1
TOTAL ENERGY USAGE (kWh)					2262

Our billing department then calculates the energy charges by multiplying the kWh times the rate corresponding to each block or tier. This month, John's energy charges total \$190.08.

ENERGY CHARGES				
kWh Block	RATE	kWh	KW	CHARGES
BLOCK 1	0.0672000	500		33.60
BLOCK 2	0.0872000	1500		130.80
BLOCK 3	0.0980000	262		25.68
TOTAL ENERGY CHARGES:				190.08
BASE CHARGE				30.00
CURRENT CHARGES				220.08

Energy Conservation



How to winterize your home for holiday travel

With the holiday season on its way and people planning trips despite the pandemic, it's more important than ever to prepare your home before taking a trip. Here are some helpful tips to winterize your home and landscaping, helping you save energy and offering peace of mind while you're away.

Insulate your windows – Heat has a tendency to escape through windows, which is why it's a good idea to insulate your windows to keep the warm air from leaking out.

Seal air leaks in your doors and windows – Use caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows to keep the warm air from escaping.

Check your HVAC system – Be sure to have your HVAC system checked thoroughly to ensure that all components are working properly. Also, consider changing your air filter to avoid energy-wasting dust clogs.

Set your thermostat – Some experts suggest setting your thermostat between 50 and 55 degrees to save energy while you're not home during the winter months. A programmable smart thermostat also comes in handy and allows you to control temperatures from anywhere with a smartphone or tablet.

Unplug non-essential electronics – Electronics and appliances can have a big impact on your monthly energy bill. To avoid unnecessary expenses while you're out of town, it helps to unplug any non-essential appliances like toaster ovens, microwaves, computers, entertainment systems and televisions.

Set timers for exterior lights – If you have holiday lights up around your house, make sure they are set on a timer, so you aren't wasting electricity during the day. Also, consider putting a couple of lights inside the house that are visible from the outside on a timer to give the appearance that someone is home.

Prep your yard and garden – Mow your lawn and clean out the rain gutters to get rid any debris that could cause water to leak inside the house. Trim any dead leaves, stems and branches in your garden and cover or move any vulnerable plants indoors to avoid damage from harsh weather.

Prep your sprinkler system – To reduce the risk of freezing temperatures damaging your irrigation system, you can drain the water out of your sprinkler system once you're done using it for the season.

For more helpful tips, visit <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/safety/snowbirds-winterize-your-vacant-home>.



Watts New

What you need to know about unplanned and planned power outages

Unplanned outages

OPD5 is committed to providing our customers with the energy that they need for everyday use, but there are times when unplanned power outages occur. Such outages are inevitable. An unplanned outage is difficult to avoid since we can't predict nature, accidents beyond our control or random occurrences. Many things can cause an outage – from a traffic accident to equipment failure, damage to power lines from fallen trees, high winds, storms, and even small animals such as squirrels and rabbits coming into contact with power lines and equipment.

It doesn't hurt to be prepared in the event of an unplanned outage. Here are some things you can do if you find yourself without power:

- Check the circuit breakers or fuses in your fuse box.
- See if your neighbors have power.
- Give us a call at 702.346.5710 or 702.397.2512 to report the outage. Please be ready to provide the Customer Service Representative with your name as listed on your electric bill, service address, and details of the outage, for instance, lines down, flashes of light, blinking lights or loud noises that happened before the outage. Your calls help our crews locate the cause of an outage faster.
- Check our **Facebook** and **Twitter** channels for updates on progress of the outage.

We will send a crew to survey the damage and work to restore power. Our crews will work as quickly and efficiently as possible to restore power as long as conditions are safe for our workers and customers.

Planned outages

A planned power outage is an outage that is scheduled in advance and are sometimes necessary for us to make improvements to the power system. Planned outages may be needed for a number of reasons. Common reasons include maintenance and repair for power poles or transformers, significant upgrades for system growth to increase efficiency in our service area, or routine repairs of overhead or underground power lines.

Most of the time, a planned outage can be executed with little to no impact to our customers. The safety of our customers and employees is our highest priority, so if we do need to turn off your power, it's so our crews can work safely. OPD5 will notify customers at least 24 hours in advance about a scheduled outage with an automated phone call and e-mail with the date, time, and reason for the outage to help our customers prepare to be without power for a limited period of time.



New Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

OCTOBER

5

WATTS UP



Monitoring the Line for Reliability

Electric co-ops use a variety of monitoring and automation technologies that improve power reliability, shorten outage times and reduce labor time for crews. Here are four technologies we use to improve reliability.



Drones

Drones may be used to inspect the power lines we maintain. Drones can provide infrared evaluation to locate hot spots on power lines and vegetation assessment to locate trees and other vegetation that can cause outages.

Power Sensors

Power sensors typically clamp on or connect to the power line and provide near real-time reporting on power, voltage, current and more - all of which helps to provide more reliable energy to consumer-members.



AMI

Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) provides real-time data to the co-op. In addition to meter reading, this data helps us detect faults and other potential problems on the electrical system, resulting in increased power reliability for consumer-members.



Reclosers

A recloser acts like a circuit breaker for power lines. When a problem occurs, the recloser temporarily shuts off power. If the problem is temporary, the recloser restores power. (This is why you sometimes see the power blink.) If the problem persists, the recloser will shut off power until a crew can make repairs. The recloser's antenna provides wireless, real-time data back to the co-op.



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.

Our offices will be closed on :
Oct 30th Nevada Day - Nov 11th Veterans Day
Nov 26th Thanksgiving Day Nov 27th Family Day
Dec 25th Christmas Day
Regular office hours will resume the next business day after the Holiday is observed.

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