



WATTS UP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

OVERTON OFFICE

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Overton, NV 89040
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MESQUITE OFFICE

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Mesquite, NV 89027
Telephone: (702) 346-5710
Fax: (702) 346-5880

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed 12:00 pm—1:00 pm
Visit us online at
www.opd5.com

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

October 19, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

November 16 2022
3:00 p.m.

Overton Office
Board Room

December 14, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF AN OPD5 BASE RATE INCREASE

By: Mendis Cooper, General Manager

In recent years, many utility bills have become increasingly difficult to understand because of the number of charges on the bill. OPD5 tries to keep your power bills simple and easy to understand.

There are three primary components of your power bill: energy usage measured in kilowatt hours (kWh), demand charge measured in kilowatts (kW), and the base charge. The base charge is a flat fee that is designed to pay for the utility's fixed costs, such as operation, labor, and maintenance costs.

Periodically, OPD5 uses a consultant to perform the studies required to set these rates. Some may recall, that OPD5 had the Cooperative Finance Corporation perform these studies in 2019. Based on the results of that study, OPD5 lowered the energy usage (kWh) charge for all customers and simultaneously raised the base charge for all customers. The result was slightly lower power bills for most of OPD5's customers. OPD5 recently engaged the Cooperative Finance Corporation to work with us to perform these rate studies again in 2023.

In the meantime, everyone is seeing increased prices for nearly every product or service, due to labor shortages, supply chain issues, and inflation. OPD5 is no exception. We have seen costs and delivery times grow to unprecedented levels. For example, the costs and lead times for products that we frequently use such as fuel, poles, PVC conduit, wire, and transformers have increased dramatically in recent months. A residential sized transformer that we

used to receive within 12 weeks of placing an order, now costs 20% more and takes 70 weeks for delivery. Some manufacturers are so backlogged that they recently stopped taking new orders. Due to these increased costs, OPD5 sees the need to keep up with inflation by raising the base charge by the average inflation rate of eight percent (8%). This will apply to every customer class from residential to commercial class customers.

This change will take effect on October 1, 2022, and will only be applied to the base charge. The rates for energy use (kWh) and demand (kW) remain unchanged. For example, the result of this change means that residential customers will see an increase of \$2.40 on their monthly power bill and general demand commercial customers will see an increase of \$5.67 on their monthly power bill. All other customer classes will see an 8% increase with the actual dollar amount landing in between these two examples.

Despite rising nationwide power costs due to increased natural gas prices, there will be no increase to OPD5's energy (kWh) charge or the demand (kW) charge on your bills. This is due to the market-based power contract that OPD5 signed in 2016 that protects rates for existing customers until the power contract expires in 2024. However, OPD5's next power contract could be significantly higher if elevated natural gas prices and other inflationary conditions persist into 2024.

Finally, OPD5 will continue to work diligently to limit rate increases and to control our costs where we can as we navigate the everchanging landscape in today's economy.

Watt We Do

Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

Kristi Eames, Customer Service Supervisor

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen. For most OPD5 customers, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when summer storms, like the one in Moapa on August 11, 2022, impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So, when the power goes out, how do OPD5 crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. OPD5 keeps a supply of extra power poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby utilities to bring in additional crews when necessary and optional power supply if possible.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see OPD5 crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power make sure you turn off your main breaker and read all safety information and instructions before use.

OPD5 offices will be closed for the following holidays:

October 28th—Nevada Day

November 24th—Thanksgiving

November 25th—Family Day

December 26th—Christmas

Watt to Plan For



Create a support network: identify people who can help you stay at home or evacuate during an extended outage. Keep a paper copy of your contact list.

Stay connected and alert: Sign up for text alerts from OPD5. Have communication devices that work without home power, including a non-corded home phone, battery charges for your mobile devices. OPD5 offices are equipped with emergency generators and can be of use in emergency or medical situations.

Stock food: Stock non-perishable food, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed, use coolers and dry ice to extend the refrigeration time.

Know and plan for your personal and medical electric needs: Take an inventory of your electrical needs. Consider both back up and non-power alternatives for lighting, communication, medical devices and refrigerated medicine, cooking, garage doors, and locks. Discuss a plan with your primary care or medical device providers for your medical needs.

Prepare a pet emergency kit for your companion animals.

Plan for heating or cooling your home: Use methods such as sealing around windows and doors to Insulate your home. If the weather is very hot or very cold, plan to go to a location with air conditioning or with heat. Never use a generator, outdoor stoves or heaters indoors.

Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms: Install smoke alarms with battery backup and test monthly. Make sure that you have one carbon monoxide alarms on each level of your home.

Mobile Outage Alerts!

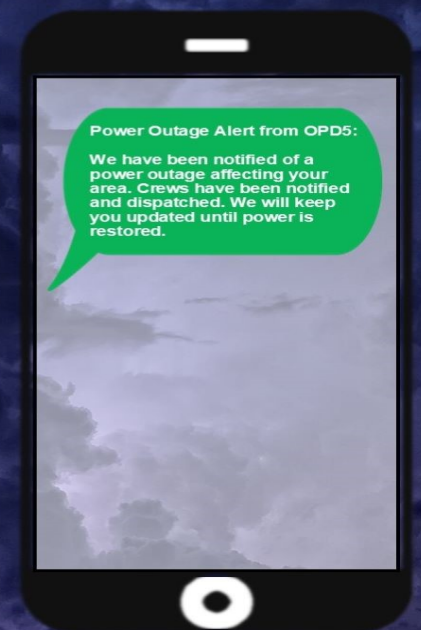
We can't control nature, but we can keep you informed when the lights go out!

Have you signed up to receive Power Outage messages?

Our Mobile Outage Alert System will send you proactive text messages during power outages, letting you know when we expect to restore power.

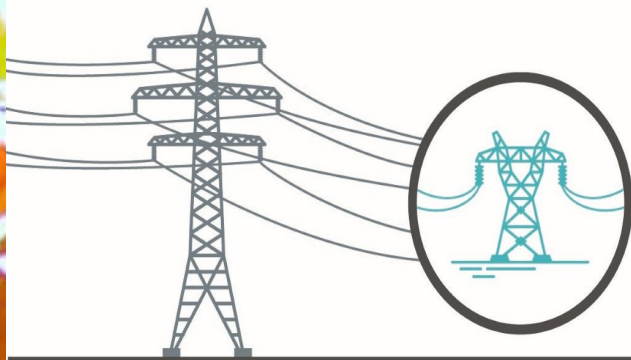
If we have a valid cellphone number on file, you are automatically signed up to receive these text notifications. If you are not sure we have your cellphone number give us a call (702) 346-5710 and (702) 397-2512.

Messages will be sent only when there is a power outage in your area. We understand and respect your sleep, we won't send messages after 9 PM.



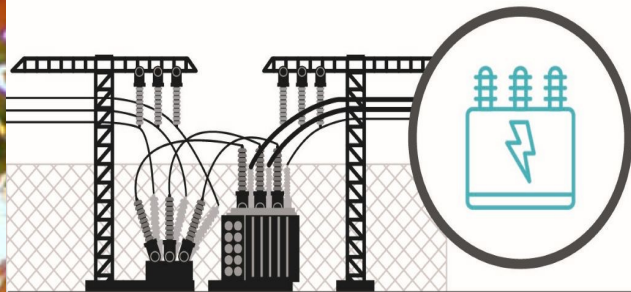
The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible - until everyone has power.



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

**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.

Follow us on:

