



WATTS UP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023

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OFFICE HOURS

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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

February 15, 2023
3:00 pm
Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

March 15, 2023
3:00 pm
Overton Office
Board Room

April 19, 2023
3:00 pm
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.

A message from OPD5 General Manager Mendis Cooper

2022 came and went in the blink of an eye. I hope all of you had a happy, safe, and prosperous 2022.

In last year's newsletter, I provided an overview of the work that OPD5 hoped to accomplish in 2022 and I think it's appropriate to give you an update on our progress.

OPD5 connected 585 new meters in 2022, which created 2.3% load growth. I welcome each new customer to this amazing part of Nevada.

Last year I told you some of our power outages were caused by faulty pad mounted switches. Most of the problems were associated with a single switch manufacturer. I am pleased to say that by the end of 2022, OPD5 crews had replaced all the pad mounted switches produced by this particular manufacturer. This should prevent many neighborhood power outages.

In May, OPD5 successfully negotiated a contract with a new solar power project that will be constructed on the local reservation. The project will provide 25 MW of solar power to OPD5 customers. Over 40% of the OPD5 power portfolio will come from renewable resources when the solar power project comes online in 2025.

Hydropower continues to be affected by persistent drought conditions, but we have only seen slight declines in hydropower deliveries. The drought is a big concern for all of us and I continue to participate in meetings with government officials and on committees with other utility leaders to help mitigate the effects of the current drought on hydropower.

In 2022, OPD5 completed two important projects. First, a new 15-mile transmission line and substation project for the Moapa Band of Paiutes was completed mid-year. Next, the first phase of a transmission substation near Riverside that provides added reliability for Virgin Valley and a back feed that provides added reliability into Moapa Valley were completed in October.

In the fall, OPD5 started a ring bus project that will accommodate a second transmission line into the power system. The ring bus project will be completed near the end of the first quarter in 2023. The long-awaited new transmission line will provide a reliable connection that will prevent outages like the one we had last August. The new line was scheduled to be completed near the end of the first quarter in 2023, but the BLM right-of-way has not been approved yet and the estimated time of completion has once again been delayed until the fourth quarter of 2023.

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Engineering and design on the final 17-mile section of transmission line that will complete our internal transmission buildout began in 2022 and is nearly finished. OPD5 hopes to begin construction on the power line in late 2023 or early 2024. This line section will give OPD5 the ability to remove one line from service for maintenance or repairs without taking an outage, which will increase reliability for all customers.

OPD5 borrowed the money for the aforementioned projects in early 2022 because of an anticipated jump in interest rates. OPD5 was able to obtain the needed funding in time to capture a low interest rate which not only allows us to complete the projects, but the lower interest rate will save all of us from paying millions of dollars in interest over the life of the loans.

In addition to these projects, OPD5 has completed maintenance, upgrades, and many new additions to the distribution system.

OPD5 increased the monthly base charge by about three dollars for all customers in October 2022 to cover increased costs from high inflation. The kWh rate paid for energy was left unchanged and I am pleased to let you know that there are no plans to raise the energy rate in 2023 either. The energy rate has only been changed one time since 2012 and that change led to a decrease in the kWh rate.

In 2023, OPD5 will begin negotiations for our next purchase power agreement. Our current power supply contract expires at the beginning of 2025. My team and I will begin contract negotiations with the goal to find a reliable power supply and the lowest cost for all our customers.

2022 was a very busy year for all of us at OPD5. 2023 will also be a busy and important year for us. I'm grateful for an amazing team that gets things done. OPD5 is committed to working hard to improve reliability, to work safely, to provide great service, and to do a great job for all of you.

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.

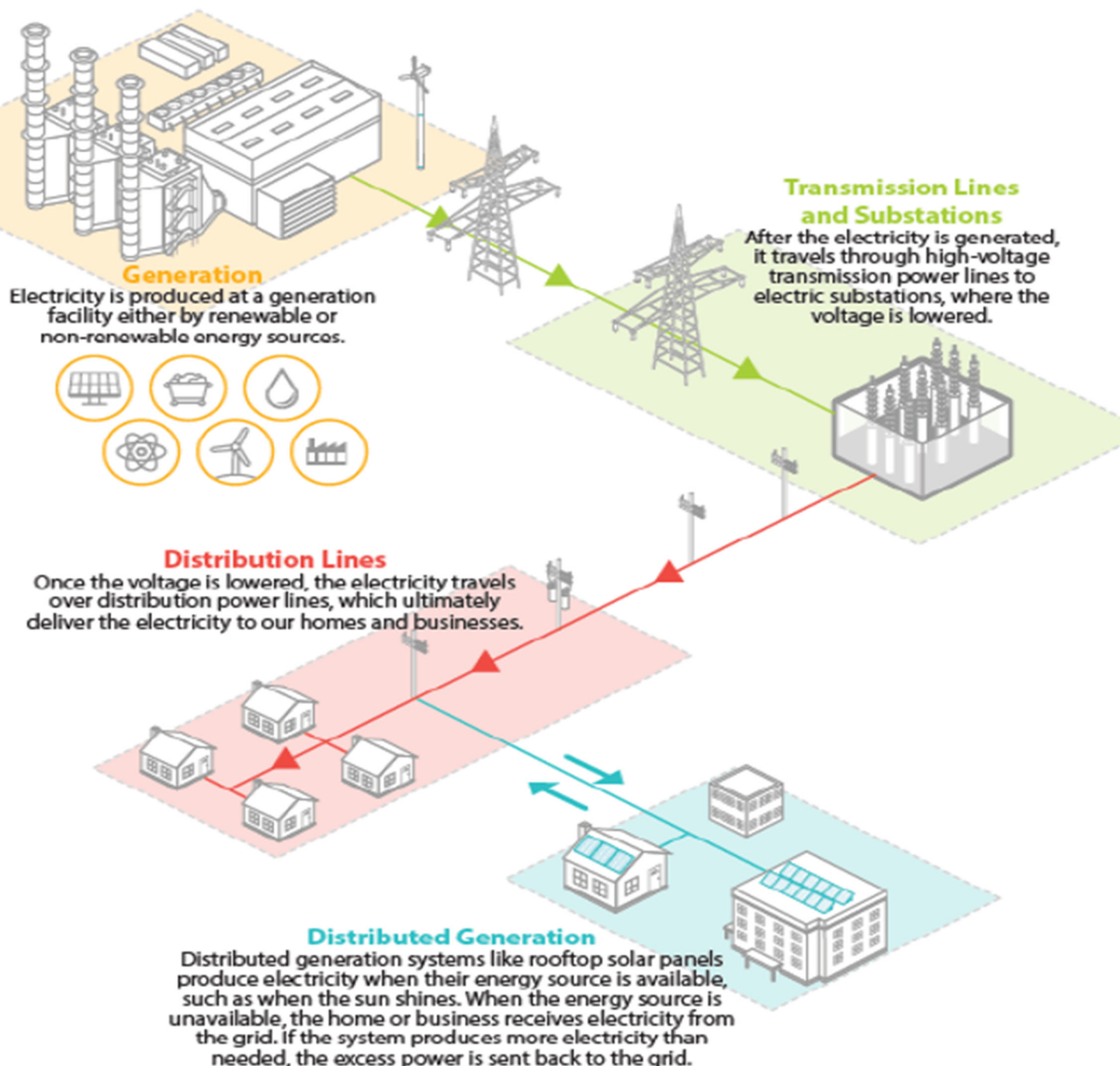
We also post great tips on energy conservation, safety and emergency preparedness on Instagram.

Please remember, in the event of a power outage, **do not** report it via Facebook or Twitter, we do not monitor messages received via social media.

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.

Watt to Know

HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



Watt About Solar?

If you are thinking about installing a solar system on your home, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- There are many different companies that will install your solar panels, however, not everyone is authorized to work in OPD5'S service territory. Before signing agreements with any solar provider, please contact **OPD5 Engineering Dept.** at **(702) 397-2512** to ensure that the installer you choose is permitted to work within this territory.
- Every system that will be tied to the grid has to have signed approval from OPD5 before construction may begin. Please make sure your documents have been signed before allowing any construction to commence.
- Credits that you generate can roll over from month to month, but not year to year. At the end of the billing cycle in December, the credits will be zeroed out and you will start the new year with no credits. There are no reimbursements for unused credits.
- The credits you generate from solar will only be applied towards your actual power usage. They cannot be applied to non-usage charges. Examples of these type of charges include: the monthly base charge, late fees, returned checks fees, fees for insufficient funds, etc. This means that even with a balance of credits on your account, there will still be a base charge on your bill each month.
- You will generate credits the most in the spring and fall seasons where daylight hours are high and power usage levels are low. In the summer and winter seasons power consumption is greater and typically the amount of power used exceeds the amount of power generated. This is where the accumulated credits will be applied. The goal is that over the course of 12 months the credits generated from solar, and the power used from the grid would be equal.
- Panels mounted on homes where most of the roof is facing east/west will be less efficient than homes with a large south facing roof. This means it will require more panels to compensate for the loss of efficiency. More panels will increase the overall cost of the system. The higher the cost the system is, the more difficult it will be to pay off and start saving you money.
- When there is a power outage in your area, your solar automatically shuts down and you will also be out of power. The exception to this is if you install a battery power backup on your system. The National Electric Code requires the system to shut down to prevent any back feeding of electricity. The purpose of this is to protect line workers or electricians who may be trying to make repairs to the grid.
- There is a one-time fee to change your regular meter to a net meter. A net meter is a bi-directional meter that is capable of recording power going to and coming from the home. Currently, this fee is \$620.

We hope this helps you have all the necessary information you need as you decide if solar is right for you. For more information on solar you can go to our website opd5.com and click on renewable energy. Once there you will find the necessary approval forms, including the interconnection agreement. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Our staff is ready to help!

Information Provided By: Scott Robison, OPD5 Field Engineer