

Polar vortex impacts

OPPD thanks customers for their efforts to conserve energy, and for their patience and understanding during curtailments.

When the polar vortex put much of the nation in the deep freeze in mid-February, it increased the demand for energy and limited the amount of available natural gas and wind generation in many areas.

This included parts of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), of which OPPD is a member and which serves all or part of 14 states, from North Dakota to the Texas panhandle.

What is the Southwest Power Pool?

SPP is a regional transmission organization, a nonprofit entity that works to balance the bulk electricity supply and demand on the regional grid, ensures there is adequate transmission infrastructure, and provides access to competitive wholesale electricity prices on behalf of its member utilities.

SPP is one of several regional transmission organizations (RTOs) in the U.S. Most electric utilities are affiliated with either RTOs or independent system operators (ISOs), which have similar functions.

What happened during the polar vortex?

Due to the polar vortex event, on Feb. 12, OPPD started contacting large commercial and industrial customers, asking if they could reduce their electrical load to help ease the situation.

On Feb. 14, SPP asked all its member utilities to conserve energy and also to appeal to the public to do the same.

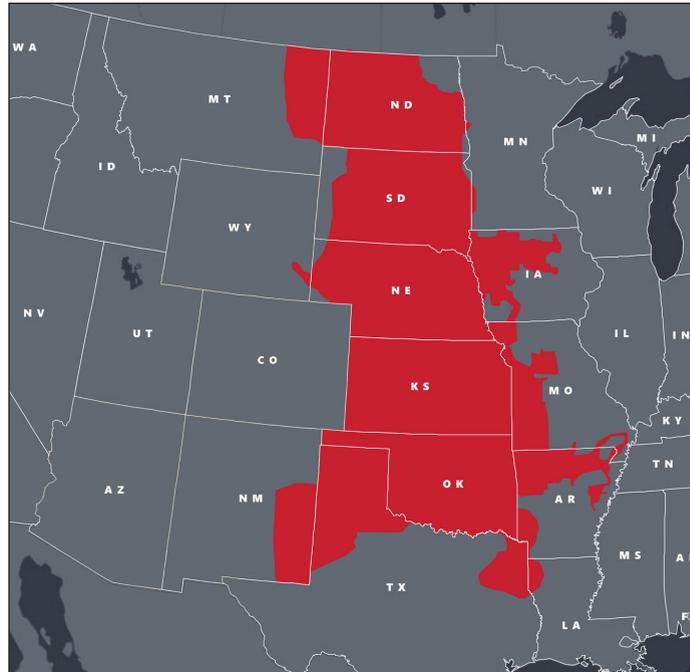
OPPD started reaching out to all customers that day, including emails to larger customers, a media outreach campaign and social media appeals, urging everyone to conserve energy.

OPPD took steps to conserve at its facilities, and thanks its customers for heeding the call to do so, including many commercial and industrial customers who curtailed their electricity usage.

Energy Emergency Alert

While all customer and utility conservation efforts across SPP's footprint helped, early on Feb. 15, SPP declared an Energy Emergency Alert Level 3 and – for the first time ever – directed member utilities to shed load.

The last step in load-balancing efforts, this means utilities had a regulatory obligation to implement controlled, temporary interruptions of service.



The Southwest Power Pool's footprint stretches from North Dakota to the Texas panhandle.

When contacted by SPP, OPPD transmission operators were required to act within seconds. As part of its emergency preparedness efforts, OPPD has a load-shedding plan that is reviewed and updated annually, but the district has never before had to implement it.

Over two days, on Feb. 15 and 16, OPPD interrupted service to a total of 81,000 customers for between one to two hours.

We are sorry we could not give customers advance notice in all cases. Unfortunately, due to the fluid situation, SPP could not let utilities know in advance how much energy would be needed or exactly when.

Once OPPD started the load-shedding process and we knew how much we needed to curtail, we were better able to forewarn customers.

Community outreach

When OPPD asked customers to conserve energy, we provided tips for how to do so through the media and social media, as well as on our websites, oppd.com and oppdthewire.com.

When we had to move to load-shedding, we offered tips on dealing with power outages through those same channels, and regular updates on the controlled outages on stormandoutage.com.

We also posted frequently asked questions on oppd.com, and much more information about load-shedding and SPP on oppd.com and oppdthewire.com.

(Continued on back)

APRIL BOARD MEETINGS

Committee: Tuesday, April 13 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for time and how meeting will be conducted). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, April 15, 4 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for how meeting will be conducted). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.

Your Energy Partner[®]
OPPD
Omaha Public Power District

Benefits of SPP membership

(Continued from front)

Just like the region-wide effort to conserve energy, the cumulative effect of the region-wide curtailment helped balance grid demand to the supply available. This helped prevent widespread outages that could have lasted much longer.

In situations like this, all SPP member utilities are doing their part. As a power pool, SPP is designed for members to support one another.

If we have severe problems with our generation, as we did with the flooding in 2011 and 2019, we can lean on others in the SPP pool to keep us going and help provide power for our customers.

In 2019, OPPD had to keep Nebraska City Station offline for a sustained period because we could not operate the plant safely due to the high river levels and associated risk to employees. Thanks to SPP membership, low-cost, reliable power was instantly available to eastern Nebraska.

SPP provides access to competitive wholesale electricity prices through an integrated marketplace, which enables OPPD and other member utilities to provide a greater number of customers with lower cost energy.

We estimate being a member saves OPPD and its customer-owners at least \$20 million annually – compared to if we operated independently and were our own load-balancing authority.

In addition, SPP membership has enabled OPPD to add greater amounts of renewable energy to its generating portfolio. This would not be operationally possible without access to robust transmission and generation resources to handle the variables of such power sources.

Public input sought on transmission project

Through its Power with Purpose (PwP) project, OPPD plans to add 400 to 600 megawatts of utility-scale solar and up to 600 MW of modern natural gas backup to its generation portfolio.

Two natural gas peaking plants are to be built. One will be located near 120th Street and Military Road in Omaha, and the second near 168th Street and Fairview Road, west of the Sarpy County landfill in Papillion.

Sarpy Southwest Transmission Project

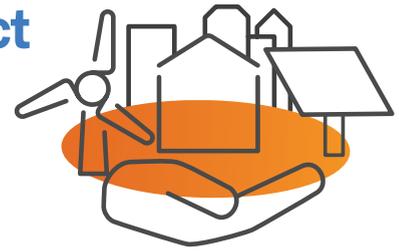
To connect the Turtle Creek natural gas facility in Papillion to the OPPD power grid, the district has started the process of planning routes for three separate transmission lines from this facility to help maintain system resiliency and reliability.

During phase 1 of the line-routing process, OPPD has been evaluating environmental, engineering and social factors, including seeking input from community leaders and stakeholders on potential line routes.

Online public meeting on March 30

OPPD will share its findings during an online public meeting on Tuesday evening, March 30, at 6 p.m. We will post a Webex link to the meeting on on the Sarpy Southwest Transmission Project page on OPPDCommunityConnect.com.

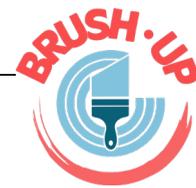
OPPD encourages customer feedback. OPPDCommunityConnect.com, our community engagement platform, is the perfect place to read about projects like Power with Purpose,



Power with Purpose

offer comments, ask questions and learn about upcoming public meetings.

You can visit the site by scanning the QR code at right with your smartphone.



Free house-painting

Get your house painted for FREE on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021! Brush Up matches volunteer teams with low-income senior homeowners who are in need of a fresh coat of exterior paint! If you live in Douglas or Sarpy County, are 60 or over, and are in need of this service, OR if you are interested in sponsoring a volunteer team, please call Project Houseworks at 402-965-9201. Learn more about Project Houseworks at projecthouseworks.org

7" x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2021 Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email lkinghoman@oppd.com.

Improve your air - Improve your life



AN AVERAGE HOME CREATES 40 LBS. OF DUST EACH YEAR. MOST FURNACE FILTERS PROVIDE ONLY A 30% CAPTURE RATE. ALL THAT DUST, ALL THOSE ALLERGENS ARE IN THE AIR YOU BREATHE.



AEROSEAL
Duct Sealing From The Inside!



CALL FOR DETAILS!

\$200 Off
TOTAL Home Package

Whole House Air Duct & Dryer Vent Cleaning, Case of Filters

Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 12/31

\$300 Off
ULTIMATE Home Package

Air Duct Sealing with **AEROSEAL** Whole House Air Duct & Dryer Vent Cleaning, Case of Filters

Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 12/31

402.512.0664 www.DuctMedic.com

Proceeds from the sale of advertising space in *Outlets* are donated to OPPD's Energy Assistance Program. An advertisement in *Outlets* does not constitute an endorsement by OPPD. For information about this space, call 531-226-3756.