Hello, customers and teammates!  
  
I’m NPPD Vice President of Energy Production Mick Spencer with this month’s summary of our March Board of Directors Meeting.  
  
Notably absent from the meeting was Director Charlie Kennedy, whose resignation from the Board was effective Feb. 28 due to health reasons. We wish him the best and thank him for his service to NPPD, our customers and his constituents in Subdivision 5. Under Nebraska statutes, the governor is responsible to fill this vacancy and has commenced the process with a press release soliciting interest in the position.

As is done every month, President and CEO Tom Kent also acknowledged teammates with impending retirements and wished them well. It is always heartwarming to have these retirees directly address the Board regarding their often-lengthy careers at NPPD. Through their career experiences, repeated themes emerge as they speak about projects they have proudly accomplished during their tenure, as well as teammates who have greatly influenced their lives.   
  
As Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Innovation Tim Arlt said in his own remarks last week, NPPD has transformed in his 40-year career, growing in strength, depth and complexity. As it’s grown, experienced teammates have come and gone. We’ve witnessed organizational and industry changes, yet one remaining constant is our ability to bring highly skilled individuals into the fold who are eager to learn and help us adapt to the future. They do this while maintaining a culture that values relationship building, not only among ourselves, but among our customers. The NPPD family is alive and well. Though it evolves as our people do, it is a pleasure to hear how the individual stories of our retirees weave into the bigger NPPD narrative and the employee and customer-focused culture we continue establishing here.   
  
A story still being written is that of our future generation mix. The public will have a chance to share comments regarding this mix and NPPD’s draft Integrated Resource Plan at several outreach meetings to take place across the state at the month’s end, beginning March 21 and culminating March 29. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend either an in-person event or the hybrid/virtual event taking place March 29. Customers will also have another opportunity next Thursday at our Customer Meeting in York. Please visit nppd.com/irp for all the details, and to submit your own comments if you’d like.   
  
As for NPPD’s current financial performance, the District closed the month of February with a deficit of $3.4 million due to unfavorable variances in sales and purchases within the Southwest Power Pool’s Integrated Market. These variances were partially offset by favorable fuel variances for Sheldon Station and Gerald Gentleman Station due to lower-than-budgeted generation. Because we had a surplus of $6.8 million for the month of January, we maintained a year-to-date February surplus of $3.4 million. The forecast for 2023 is just slightly higher than the year-to-date February surplus at $3.5 million.   
  
To date, NPPD has documented one OSHA recordable DART injury and four preventable vehicle accidents. Our safety goal for all teammates is zero incidents, not only because we aspire toward excellence in this number one NPPD value, but because we believe everyone should return home from work uninjured. We often speak to our organization’s belief in improving the quality of life for Nebraskans, but we cannot overlook the fact that our teammates are included in that demographic, and quality of life is based in large part on health and safety. Our last few safety incidents have proven the necessity to pay careful regard to your surrounding environment, the tools you use and the process with which you complete tasks. Please ensure you are performing a pre-job brief and identifying any potential hazards or possible complications that may arise during any type of work, large or small. These habits can make all the difference in keeping you and your colleagues safe.   
  
In closing, several items were approved at last week’s Board meeting, some of which include a contract for transmission line conductor for the Scottsbluff and Kearney transmission line projects; a contract for installing fiber connecting Gerald Gentleman Station to Ogallala and North Platte; an agreement for integration services related to implementing SAP Payroll, Time, Attendance and Leave Management; an agreement for SAP Analytics Cloud Financial Long Range Planning; and a capital project for a 34.5 kilovolt substation for the interconnection of mobile generators at Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility. As you can see, it will indeed be another busy and productive year for the NPPD team.  
  
That’s it for this month. Until next time, take care of each other, stay healthy, and stay safe.  
  
Mick