

Hello, customers and teammates!

This month, our board meeting was split into two shorter days to allow NPPD to successfully host its annual Nebraska Open golf tournament and fundraiser. In the 33 years we've organized this event, more than \$2 million has been donated in scholarship money to students attending one of five community colleges within our service territory. More than \$70,000 will be given to students from this year alone. We are thankful to our 42 sponsors and all our teammates who support this effort. Public power has always been first and foremost about the people we serve, and this event is a perfect example of how we are impacting Nebraskans in positive and powerful ways.

We were pleased to welcome Kirk Olson, our newest Board member, to his first meeting this month. Kirk resides in North Platte and serves subdivision 4. His substantial agricultural background makes him an asset to our board as we continue to pursue ag-related projects to better serve this keystone industry in Nebraska.

Now, onto the top three takeaways from this month's meeting.

First, the board was given an update on our Strategic Directive BP-SD-08 pertaining to Economic Development. NPPD has helped power Nebraska's economy for decades, and as such, we've witnessed rapid changes in this industry based on the varying needs and priorities of our customer communities. The toolbox of products and services we offer continues to evolve as they do. Strategic planning, data collection, educational opportunities and site development are just a few ways we support communities alongside new regional and state initiatives geared toward transformative change through a program known as "Six Regions, One Nebraska."

Of course, it's not new to you that we've seen substantial business growth due largely to Nebraska's low electric rates. In fact, during the 2023 calendar year, NPPD assisted with 181 projects requesting electrical service. Forty-seven expected load projects are driving continued innovation and job creation in-state in areas of hydrogen, ag processing and food processing, with the potential of 1,300 new jobs and investments totaling \$3.6 billion.

NPPD is responding to an increasing need for electricity by investing in new generation projects. In this second takeaway, the board approved several documents that will put into place a new Side-by-Side program. This program supports our strategic directives and provides significant flexibility and affordability for financing these upcoming generation projects. It is a three-year, short-term variable rate program totaling \$500 million. As its name suggests, there are two sides NPPD can select from to finance new generation. Side one is a commercial paper program allocated initially for \$400 million, while side two is a revolving credit agreement allocated initially for \$100 million. Additional flexibility of the program comes from our ability to issue on either a taxable or tax-exempt basis.

NPPD will continue to finalize and execute all documents, and the Side-by-Side program is expected to close in late October.

Finally, the board approved funding for NPPD's 2025 self-funded health insurance plans. While health insurance costs are going up 13.4% in 2025, the board voted to keep employee rates stable, meaning there will be NO INCREASE to employee premiums for NPPD's employee hospital medical plans next year. Keeping employee premiums stable helps meet the board-approved goal that states NPPD will take on 90% of total plan funding by 2026. In 2025, the employer and employee cost shares will be 89% and 11% respectively. Since implementing this goal in 2021, teammates have AVOIDED paying additional premium increases of \$40 per month on a single plan and \$100 per month on a family plan. As far as NPPD's Dental Plan, teammates will see a cost increase of 6.5% next year; however, overall premiums in this plan remain cost competitive. Finally, teammates in our Low premium High Deductible Health Plan will experience a slight increase in their deductibles, with the employee plan increasing by \$50 and the family plan increasing by \$100. The change in deductibles is required to meet mandated 2025 minimum IRS deductible limits.

Next month is both Public Power Month and Cyber Security Awareness Month. Though we won't have a Board meeting, the board will meet in Kearney for its strategic retreat. We will continue to highlight and certainly celebrate the incredible work done by our teammates, who continuously deliver reliable, affordable and sustainable power to our customers 24-7.

Until next time, stay healthy, and stay safe.

Robyn