

Hello, customers and teammates!

Because we have much to accomplish this year, and the spirit of public power reflects a sense of community, my official word of the year is “collaboration.”

It takes the whole of NPPD and our customers, for example, to ensure the value of public power is preserved and enhanced each year during Nebraska’s legislative season. The Nebraska Legislature convened the first session of its 109th Legislature on Jan. 8, which will last 90 working days and adjourn in early June.

This year, a third of the body is new, and NPPD will work closely with the 17 new senators to share the benefits and uniqueness of public power. The Natural Resources Committee is of most interest to NPPD due to their work on electricity and environmental issues. Interestingly, retired teammate Stan Clouse and former board director Barry DeKay are new to the committee, joining Columbus senator Mike Moser. These folks know our industry, and their institutional knowledge will be essential as the committee explores bills relating to our industry.

Whether keeping our current generation plants well-maintained or exploring new generation additions, NPPD’s teammates are constantly working together to provide reliable and cost-effective energy for our customers. That’s why our board approved a capital project to replace Unit 1’s reheat outlet bank at Gerald Gentleman Station, while also authorizing management to negotiate a related contract for materials and labor. For our new generation, the board authorized management to enter into a contract for the purchase of the reciprocating internal combustion engines NPPD has planned for the new Princeton Road Station, as well as the related long-term service agreement and the purchase of necessary spare parts.

Finally, the board reviewed their annual working plan for the year, which lays out monthly discussion items and educational opportunities for directors. Our board is critical piece of the NPPD team, and several new directors have joined the board over the past few years. NPPD will review all our strategic directives throughout the year to ensure we stay true to our big-picture goals. The state of our industry is constantly evolving, and it’s critical to stay up-to-date on the latest developments. This year, the board is focusing education sessions on our demand response programs, artificial intelligence, small modular reactors, the Southwest Power Pool, and other key industry trends.

By regularly employing best business practices, practicing a growth mindset, and communicating clearly and openly, we can make certain all of us are collaborating in pursuit of the many exciting opportunities available to us this year.

Together, we can accomplish all we set out to do, while strengthening public power’s positive impact throughout the state.

Until next time, stay healthy, and stay safe.

Tom