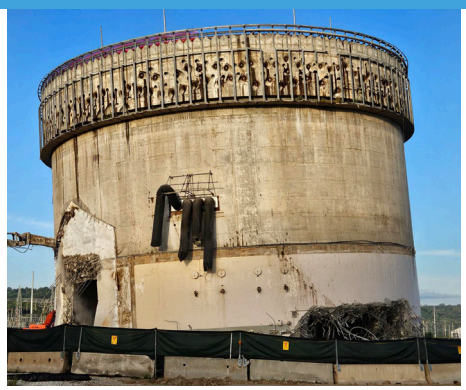
OUTLETS

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

OPPD
Omaha Public Power District

MARCH 2026 | Customer Service: 1-877-536-4131 – OPPD.COM

ANOTHER BIG MILESTONE AT FORT CALHOUN STATION



OPPD crews are nearing the final stretch of their work to safely decommission the utility's Fort Calhoun Station (FCS) power plant, and recently they hit another big milestone.

Crews demolished the plant's containment housing, the last major structure they needed to remove.

By the end of the year, OPPD expects to have the site restored to a field very similar to how it looked before FCS was built.

FCS came online in 1973 but ceased operations in 2016 due to economic necessity and significant shifts in the energy industry.

Demolition on the containment structure started Aug. 25. An excavator boom with a hydraulic hammer chipped away at the bottom of the structure to gently lower it over the course of several weeks.

OPPD expects to send the last rail shipment in the first quarter of 2026. After crews dismantle the waste processing building, the site will reach greenfield status, which means virtually no trace of the plant will remain. The site will become cropland just as it was before the site was built.

The decision to shutter FCS was based on the financial interests of OPPD and its customers. The station's single pressurized water reactor generated 484 megawatts of electricity, the smallest rated capacity among all operating commercial power plants in North America.

OPPD SEEKING INPUT FOR INTEGRATED SYSTEM PLAN

OPPD is creating a new Integrated System Plan that will guide our efforts to deliver reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity to all of our customers, and we want your input.

We're hosting the first of several public workshops online on March 24 at 5 p.m. You can find a WebEx Events registration link at OPPDCommunityConnect.com. There, you'll see a webpage labeled "Integrated System Plan (ISP)" with even more information.

OPPD creates these sorts of plans every five years to evaluate all the practical resources – including supply-side and demand-side management options – to meet energy demands reliably and at the lowest possible cost, all while minimizing adverse environmental effects. The planning process will differ slightly this time because OPPD will take a broader look at overall system needs, rather than just resource needs.

The Integrated System Plan will help OPPD identify potential system investments needed to meet growing demand, based on current and forecasted conditions.

IN 2026, OUTLETS WILL PUBLISH ONCE EVERY OTHER MONTH.

The publication months are January, March, May, July, September and November.

APRIL BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting:
Tuesday, April 14

Regular board meeting:
Thursday, April 16, 5 p.m.

(See oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details.)

MAY BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting:
Tuesday, May 19

Regular board meeting:
Thursday, April 21, 5 p.m.

(See oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details.)

Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3515, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

– RJ-39726

NEW FILTRATION SYSTEM HELPS PROTECT MISSOURI RIVER FISH

OPPD is adding a new, high-tech tool to help protect fish that swim too close to its Nebraska City Station generating plant.

Unit 1 at the plant draws water from the Missouri River to help cool the super-heated steam that passes through turbines to generate power for eastern Nebraska. The cooling water then circulates back into the river and continues its journey downstream.

The plant already has filters to keep out most fish, but some are too small or weak to escape the intake current. To better protect those fish and comply with the Federal Clean Water Act, OPPD needed an upgraded filtration system with fish protection technology.

Once fully installed, the new "Passavant-Geiger MultiDisc with Fish Return Systems" machinery will capture those fish and return them safely to the river.

The new system operates as a sort of oval-shaped Ferris wheel. A roller chain on sprockets pulls a rotating line of buckets through the water, similar to a bike chain turning a gear.

The buckets, with a mesh-screen backing, scoop up fish as they enter the water-intake area, then carry them upward.

As the fish reach the top of the system, the buckets tilt inward. Each fish slips out of the bucket and into a water slide that whisks them back out to the river and clear of the plant.

An OPPD team of contractors and engineers is working to install the new fish-friendly system and ensure that every piece integrates smoothly with NCS's existing infrastructure. The work is tentatively set for completion by this summer.

HOW DOES LOWERING YOUR THERMOSTAT SETTING CONSERVE ELECTRICITY?

It's a common and understandable energy question: If you use a natural gas furnace to heat your home, how does lowering your thermostat settings save electricity?

While it's true that natural gas serves as the heat source, gas furnaces use electricity to power a blower that circulates warm air through your home.

On average, those blowers use 400 watts of energy while in operation. However, a high-efficiency, variable speed blower can often use as little as 75 watts.

When the weather turns bitterly cold, furnace blowers will cycle on more often and run for longer stretches. So, when you lower thermostat by a few degrees, the blower doesn't have to work as hard and your electrical consumption drops.

On a larger scale, this can make a big difference. When OPPD asked its customer-owners to conserve electricity during a 2024 winter storm, Nebraskans stepped up and helped reduce demand during that time.

When large numbers of customers heed such calls to conserve, their collective effort decreases the pressure on the system during peak usage periods, which typically occur during extreme weather. This type of response supports OPPD's never-ending effort to ensure reliable electrical service.