

Customer Connection



Energy news for our customers

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Celebrating 50 years of Big Stone Plant

On May 1, 1975, we energized Big Stone Plant, our 475-megawatt sub-bituminous coal-fired plant. On May 1, 2025, we proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary!

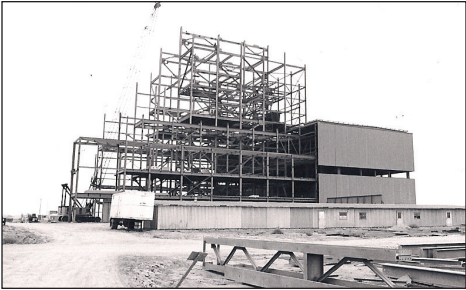
Located near Big Stone City, South Dakota, we jointly own the plant with Northwestern Energy and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Approximately 80 of our employees operate the plant. It's an important part of our energy generation mix to ensure we can provide you with reliable, low-cost electricity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Big Stone Plant has successfully navigated both planned and unplanned outages, installed a state-of-the-art air-quality control system, and achieved numerous safety awards and recognitions. The plant also plays a vital role in our communities by raising funds for local charities through events like the annual Golf and Give and by partnering with the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department.

Fifty years of safe and efficient operation is a significant milestone. We're proud of the plant's contributions to providing power you can count on.



The plant's construction officially kicked off in May 1972 with a dynamite blast from plant owner presidents Al Hartl, Otter Tail Power; A. D. Schmidt, Northwestern Public Service; and David Heskett, Montana-Dakota Utilities. Construction brought more than 600 workers over the three-year period, creating substantial economic benefits to the local area.



Enjoy year-round comfort and savings

As summer heats up, now's the perfect time to consider installing a cold-climate heat pump. Heat pumps move heat, rather than create heat, so they take less energy and provide higher efficiency. Not only do they provide efficient cooling during the searing summer heat, they're also well-equipped to manage the bite of winter when the seasons change.

Cold-climate heat pumps are:

- **Safe and clean.** They capture free heat instead of burning fuel, making them clean and safe heating and cooling systems.
- **Economical.** They provide more than four times the heat per unit of energy used when temperatures are above 47°F and more than twice the heat at 0°F or lower, reducing your annual heating and cooling costs.
- **Efficient.** They provide up to 90% of space heating needs with an overall seasonal efficiency of 250%.

Reduce your monthly energy bill and learn more about heat pumps, your options, and rebates by visiting otpc.com/HeatPumps.



Weather summer storms safely

Storms can strike at a moments notice. Prepare for severe weather by knowing what to do when a storm hits.



Take shelter in a sturdy building if you're outdoors.



Unplug sensitive electronics to protect from power surges.



Stay away from doors and windows.



Don't use the shower or bathtub.



Use wireless phones only.



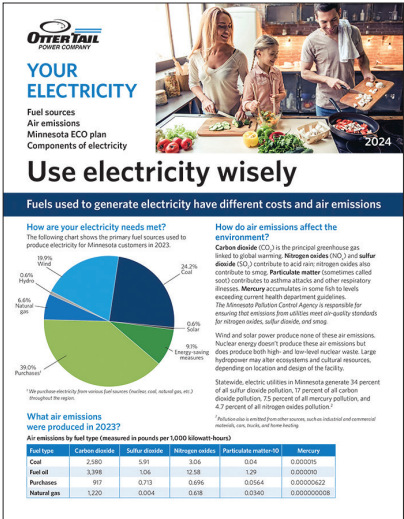
Make sure your backup generator is properly wired to prevent backfeed.



Stay away and call 911 if you see a fallen or low-hanging power line.

Find more weather safety information at otpc.com/SevereWeatherSafety.

Learn about your electricity



Visit otpc.com/YourElectricity for information about how we calculate rates, where electricity comes from, and ways you can reduce your electricity use!

Customers' cookery



Brian's homemade summer sausage

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds hamburger
- 1 tablespoon liquid smoke
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons mustard seed
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ¾ teaspoon onion powder
- 2 ½-3 teaspoons Tender Quick™ dissolved in 1 cup hot water

Directions: Pour Tender Quick™ over hamburger and combine well. Mix in seasonings and liquid smoke. Take meat mixture and form rolls using aluminum foil. Let rolls cure in the fridge for 24 hours. After they've cured, poke holes in the bottom of the foil and lay on a broiler pan. Bake for an hour and a half at 325°. Slice and serve hot or cold.

Submitted by Brian Voeltz, Detroit Lakes, MN

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Send your favorite recipe to communications@otpc.com or to the above address.

If we use your recipe, we'll send you a gift to thank you.

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