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Board Report - March/April

OMPA MEMBER CITIES

Altus, Blackwell, Comanche, Copan, Cordell, Duncan, Edmond, Eldorado, Fairview, Fort Supply, Frederick, Geary, Goltry, Granite, Hominy, Kingfisher, Laverne, Lexington, Mangum, Manitou, Marlow, Mooreland, Newkirk, Okeene, Olustee, Orlando, Pawhuska, Perry, Ponca City, Pond Creek, Prague, Purcell, Ryan, Spiro, Tecumseh, Tonkawa, Walters, Watonga, Waynoka, Wetumka, Wynnewood, Yale. Also serving Clarksville, Arkansas, Paris, Arkansas, and Electra, Texas.

A member of the American Public Power Association, Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma and Southwestern Power Resources Association.

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OMPA is a wholesale power company owned by 42 municipal electric utilities. OMPA provides economies of scale in power generation and related services to support community-owned electric utilities. The members of OMPA serve approximately 250,000 Oklahomans. This publication is issued by OMPA as authorized by the OMPA General Manager. 425 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$700. [74 O.S. § 3105(B)]

MESO Conference
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outlet

news from your Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority

Solar In The Southwest



Construction crews work on the new substation that will connect with the North Fork Solar Farm in Kiowa County in southwest Oklahoma. All of the energy produced by the 120-megawatt facility will go to the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's resource mix, marking the first time that solar will be part of the Authority's resources. The project is expected to go online this summer and plans are in the works for a dedication event.

Members updated, Board seats selected at recent Annual Meeting

Colin Hansen, CEO and General Manager of the Kansas Power Pool (KPP Energy), presented a look at generation planning in his state at the OMPA Annual Meeting in Edmond in March.

Hansen was among three main speakers at the meeting, which also featured the annual election of one-third of the Board of Directors and annual awards handed out to members by OMPA staff.

Colin Hansen, KPP Energy

KPP Energy was formed in 2005, serving 24 member cities with a combined peak demand of 220 mw in 2023. More than

half of the pool's generation comes from members and they are constantly looking to add new generation from a variety of resources.

"One of the main issues for us is the exact same challenge for you and elsewhere. And that is resource adequacy and how we're going to face the need for new generation in the coming years," Hansen said.

KPP Energy is currently working through the permitting process to get the Walnut Energy Center online. Hansen said the 54 megawatt plant – which can burn

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Colin Hansen with KPP Energy.



Marshall Vogts with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 1

diesel, biodiesel and even hydrogen – is the only thermal resource in Kansas currently in the generation interconnection queue. Planning for the plant began in 2019 with a price tag of \$80 million and that has swelled to \$120 million in the meantime, he said.

“We think at this point, we may be lucky to get it online in 2027, possibly 2028. That’s eight years from when we needed it. So, I guess if there’s a moral to the story it’s, if you need generation, get started tomorrow or as early as possible.”

KPP Energy also received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to submit an application for a Powering Affordable Clean Energy (P.A.C.E.) grant. The application will center on a \$100 million joint project for solar power with a battery back-up. Nine locations inside the KPP Energy

membership are being reviewed as potential sites for the generation.

Dave Osburn, OMPA

OMPA General Manager Dave Osburn provided attendees with a review of the past year, highlighting the success and challenges of the Authority.

OMPA’s financial performance in 2023 was strong, coming in favorable by \$5.8 million. Energy prices also experienced an unusual low for the year, driven by cheap natural gas costs. The Board of Directors used that favorable position to help get the Authority through approximately \$3.53 million in unexpected costs stemming from winter storm Gerri during a three-day weekend in January.

“I really want to compliment our Board, because they do look at the future a lot and they wanted to make

sure they were using that money wisely,” Osburn said.

The general manager also spoke about recent plant retirements within the resource mix and some of the decommissioning costs associated with those. He also updated the membership on activities at the North Fork Solar farm, a 120-megawatt facility in southwest Oklahoma that is expected to come online this year. And the Kaw Hydrofacility in Ponca City is currently undergoing a rehabilitation project estimated to cost about \$13 million.

All of those changes are happening at a time when the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is finalizing an increase in required Planning Reserve Margins, from 12 percent to 15.

“There’s a real push to increase the

Continued on next page

availability of generation, so we can keep the lights on,” Osburn said. “The real problem now in SPP is they’re concerned about the winters, as there’s not enough generation for the winter. It’s fortunate for OMPA that we are a summer peaker with a lot of winter capacity.”

Osburn also took time to highlight the work done by the OMPA Field Services Department for the Light Up the Navajo Nation effort during the summer of 2023. The program allows lineworkers from around the country to donate their effort to bringing the Navajo Nation electricity.

“It’s really an amazing program. Our crew went out and did a lot of work, and it’s very rewarding work,” Osburn said. “When you turn on power for a family that’s never had power, it’s very rewarding.”

Marshall Vogts, Oklahoma Department of Commerce

Vogts, the Director of Community

Development at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, spoke to attendees about the role of his department and introduced them to grant opportunities that may apply to their communities.

Among the opportunities includes the Weatherization Assistance Program, the Home Energy Rebate Program due for 2025, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECGB) and Grid Resiliency Grants.

The Grid Resiliency Grants are expected to open through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce in either the spring or early summer of 2024. Eligible projects include those for utility pole management, the relocation or reconductoring of power lines, the hardening of power lines and facilities, the replacement of overhead conductors and underground cables and training, among others.

There is also a carve-out for small utilities, defined as those with 20,000 or fewer customers.

Board Members Re-elected By Electors

Board of Directors seats approved by the electors at the Annual Meeting included Karrie Beth Little with the City of Watonga, Glenn Fisher with the City of Edmond and Homer Nicholson with the City of Ponca City. Electors also confirmed the appointments of Kenzie Wheeler with the City of Duncan and Richard Raupe with the Town of Okeene, each of whom were chosen to replace Board members who vacated during their terms.

Nicholson is the Board chair and has been serving on the Board since 2008. His term as Chair began in 2020. Fisher has been on the Board since 2020 and Little since 2023.

Our Local Power Champion



Each year at the OMPA Annual Meeting, one member is selected as the Our Local Power Champion. This honor goes to the member that goes above and beyond to showcase the benefits a Public Power utility brings to the community it serves. The Town of Goltry was selected as the 2023 honoree at the meeting in March. Accepting on behalf of Goltry was its mayor, Brian Severin.

Congrats to well-deserved award recipients

This edition of the Outlet has several interesting articles. I want to congratulate Chuck Ralls on his recent announcement. The sad news is that we will be losing him as a member of the OMPA board. Chuck has been a valuable member of the board for several years and we will miss his guidance.

I would like to also add my congratulations to the award recipients at this year's Public Power Conference

put on by MESO. Especially Palma Lough, who was awarded the Pruett-Lamb Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years serving public power in Oklahoma. Well deserved, Palma.

We had a good two months in March and April with productive Annual Meetings and Board Retreat. We will report more in the next edition on the key items coming out of the planning retreat. I was very pleased with the good discussion and debates

General Manager's Report

David W. Osburn



we had with the board on the future of OMPA.

Have a good summer and be safe.

Board Reports



Highlights From March 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

- Approved CUP Amendment of recertification award to Prague Public Works Authority for four awards valued at 3.5 points
- Approved CUP recertification award to Tonkawa Municipal Authority for an additional award valued at 1 point
- Approved resolution to extend the CUP Certification of those members whose certifications expire on or prior to August 31, 2024
- Approved Amendment No. 2 to the Power Sales Contract with Blackwell Municipal Authority
- Approved award for the Kaw 480VAC Switchgear project to Siemens in the amount of \$225,285

Highlights From April 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

- Approved CUP Interim Review award to Perry Municipal Authority for four awards valued at 3.5 points
- Approved naming John Vasant as Assistant Treasurer
- Approved loan of \$95,944 to the City of Pawhuska to purchase the catalysts needed to upgrade the city's generation facility
- Approved a contract with Coates Field Services for services to assist in the acquisition of easements for the Waynoka Highway 281 relocation project in the amount of \$106,976

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m. on May 9 at OMPA offices in Edmond.

City Update

City manager resigns to join Collinsville

Comanche city manager Chuck Ralls tendered his resignation at the Comanche City Council meeting effective May 9. He has accepted the same position at Collinsville.

The news came as a shock to most council members and staff. Ralls was hired as the city manager in March 2016, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Ralls released the following statement after an executive session where he informed the council:

"Dear Mayor and City Council:

It is with heavy heart that I tender my resignation from my position as City Manager of Comanche. Serving this community has been an honor and a privilege, and it is not without considerable contemplation that I make this decision.

"I want to express my deepest appreciation for the opportunity to serve the City of Comanche. Together, we have embarked on a journey to breathe new life into this community, and I am immensely



proud of the accomplishments we have achieved during my tenure. Working alongside the dedicated individuals of the council, staff, and community members, we have made significant strides towards realizing our shared vision for a thriving Comanche.

"Leaving behind the city that will always be my home and the people who have become my family is undoubtedly one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made. I will deeply miss the daily interactions and the sense of purpose that comes with serving the residents of Comanche.

"Despite the bittersweetness of this moment, I take solace in the knowledge that I am leaving the city in a better state than when I arrived. Comanche is poised for incredible success under the capable leadership of the next city manager, and I have full confidence in the staff's ability to continue the momentum we have built together.

"One of the greatest joys of my time here has been the relationships I

have forged with the council, staff, and community members, particularly my dear friend Mayor Smokey Dobbins. These connections have been the cornerstone of our collective efforts, and it is with heavy heart that I bid farewell knowing that there are still visions we had together that I will not see fulfilled.



Chuck Ralls

However, I am comforted by the

knowledge that we have an exceptional staff in place who are fully equipped to carry on the work we have begun. Their dedication and passion for Comanche are unwavering, and I have no doubt that they will continue to propel the city forward towards even greater heights.

"In closing, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every individual who has been a part of this journey. Serving as the City Manager of Comanche will always remain one of the highlights of my career, and I leave with cherished memories that will stay with me forever.

"Thank you once again for the privilege of serving this wonderful community." - *Comanche Times*

City Update

New portal gives customers additional info

City of Edmond utility customers will have at their disposal a versatile tool that will help them better track and manage their utility usage as well as allow the city's utilities to provide



edmondelectric
The POWER of Edmond

enhanced services and programs.

The next step in the Smart Choice program – which upgraded electric and water meters in both residential and commercial properties – is a new

customer online portal: smartchoice.edmondok.gov. This new web portal replaces the former eCityExpress online portal and provides Edmond utility customers access to the most up-to-date information on their water and electric service usage.

"The Smart Choice platform allows our customers and the city to more effectively use our water and electric systems, helping keep everyone's costs down," said Glenn Fisher, Edmond Electric Director.

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2024 MESO Public Power Conference

OMPA and its members were well-represented at the annual MESO Public Power Conference in Norman in April. Top right, OMPA Member Relations and Training Manager Palma Lough received the Pruett-Lamb Lifetime Achievement Award. Bottom right, the City of Marlow was honored with the Tom Rider Professional Development Award. OMPA staff also helped present sessions at the conference, including Lough, General Manager Dave Osburn (pictured right middle with APPA President Scott Corwin), Manager of Engineering Services Alex Dobson and Senior Communications Specialist Ryan Piersol.



Ponca City team attends national lineworker rodeo

A team from Ponca City was among thirteen journeyman teams and 12 individual apprentices who won awards at the American Public Power Association's twenty-second annual Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, held April 5-6, in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Ponca City Energy's Tomas Alvarez, Chris Crain and Austin Fry finished second in the Journeyman – Hurtman Rescue competition.

Sixty-four journeyman teams and 134 apprentices competed. Fifty-seven utilities had competitors in the apprentice and/or journeyman competitions from not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities across the nation. The "rodeo" is a series of competitive events demonstrating lineworker skills and safe work practices.

"Seeing public power lineworkers from all across the country competing at this event is inspiring," said Scott Corwin, APPA president & CEO. "The competition is intense, but—in the end—everyone wins when it comes to practicing safety, building skills, and celebrating the craft of linework."

Lafayette Utilities System hosted the Lineworkers Rodeo.

The awards honor lineworkers' expertise and the events are judged



based on safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely event completion. All safety rules established by APPA's 17th edition Safety Manual were observed during events.

There are two levels of competition within the rodeo—journeyman and apprentice. The journeyman teams consist of three members—two climbers and a ground person—and can include an optional alternate. Journeymen have years of experience within the electric utility trade, while an apprentice lineworker is newer to the craft.



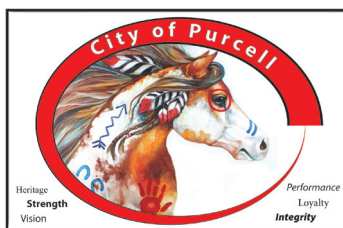
City Update

New council sworn in after election

Greg Wheat and Joseph Franco were sworn in as Purcell's newest city council members.

Both members will serve a term from April 2024 to April 2027.

Purcell Mayor Graham Fishburn



administered the swearing in of both men at the Purcell Police Service Building Community Room.

"It is an honor to join the Purcell City Council as one of its newest members," Wheat said. "I am excited

about collaborating with my fellow Council Members, the City, and our citizens to further enhance Purcell's reputation as a wonderful place to live."

Franco echoed similar sentiments.

"It's a great honor to be able to bring a Hispanic voice to the council and another generation to the council as well," Franco said.

After the new members were seated, the council got right to business.

They set budget meeting dates for April 30 and May 1.

Both meetings will be held in the community room at City Hall. - *Purcell Register*

Fitch Ratings affirms OMPA outlook as stable

Fitch Ratings has affirmed both the Issuer Default Rating (IDR) and the rating on Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's (OMPA) outstanding \$459.9 million of outstanding power supply system revenue bonds (2014A, 2014B, 2016A, 2019A, 2021A and 2021B) at 'A'.

Fitch does not rate the authority's \$70 million of outstanding series 2010B revenue bonds.

The Rating Outlook is Stable.

The rating reflects the very strong credit quality of OMPA's two largest participants, the city of Edmond, OK and Ponca City, OK, and considers the authority's leverage profile, which has improved in the past two years after



operating income weakened in fiscal 2021 due to the financial impact of Winter Storm Uri.

Fitch expects OMPA's leverage ratio, measured as net adjusted debt to adjusted funds available for debt service, could rise slightly over the medium term if the utility moves forward with its preliminary plan to

debt-finance the construction a new generation resource, the type and scope of which will be determined following completion of an updated integrated resource plan in 2024. The new resource is subject to approval from OMPA's board of directors and management has conservatively estimated a \$150 million debt issuance in fiscal 2026 to fund the construction.

OMPA's rating also continues to be supported by a well-diversified power supply that historically provided low-cost and reliable capacity and energy, and all-requirements power sales contracts (PSCs) that require the 42 participating utilities to purchase all their energy needs from OMPA.

City Update

City uses media to prepare for substation work

Frederick City Manager Kyle Davis is focused on getting the city prepared and completing the goal of getting the second sub-station back to 100 percent.

“Two years ago, we got the sub-station put in, getting all the pieces and parts together for it, we’re only at about 75 percent usage of it,” Davis said. “And this is the last stage of getting it back to 100 percent. We had to wait on supplies, parts to come in from other places.”

He says the infrastructure is much needed, and all hands will be on deck to get this done as soon as possible.

“Because with this we’re going to have to put in two 75-foot poles so we’re going to do a lot of primary work, transmission work,” Davis explained.



“We have a contractor coming in from out of state to do part of it. We have our OMPA crew coming down to help us along with our crew so there’s going to be probably 20 different entities working on this power outage tonight.”

The Frederick Utility Company has already taken measures to lessen the impact of this outage on people and businesses.

“It’s going to last about 12 tonight until about 6 o’clock in the morning,” Davis shared. “The reason we do it that way, it affects less businesses and less personnel. There will be a little discomfort of course. The weather is pretty nice right now, so the heat is not as big as of a deal. That’s the reason

we’re doing it right now because we’re fixing to get into summer months and we have two substations and we want one substation to be able to cover the whole load if it needs to that way if we have a problem. We’ll have the City of Frederick covered 100 percent.”

Now that they have the necessary supplies, Davis wants to go ahead and finish what they started and send an informational message to those who need assistance.

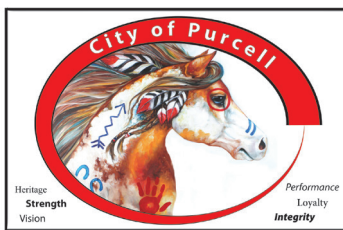
“After this outage, we’ll have one more in a couple weeks to finish the last part of it and what they’re doing is physically changing the lines from one jumper to another so that’s why we have to take it out because they can’t do it while it’s live. That’s why I say people with oxygen generators they need to be prepared because we’re about to get into storm weather. Because if it goes down in our area and we lose power, it’s nothing we can do about it, so people need to be prepared they need to have a 72-hour plan of action to be able to live without utilities for 72 hours,” Davis urged. - *KSWO*

City Update

Utility receives national award from APPA

Purcell Public Works has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2023. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. Purcell Public Works also received this award in 2021.

APPA helps electric utilities track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Once



per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

"It's encouraging to see year after year that public power's track record for providing highly reliable service is backed up by data," said APPA Director of Research and Development Paul Zummo. "These utilities are the best of the best when it comes to keeping the lights on. And these communities should be proud of their local power providers

and appreciate the hard work that goes into earning this recognition."

Nationwide, the average public power customer has their lights out for less than half the amount of time that customers of other types of utilities do.

"We are proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that we keep the City of Purcell powered," said Sam Demel, Public Works General Manager at Purcell Public Works.

Electric Department Staff:

- Trey Phillips-Electric Superintendent
- Dillon Gardner-Electric Supervisor
- Brian Morris-Journeyman Lineman
- Anthony Lamirand-Journeyman Lineman
- John Dean-Apprentice Lineman
- Evan Peterson-Apprentice Lineman

City updates - Edmond

Continued from Page 5

Next-day hourly usage information for electric service and water will be available to view and graph, as well as historical hourly usage.

Various tools will help customers track, compare and monitor their usage so they can better control utility usage and costs.

The new portal also has a variety of new features, including ways to report and track service outages. Still available is all the useful information about customer bills, payment options and more that was found on the previous portal site, but the new meter and tracking technology will provide more up-to-date information.

"Yes, these are tools that will help our processes and systems be even more efficient, but it's also about connecting with our customers," said Kris Neifing, Water Resources Director. "It puts the most up-to-date information possible in their hands and allows them to be informed and have more control

over their water usage and costs."

City adopts new charging rate

Effective April 1, a fee structure for use of the 11 City of Edmond, Oklahoma-owned electric vehicle charging stations will go into effect.

Approved by the Edmond City Council during its Feb. 12 meeting, EVs utilizing one of the city-owned charging stations will be charged per kilowatt hour.

At the ten city-owned Level 2 charging stations, users will be charged 25 cents per kilowatt hour, and at the city's lone Level 3 charging station, users will be charged 35 cents per kilowatt hour, including both the 32 cent per kilowatt hour charge for use of the station and a 3 cent per kilowatt hour fee charged by the state of Oklahoma for Level 3 stations.

Currently, there is no charge for use of the stations. The new fee structure will cover operations and maintenance

of the stations and be reviewed annually as part of city's budget process.

Recommendations for changes would require City Council approval.

In 2017, the city partnered with the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments for a grant program to install a charging station at a Hilton Garden Inn. Since then, using the grant funding, more stations have been added.

At that time, the City Council voted to install the stations but not assess a fee for use to help support the transition to more EVs and highlight the stations available.

Edmond Electric and the city will continue working with the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments for additional grants to expand available chargers.

Possible sites for future city-owned charging stations include a new City Center complex and YMCA/library sites, as well as other city facilities and possible public/private partnerships.

Solar For All funds expected to assist in bringing distributed solar installations to all states

> More details on local programs to come later in 2024

American Public Power Association

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on April 22 announced 60 selectees that will receive \$7 billion in grant awards through the Solar for All grant competition to deliver residential solar projects across the U.S.

The grant competition is funded by President Biden's Investing in America agenda through the Inflation Reduction Act, which created EPA's \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

The 60 selectees under the \$7 billion Solar for All program will provide funds to states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits across the country to develop long-lasting solar programs that enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from distributed residential solar.

The 60 selected applicants will serve households in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and territories, as well as increase access to solar for Tribes.

EPA has selected 49 state-level awards totaling approximately \$5.5 billion, six awards to serve Tribes totaling over \$500 million, and five multistate awards totaling approximately \$1 billion.

Solar for All will deploy residential solar for households nationwide by not only providing grants and low-cost financing to overcome financial barriers to deployment but also by providing services to communities to overcome other barriers such as siting, permitting,



and interconnection.

The 60 selected applicants have committed to delivering on the three objectives of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: reducing climate and air pollution; delivering benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities; and mobilizing financing to spur additional deployment of affordable solar energy.

Solar for All selected applicants are expanding existing low-income solar programs and launching new programs.

In at least 25 states and territories nationwide, Solar for All is launching new programs where there has never been a substantial low-income solar program before. In these geographies, Solar for All selected applicants will open new markets for distributed solar

by funding new programs that provide grants and low-cost financing for low-income, residential solar, EPA said.

To date, many of the 60 selected Solar for All applicants have supported low-income and underserved communities in installing innovative residential solar projects.

EPA anticipates that awards to the selected applicants will be finalized in the summer of 2024, and selected applicants will begin funding projects through existing programs and begin expansive community outreach programs to launch new programs in the fall and winter of this year. Selections are contingent on the resolution of all administrative disputes related to the competitions.

OMPA's 2023 Generating Snapshot

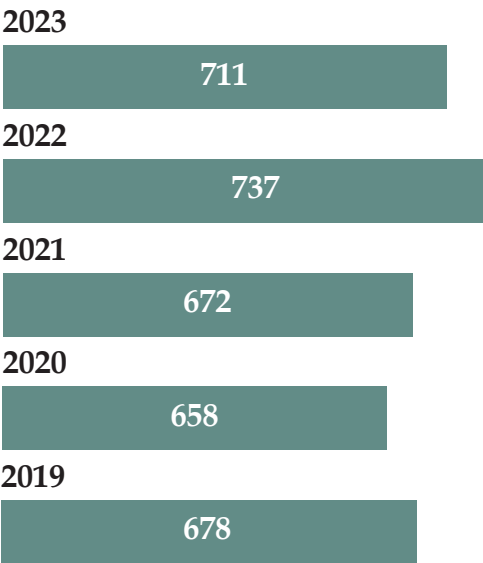
Resource Mix

Natural gas was the leading resource for the Authority in 2023 at 55 percent of the mix. This was the first time that natural gas made up that large a percentage of the resource mix.



System-Wide Peak

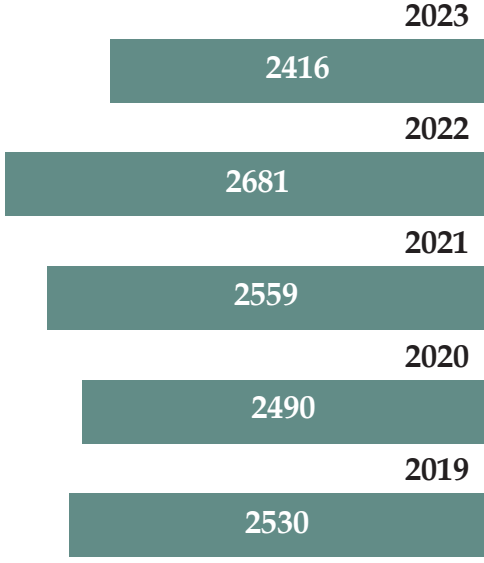
OMPA's coincident peak for utilities served in Oklahoma only was 711 megawatts in 2023, which was slightly down from the year before.



Energy Delivered

OMPA's total power delivered in 2023 was 2,416 gigawatt hours, which remained similar to recent years.

In all, 24,851 gigawatt hours of power have been delivered in the last 10 years.



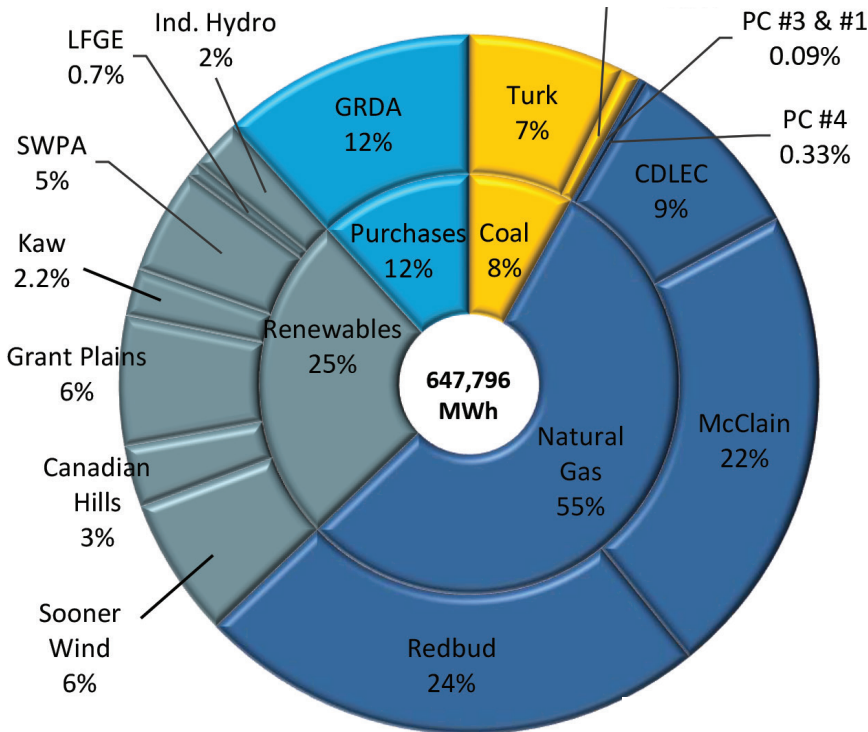


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Generation Mix Through February 2023



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