

CUSTOMER UPDATE

EQUIPMENT SERIES



West Owatonna Substation Upgrade

Out with the old, in with the new! This month OPU will begin a large construction project at its West Owatonna Substation. We will be replacing equipment we installed over 30 years ago. The new equipment will make sure you continue to receive reliable electric service.

The substation, located on the west side of town, converts high-voltage electricity to lower voltages so it can be distributed to homes and businesses in our community. The West Owatonna Substation is one of six transformer substations OPU operates.

These substations are the necessary link between power plants that produce electricity and the distribution wires that bring that electricity to your home or business.

Substations like West Owatonna are a big deal — literally and figuratively. They cost over \$1 million

to build. On average, they take up as much room as eight professional football fields.

The transformer equipment we're replacing at West Owatonna, at a cost of about \$200,000, has been operating since 1984. We certainly got our money's worth!

Transformers contain a lot of copper wire. Years ago, when copper prices were higher, thieves risked injury or death by electrocution when they broke into the West Owatonna Substation to steal copper.

Feel free to come and watch the construction taking place if you're interested (it's expected to last for several weeks) but please don't ever try to enter a substation. Accidental contact with the wrong piece of equipment could mean severe injury or death.