

CUSTOMER UPDATE

Midcontinent Independent System Operator

MISO in Relation to SMMPA & OPU...Part 2

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|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 OPU Memo | 4 MISO, SMMPA & OPU | 6 Look Up | 8 Consumer Confidence Report |
| 3 City Spot | 5 Have a Safe Summer | 6 Water Serviceline Protection | 8 Smell Gas |
| 3 Conservation Tips | 5 Gas Piping Ownership | 7 AC Clean & Tune | 8 General Information |



OPU MEMO



Josh Prokopec,
Manager, Facilities, Gas/
Water Operations

OPU Commission

Kent Rossi
Randy Doyal
Jay Johnson
Doug Zirngible
Greg Vetter

In recent years, there have been growing concerns about lead in our drinking water, and one response to these concerns has been the implementation of the Lead Copper Rule. The Lead Copper Rule, which has been in place since 1991, was developed to reduce lead and copper in drinking water. However, the Flint, Michigan incident that began in 2014 exposed many flaws and loopholes in the existing rule, leading to the revision of the rule.

The revised Lead Copper Rule, which went into effect on December 16, 2021, aims to reduce lead exposure in drinking water and to better protect children at elementary schools and childcare facilities. The revised rule also seeks to empower communities through information. One of the key improvements to the Lead Copper Rule is that water systems must now develop a complete inventory of lead service lines (LSL) and make the inventory publicly available. This includes identifying any unknown pipes within three years of the rule changes.

Common sources of lead in drinking water include copper pipes with lead solder, lead service lines, faucets, galvanized pipes, and lead goose necks. Lead service lines, in particular, can be a major source of lead contamination in water. Therefore, the revised Lead Copper Rule requires water suppliers to develop an LSL inventory

and LSL replacement plan by October 16, 2024. They also need to coordinate with schools, revise their sampling plan by the end of 2024, and return to a six-month sampling frequency.

OPU has already begun the process of putting together an inventory of lead service lines based on record maps, with about 50% of the inventory process completed. The task involves checking each service line on each lot in town to confirm the current service line material. In some cases, the year of installation can be used to narrow down the material type through a process of elimination. However, finding records can be challenging, as water services are considered private, which means we may not always have the information we need.

Over the next few months, we will send crews out to begin the process of verifying service material where we don't have solid records. The verification process will consist of crews potholing the existing service to make a visual determination of the service material type. Once the inventory is complete, plans will begin to figure out how any service lines, that may be in question, will be replaced. This will depend on guidance from the EPA in the near future.

It's important to note OPU is taking proactive steps to identify and address any lead service lines in our area. By doing so, we can better protect the community from the harmful effects of lead exposure in drinking water. The revised Lead Copper Rule is an important step forward in reducing lead exposure in our drinking water, and with continued efforts from water suppliers and regulatory agencies, we can ensure that our water is safe to drink for generations to come.



Keeping the Community Beautiful *Melting snow reveals junk ordinance violations*

As the weather gets warmer and everyone spends more time outdoors, remember that there are ordinances related to exterior property maintenance that need to be followed. Here are a few items to keep in mind:

- Mow the lawn regularly – try to keep it under the 8-inch height restriction for lots that have been built upon. Undeveloped lots need to be kept below 18-inches. (City Code § 93.061)
- Weed and spray regularly to control weeds and keep them from spreading to other properties. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture maintains a list of noxious weeds that are prohibited. More information is available on their website: mda.state.mn.us. (City Code § 93.002; Minn. Stat. § 18.77 and 21.72)
- Keep household trash in a container designed for such use, ensuring that it doesn't leak and that it is always covered. Have regular pickup service scheduled and only put containers by the street on designated pickup days. Containers should be stored in the side or rear yard, or in the garage. (City Code § 117.09)
- Personal property should be stored within a building or fully screened so that it is not visible from adjoining properties and public streets. Wood for a wood burning stove or recreational fires needs to be stacked in a neat pile. (City Code § 157.044)
- Don't place unwanted items, such as furniture or appliances, on the right-of-way or in the yard. Disused or discarded items stored outside are considered refuse or junk. Garbage haulers need to be contacted to pick up these items and properly dispose of them. (City Code § 93.004 and §157.043)

To report a violation of the weed or nuisance ordinances, visit owatonna.gov and submit a weed/grass complaint form or a nuisance complaint form. Anonymous submissions are accepted; however, it may delay the processing of the complaint if any additional information is needed. Make sure the full address is included; failure to provide the correct address will delay the processing of the complaint. It's up to everyone to keep Owatonna beautiful!

More code information is available on the City of Owatonna website.

New City of Owatonna Newsletter

The City of Owatonna is launching its first community newsletter as the primary source of information about City projects, issues, and news. To save on printing and postage costs, the newsletter will be available via email subscription only. Sign up NOW to receive City newsletters at <https://www.owatonna.gov/list.aspx?ListID=320>.

MAYOR
Tom Kuntz

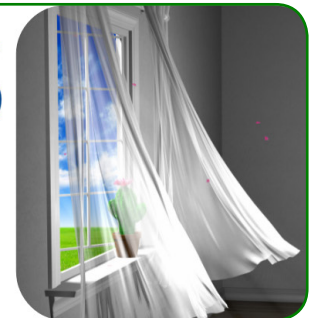
COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dan Boeke
David Burbank
Nathan Dotson
Kevin Raney
Greg Schultz
Brent Svenby
Doug Voss



CONSERVATION TIP\$

Opening windows on opposite sides of the house to create a cross breeze, combined with running a fan, can keep you cool without running the A/C! Don't forget to turn the fan off when you leave the room though to avoid wasting energy.





Midcontinent System Independent Operator

MISO in Relation to SMMPA & OPU...Part 2

Welcome to Part 2 of our series on MISO, the Midcontinent System Operator. In our previous article, we talked about MISO's role in ensuring a reliable and efficient energy system. This time, we'll focus on the relationship between Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU), Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), and MISO.

MISO doesn't own any equipment on the bulk electric system, but it works with member utilities like SMMPA to make sure the right amount of high-voltage electricity is generated and transmitted safely and reliably to their service territories. OPU is a retailer of electricity that buys all its power from SMMPA, and together they ensure that OPU has enough electricity to meet its customers' needs.

SMMPA participates in MISO's energy markets on behalf of its members, including OPU. These markets allow utilities to buy and sell electricity in real-time based on supply and demand. By participating in these markets, SMMPA can provide more reliable electricity at a lower cost by pooling resources with all the other utilities in the MISO market.

In case of a Grid Alert event, OPU and SMMPA work with MISO to manage electricity usage and help prevent power outages. This may involve implementing demand response programs or other measures to reduce electricity usage during times of high demand. It's important for OPU's customers to know about this relationship so we can all respond appropriately to a Grid Alert message and work together to help prevent power outages.

MISO has communication channels in place to alert the general public when there's a problem in the energy system, but the messages can be technical and hard to understand. By working with local distribution utilities like OPU, MISO can ensure important messages are conveyed in a way that are clear and easy to understand.

Although the technical details of the energy system may not be of interest to all customers, it's important for them to be aware of potential events that could impact power supply and know what they can do to help. By being transparent and sharing information about the energy system, OPU's goal is to help prevent power outages, build trust and confidence, and promote customer satisfaction and engagement.

By working together, MISO, SMMPA, and OPU can ensure important information is communicated to the general public in a timely and effective manner, minimizing the risk of power outages and other disruptions to the energy system.

In our next article (Part 3), we'll talk about the potential for Grid Alerts being called this summer. This may happen if MISO declares an emergency due to a shortage of power generation. We'll explain how OPU is getting ready for this possibility and share tips on how customers can help prevent power outages. Stay tuned for more information!

Have a safe summer



The Owatonna Public Utilities is joining the Mayo Clinic Health System and other community partners for an evening of education and fun to prepare your family for summer. Activities and topics geared towards children ages 3-12 include water safety, fire safety, Change to Chill program, car seat clinic, children identification kits, K-9 unit demonstration, bicycle obstacle course and more!

Stop and check it out: **Tuesday, May 23, 5-7 p.m.** Admission is **FREE**
Steele County Fairgrounds, 1525 S. Elm Ave., Four Seasons Building, Owatonna

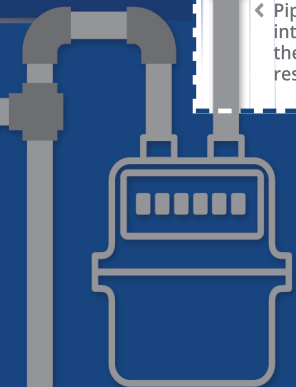
Customer Owned BURIED GAS PIPING NOTIFICATION

In compliance with the Department of Transportation, Pipeline Safety Regulations, Part 192.16,

Owatonna Public Utilities is notifying customers about their responsibility for customer-owned gas piping. Owatonna Public Utilities DOES NOT own or maintain gas piping downstream (house side) of the natural gas meter. Gas piping after the gas meter is customer-owned. Maintenance and inspection of customer-owned piping is the customers' responsibility.

To ensure safe and reliable operation, customer-owned buried gas piping should be:

- ▶ Periodically inspected for leaks
- ▶ Periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic
- ▶ Repaired if any unsafe condition is discovered, or flow of gas should be shut off
- ▶ Located and marked in advance when excavation is performed or is about to be performed near the buried gas piping
- ▶ Carefully excavated by hand when work is performed near the piping



WHEN MOVING LADDERS,
PLEASE LOOK UP.
(AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED!)

Power lines may serve as a safe perch for birds, but they are anything but safe for those of us on the ground. Next time you are about to move a ladder, fly a kite or trim a tree, look up and take notice of what's overhead. You'll be a lot safer – and potentially cleaner as well.

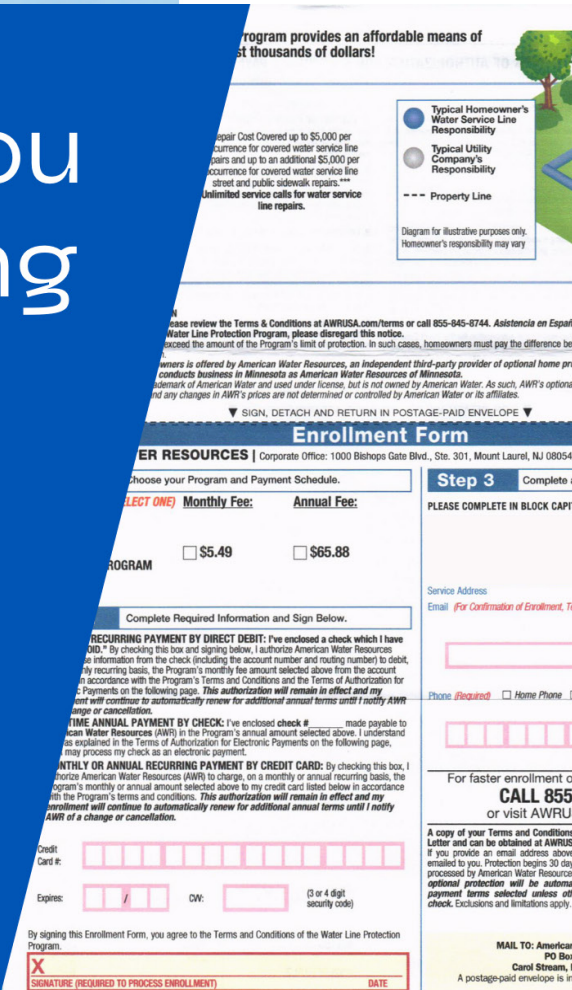
BE AWARE OF POWER LINES.



(507) 451-2480

www.owatonnautilities.com

Are you getting mail that looks like this?



Please note: all OPU customers are automatically enrolled in OPU's Water Service Line Protection Program.

OPU's program provides owners of residential properties an option for affordable protection against the significant costs of repair or replacing leaking, damaged or frozen water service lines for \$0.99 per month.**

To verify your enrollment status, or to opt-out, call our customer service department at 507.451.2480

For more information about the program, visit www.owatonnautilities.com for more information.

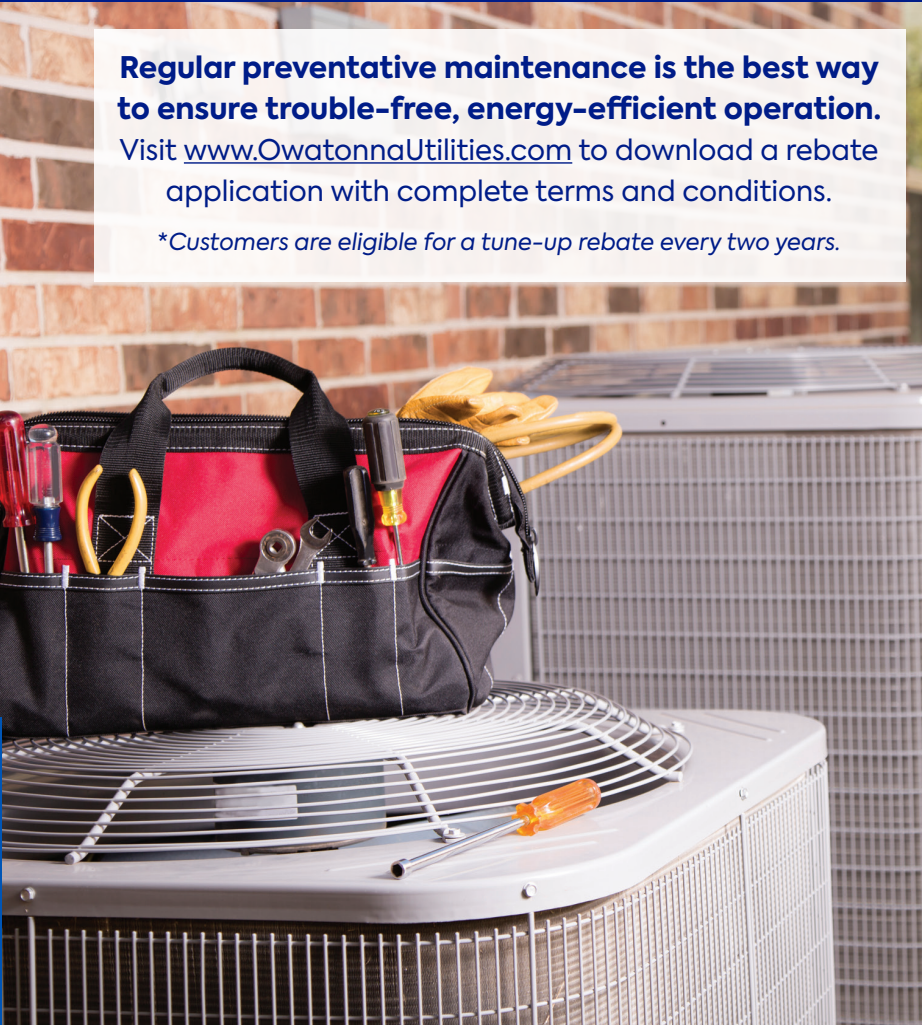
** - Coverage for leaking service from main to meter, only. No internal house plumbing is covered.

COMPLETE A CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING CLEAN & TUNE AND APPLY FOR A **\$25 REBATE***

Regular preventative maintenance is the best way to ensure trouble-free, energy-efficient operation.

Visit www.OwatonnaUtilities.com to download a rebate application with complete terms and conditions.

**Customers are eligible for a tune-up rebate every two years.*



CENTRAL A/C CLEAN & TUNE WORD SEARCH

AIR CONDITIONING	EFFICIENT
CLEAN	OPERATION
TUNE	TWENTY FIVE
PREVENTATIVE	REBATE
MAINTENANCE	TWO YEARS

A E U T T P D K L J A D B J X
 N I F Q J W Q H Q Y S H D X D
 O W R F B U E U Y O T S L A W
 P M F C I C H N R E B A T E B
 Q R A R O C Z N T Y X R G J T
 O X E I N N I B J Y U R G N Y
 Q M F V N R D E C Y F G R V N
 C Z B E E T E I N G E I P L E
 L I G K T N E P T T W F V K M
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 O P E R A T I O N I C W I L G
 W F S N U Y Z E M T V E A N C
 T W O Y E A R S B G T E L V G

CONSERVE & \$SAVE®



Business customers may apply for an:

**A/C CLEAN & TUNE REBATE
 UP TO \$60[^]**

**ELECTRIC CHILLER
 CLEAN & TUNE REBATE
 UP TO \$5 PER TON[#]**

Visit www.OwatonnaUtilities.com to download applications with complete terms and conditions.

**Customers are eligible for this rebate every three years.*

#Customers are eligible for this rebate every five years.

Rebate not to exceed cost of tune-up.

P.O. Box 800 208 S. Walnut Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060

Office: 451-2480 Service: 451-1616

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday:

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday:

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday:

Closed

Payment Options

- Online at www.owatonnautilities.smarthub.coop
- Phone at (507) 451-2480
Option 2 or 1-888-228-2398
(Available 24/7)
- Automatic Withdrawal; bank account or credit card
- Drive-up drop box located in our parking lot
- Drop box locations at CashWise and HyVee Food Store
- Mail to P.O. Box 800, Owatonna, MN 55060
- ACH bank draft sent directly from your bank

Moving?

Remember to contact the Customer Service Department **ONE WEEK** prior to moving, 451-2480.



2022 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

City of Owatonna, PWSID 1740007

In a continuing “Go Green”, effort, a 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) regarding our community water supply system is available for your review on-line at the following address:

www.owatonnautilities.com/consumer-confidence/

Please take a few minutes, read the CCR, and be aware of the water quality of your drinking water!

Current MCL violations: **NONE**

State and Federal Safe Drinking Water Regulations require all Community Public Water Systems to distribute an Annual Water Quality Report, officially known as the Consumer Confidence Report, by June 30th of each year. This report is available at the above link, however, if you would prefer a paper copy of the report, please feel free to call 507-451-2480.

Gas Leak?

If you smell gas and can't find the source immediately, go to a neighbor's house and call 911.

Don't turn electrical switches on or off or use a flashlight or cell phone in the home, because an electrical spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion.

