

## **Project Overview**

Omaha Public Power District  
Omaha, Nebraska

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## **The Company**

Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) is one of the largest publicly owned electrical utilities in the nation. It was established in 1946 and currently serves over 310,000 customers in 14 Nebraska counties. OPPD has major facilities in eastern Nebraska, including Omaha, Elkhorn, Nebraska City, and Fort Calhoun.

## **The Project**

The goal of the 2006 Partners in Pollution Prevention project at OPPD was to assist and lead pollution prevention efforts in a wide variety of areas, including: substation risk analyses, field research for Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plans, and performing a general waste assessment at the Elkhorn, NE substation.

## **Pollution Prevention Benefits**

Understanding the risk of a substation oil spill and how best to respond to one protects the public and the environment from potentially toxic releases. Pollution prevention suggestions for installation of secondary containment can also spare OPPD the expensive clean up of an oil spill. Recommendations for management and reduction of hazardous waste at the substation save money and prevent the environment and the public from exposure to toxic substances.

## **Results**

Recommendations included a revised field checklist for use in determining environmental, economic, and human health and safety risks at individual OPPD substations. Other recommendations were: the purchase of an aerosol can puncturer, the replacement of aerosol brake cleaner with refillable spray bottles, and the implementation of a new inventory procedure.

Intangible benefits included: reduced risk of a spill, or inappropriate management of a spill, protection of the environment, and OPPD employees, and the public from exposure to toxic or hazardous materials, and protection from the undesirable results of an oil spill; regulatory penalties and negative publicity. All relevant pollution prevention benefits from the project are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Pollution Prevention Opportunities and Benefits

<b>P2 Opportunity</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
Create field checklist for use in determining risk at substations and implement spill prevention improvements at high risk locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent potentially toxic releases</li> <li>• Improve response to oil spill</li> <li>• Improve/preserve public image</li> <li>• Reduce regulatory liability</li> </ul>
Puncture all spent aerosol cans prior to disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save \$4,550/year</li> <li>• Reduce hazardous waste by 600 lb/yr</li> <li>• Reduce regulatory burden</li> </ul>
Replace aerosol brake cleaner with bulk brake cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save \$2,276/yr</li> <li>• Reduce hazardous waste by 200 lb/yr</li> <li>• Reduce regulatory burden</li> </ul>
Conduct regular inventories of all aerosol products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase efficiency in ordering products</li> <li>• Optimize the use of each product</li> <li>• Document waste streams conveniently</li> </ul>
Educate employees about proper hazardous waste disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase company-wide regulatory compliance</li> <li>• Decrease potential regulatory penalties</li> </ul>