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OPPD Board Approves January Rate Increase

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Customers of the Omaha Public Power District will see their electricity rates increase next year after the utility's publicly-elected board approved a 1.6 percent general rate increase.

The adjustment will take effect Jan. 1.

OPPD says increased costs for its power plants and rising health and benefit costs for employees and retirees are among the reasons it needs the rate increase.

Under the increase, the average residential customer's bill will go up by about \$1.63 a month.

OPPD says even with the increase, its retail rates are about 10 percent below the regional average and 20 percent below the national average.

**Associated Press**