

## REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Meeting Notes*

**February 19, 2019**

### **Consideration to Approve a Contract for the Installation of an Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) on an Existing Transmission Line**

The Board approved a contract with Sayers Construction LLC for the installation of OPGW on an existing 138kV transmission line from South Switch to Greens Prairie. OPGW functions as a protection and communications element.

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES



### **BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803  
email: [ContactBTU@btutilities.com](mailto:ContactBTU@btutilities.com)

**[www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com)**

### **Hours of Operation**

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. David Bairrington, Chairman  
Mr. Flynn Adcock, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Carl L. Benner  
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr.  
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles  
Ms. Rosemarie Selman  
Mr. Paul Turney  
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio  
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

### **GENERAL MANAGER**

Gary Miller

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

Randy Trimble  
David Werley

### **DIVISION MANAGERS**

James Bodine  
Shawndra Curry  
Ken Lindberg  
Clay Lindstrom  
David McIntyre  
Vicki Reim

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer  
Wes Williams, Regulatory Compliance Officer

### **CITY OF BRYAN**

Kean Register, City Manager  
Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer  
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Billing/Collections/Connects  
**(979) 821-5700**

Electrical Outage/Lines Down  
**(979) 822-3777**

Distribution/Line Design  
**(979) 821-5770**



## 2019 SUMMER SUNSET SERIES

**JUNE 14 @ 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Summer Sunset Series is back! Head to the Palace Theater in Downtown Bryan for FREE concerts this summer! Concerts are the 2nd and 4th Fridays in June and July, from 8-10 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. The winning bands of the Summer Sunset Series Video Auditions will be performing at these concerts. Bands will be announced in May!

[downtownbryan.com](http://downtownbryan.com)



### **SOCIAL MEDIA**



BryanTexasUtilities



cityofbryan



BTU\_BryanTX



cityofbryan

**BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**

# PAYMENT OPTIONS

BTU offers a variety of payment options to suit our customers' needs. Whether you prefer to pay your bill online or stop by the office, there is a convenient option to fit you. Payment options are listed below.

**ONLINE**

- Pay online via e-check
- Online credit card
- Recurring credit card
- Automatic bank draft

**OVER THE PHONE**

Customers can call in to (979)821-5700 and pay via the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Payment System in English or Spanish.

- Credit card

**IN LOBBY OR DRIVE THRU**

- Cash
- Check
- Money order
- Credit card

**KIOSKS**

BTU has three kiosks, locations are: HEB in the Tejas Center, HEB at Hwy 21, and the Texan Market off Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.

- Cash
- Check

**MAIL**

Mail payment along with the remittance attachment from the bottom of your bill to:

BTU

ATTN: Customer Service

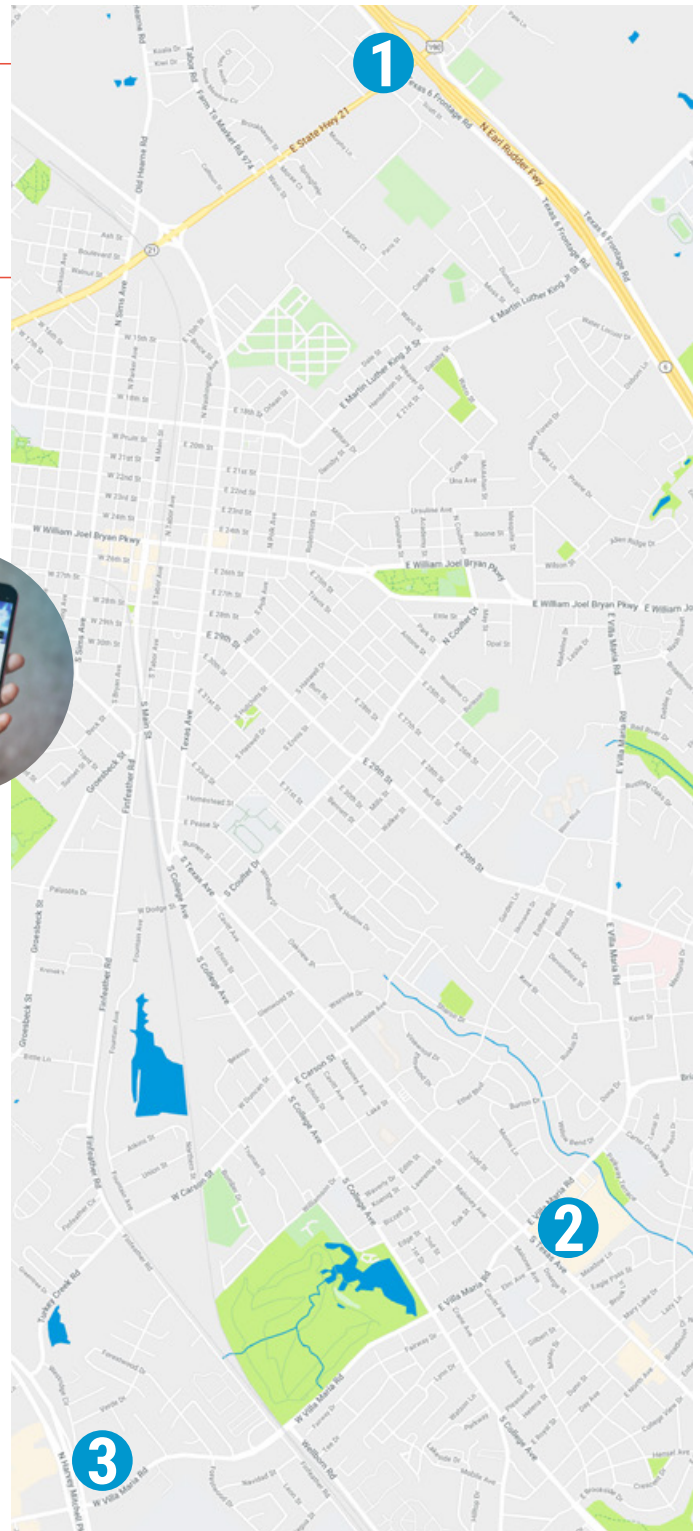
PO Box 8000 Bryan, TX 77805

- Check
- Money order

**DROP OFF PAYMENTS**

Drop off payment after hours in the night drop box located in the first lane of the drive thru at Texas Ave. and 28th St.

- Check
- Money order
- Cash

**BTU KIOSK LOCATIONS**

1. HEB / Texas Ave. & Hwy 21
2. HEB / 725 E. Villa Maria
3. Texan Market / Harvey Mitchell Pkwy. & Villa Maria

# NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY MONTH

In honor of May being National Electric Safety Month, BTU would like to share some tips about how to stay safe around the energy that powers most of your daily activities.

## ***INSIDE* THE HOME**

**Extension cords are for temporary use, not as a permanent solution.**

- Never use frayed or damaged cords
- Never use a three-prong plug in a two-prong outlet. Do not cut off the ground pin to force it to fit, this can cause an electric shock or burn.
- Do not overload an extension cord or power strip. Only use equipment with a wattage that the cord can appropriately handle.
- Only use cords approved by an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), ETL-SEMKO (ETL) or Canadian Standards Associations (CSA). These abbreviations will be printed on the cord itself and often the packaging.



and-francois-mckendzie unsplash.com ©

**Electrical outlets are used in every home. It is important to note how to use them safely.**

- Do not overload electrical outlets. An outlet that is overheated is a sign of overloading or wiring issues and should be repaired immediately.
- Cover your outlets with outlet protectors to keep children from playing with the outlet.
- Make sure that any outlets near water sources (i.e. bathrooms, kitchens, outdoors, etc) are ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). These outlets are fast-acting circuit breakers that shut off power if a fault is detected.
- Always unplug a device by pulling on the plug, not the cord.
- Replace any broken or cracked outlet covers as soon as possible.

**Water and electricity don't mix.**

- Never use electric appliances, such as hair dryers, around water.
- Never touch electric outlets with wet hands.
- Unplug all appliances before cleaning or wiping them down with water.

# ***OUTSIDE THE HOME***

Power lines should always be avoided. Electricity is always trying to find a path to the ground. It will use anything possible as a conductor including metal, water, air, and even your body.

- Never go near a downed power line. It is best to assume that it is energized and report it to the utility company.
- Do not plant trees near power lines as they could grow into the lines, causing outages.
- If working outdoors, stay at least 10 ft. from power lines.
- Power lines are also located underground, call Texas 811 at least two business days before you dig to ensure that there are no electric lines or other utilities located in work area.
- Never climb on, play near, or touch electrical equipment such as utility poles, guy wires, power lines, transformers, or substations. This equipment could be energized and cause serious injury.



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**Generators should be used with caution. They can pose a danger if used improperly.**

- Generators should be used only in a well-ventilated outdoor area. If not properly ventilated, generators can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure that your generator has a transfer switch or some other way of preventing the generator from backfeeding on to the system. This backflow of power could cause serious injury to line workers.

**Devices should only be used according to standards and should be regularly tested.**

- Install GFCI outlets outdoors with weatherproof boxes or covers protecting them from the elements.
- Regularly test your circuit breakers and fuses to make sure they are in good operating condition. Breakers and fuses are safety devices that disconnect a current when a problem is detected.
- Have professionals make any repairs or upgrades to the electric wiring in your home.
- Ensure that pool and spa equipment are in proper working condition as electrical devices used in and around pools can malfunction causing injury.



# PRODUCTION



When we flip on the light switch, do we ever think about where the electricity powering that light comes from? Bryan Texas Utilities' Production Department generates the energy that powers lights, air conditioners, offices, industrial factories, and more. The department oversees the maintenance and operation of four generating units. Three are located at the Roland C. Dansby Power Plant on the north shore of Lake Bryan, one is a steam unit that uses lake water as a non-contact cooling source, while the other two are flightless jet engines, all fueled by natural gas. The fourth unit is located at the Atkins Power Plant in Central Bryan and is also powered by natural gas.

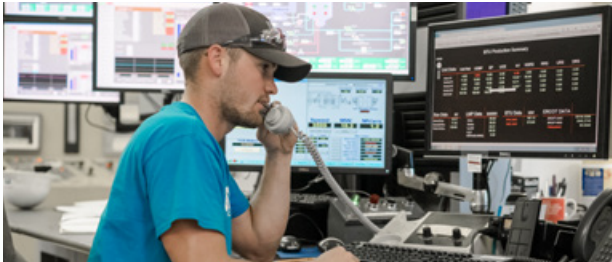
"Powering homes and businesses gives us in the Production department a sense of satisfaction," Production Division Manager, David McIntyre said. "We enjoy being able to say that we actually make electricity."

At any given time in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) System, generators across the state must supply the electric demand on the system. Currently, electricity in Texas is an instantaneous commodity,

unlike other products that can be easily stored for long periods of time such as gas or petroleum. This instantaneous nature means that there has to be enough power moment to moment to meet customer demand, without the backstop of stored energy. The Production Department works closely with ERCOT and the BTU Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) to supply power as needed. The Production Department is home to 24 employees who operate and maintain plant equipment and oversee the administration and compliance with state and federal regulations.

The Dansby Power Plant is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, staff is always on duty. The staff operates and monitors plant equipment for reliable operation to ensure the units are available when needed to meet system demand. Plant staff constantly monitors environmental parameters to ensure the units operate within permitted limits. Should maintenance issues arise that affect the performance of the generators, off-duty personnel are called in to resolve the problem. "The staff are always willing to

respond to ensure ideal operation of the generating units," McIntyre said. "It is important that the units be available for use on short notice to protect the reliability of not only BTU's system, but ERCOT's entire system as well."



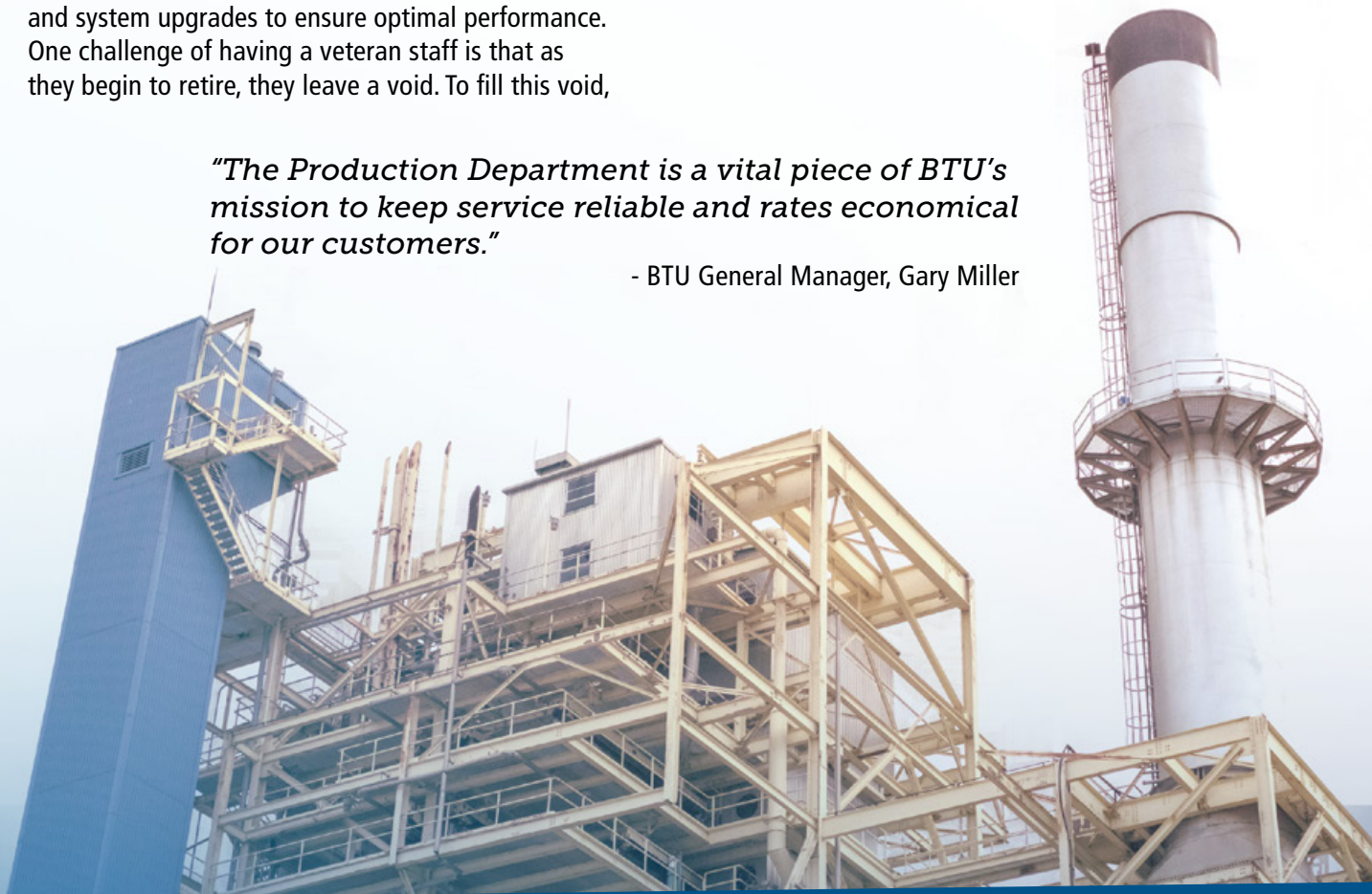
Operating and maintaining the generators requires an experienced and trained staff. The Production Staff has many years of experience, but ongoing education is necessary as new technology is implemented, systems are added, and equipment is upgraded. The Dansby Power Plant has engineers on staff to support plant modification, improvements, and system upgrades to ensure optimal performance. One challenge of having a veteran staff is that as they begin to retire, they leave a void. To fill this void,

BTU has implemented a training program to ensure the Production Department has employees that are capable of operating the generators in a reliable and efficient manner for years to come.

BTU owning generation is beneficial to customers because it allows for the delivery of reliable and economical power to our customers. BTU has the ability to not only generate power to support our customer's consumption, but also sell any excess power that we generate. The energy market is heavily influenced by time of day and weather patterns, with prices typically rising in the heat of summer and cold of winter as residents and businesses heat and cool their homes and buildings. During times of elevated prices in the ERCOT market, BTU's QSE department can sell the excess power generated in Bryan. Conversely, when prices are low, BTU's QSE can shut down power plants and purchase power from the market. This flexibility allows BTU to keep rates economical for customers.

*"The Production Department is a vital piece of BTU's mission to keep service reliable and rates economical for our customers."*

- BTU General Manager, Gary Miller



A modern outdoor LED light fixture, which is a tall, cylindrical pole with a white upper section and a dark grey lower section, stands in a garden. The background is a blurred garden with various plants and flowers. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# MAKE YOUR DAYS BRIGHTER BY SWITCHING TO LEDS

## What are they?

The light-emitting diode (LED) is a relatively new type of lighting. These lights are solid-state lighting that use a semiconductor to convert energy into light. The first visible LED light was invented in 1962, but it wasn't until 2011 and 2012 the lights became practical. Since that time, global sales of LED bulbs increased by 22 percent while the cost of a LED bulb fell nearly 40 percent.

## Why should I switch?

Without a filament, these lights don't "burn out" in the traditional sense. Instead, LEDs will have a decrease in brightness over time. The lifetime of LEDs can last more than 25 times longer than traditional lights bulbs. Not only do these bulbs last longer, but they are also more efficient, using at least 75 percent less energy than incandescent or fluorescent lights. Traditional bulbs release 80 to 90 percent of their energy as heat, while LEDs emit very little heat. This can be observed when trying to change out an old bulb that has been on, it is often too hot to touch, while LEDs are cool enough to handle.

## Are they as good as my old light bulbs?

LEDs are considered directional lights, meaning that light is emitted in a certain direction, instead of requiring diffusing like in traditional bulbs. LEDs are

commonly used in homes, especially for recessed lighting. They are also great for outdoor lighting. It is important to note that LEDs come in a variety of strengths and colors, and you should decide which you would like in your home before purchasing. Indoor lighting is often warm lighting, while outdoor lighting is frequently cool lighting. LEDs are also more resistant to breakage and combustion than traditional lighting, making them a safer option for your home.

## Aren't LEDs Expensive?

While the initial cost of LEDs may be a little higher than traditional bulbs, the cost to operate them is much lower, and the lifetime of the bulb much longer, creating a savings over time. According to the Department of Energy (DOE), LED light bulbs can cost as little as \$1.00/year to operate, while incandescent bulbs cost about \$4.80/year to run.

## Are they bad for the environment?

A recent Department of Energy study determined that LEDs have a smaller impact on the environment than incandescent bulbs, being that they contain no mercury. The DOE predicts that by 2027 widespread use of LEDs could save about 348 terawatt hours (TWh). This equals 348 billion kilowatt hours (kWh). In comparison, the average home uses about 1,000 kWh per month.

# NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

MAY 2019

*So, have fun, take to the roads and trails, and do it all in the safest way possible.*



**CITY OF BRYAN**  
*The Good Life, Texas Style.™*



## **Did You Know...**

*That Lake Bryan is home to some of the best biking trails in the Brazos Valley? Well, it is! The Brazos Valley Mountain Bike Association maintains the trails on a regular basis.*

*For more information, visit [lakebryan.com](http://lakebryan.com) or [bvmba.net](http://bvmba.net).*

## **Be Smart. Protect Your Brain.**

Cyclists who wear a helmet reduce their risk of head injury by about 60 percent and brain injury by 58 percent, according to the National Safety Council. When you think about it, that does actually make sense considering that your head is the first part of your body to fly forward in a bike accident. Helmets should adhere to federal safety standards and should fit securely.

## **Be Safe. Know the Rules.**

*Here are some more great tips for bike safety from the National Safety Council:*

- Get acquainted with traffic laws. Cyclists must follow the same rules as motorists.
- Know your bike's capabilities.
- Ride single-file in the direction of traffic, and watch for opening car doors and other hazards.
- Use hand signals when turning and use extra care at intersections.
- Before entering traffic, stop and look left, right, left again and over your shoulder.
- Wear bright clothing and ride during the day. If night riding can't be avoided, wear reflective clothing.
- Make sure the bike is equipped with reflectors on the rear, front, pedals and spokes.

## **Be Prepared. Find the Best Bike Routes in Bryan.**

*Whether it's biking for leisure, for hard-core exercise and recreation, or just as a way to get to work or school, you need to know the best routes for your ride. We've got you covered with a map of all of the bike lanes, routes, and trails in the City of Bryan.*

*For more information, visit [bryantx.gov/bike](http://bryantx.gov/bike).*