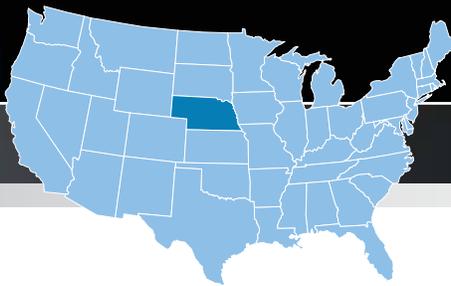


Nebraska Overview

Economic Development

Economic News from
Nebraska Public Power District

Winter 2014–15



Royal Engineered Composites Continues to Grow

Royal Engineered Composites, a 65-year strong Minden, Nebraska manufacturer of lightweight composite components for commercial and military helicopters and aircraft, has announced plans to invest in new equipment and add jobs.

The company expects to double their sales from 2014 to 2018 due to recent larger contracts from major aircraft companies with which it conducts business. The \$2.6 million expansion is expected to create 30 full-time jobs.

The City of Minden has been awarded \$605,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to assist with the expansion of Royal Engineered Composites, Inc. Under an agreement with the City of Minden, South Central Economic Development District, a non-profit development organization, will lend Royal Engineered Composites \$600,000 to purchase equipment and apply toward working capital. The \$5,000 balance will go toward project-related administrative costs. An area bank will loan an additional \$2 million to complete the project.



“Royal Engineered Composites is a vital business within the community, and the City is excited to see their decision to continue to grow and expand here in Minden,” said City Administrator Matthew Cederburg.

Royal Engineered Composites is served electrically by Southern Power District, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District.

For more information on Royal Engineered Composites, visit: www.royalcomposites.com.



Expansion Solutions Magazine recognized Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in the 8th annual “Top Five” Awards of Excellence. NPPD received the award in the “Metal Fabrication” category. These awards are based on showing exceptional progress and potential in the area of development by successfully recruiting, retaining, and/or assisting growing businesses. For more information, visit: http://expansionsolutionsonline.com/2014_awardsofexcellence.

Texas-based Company Purchases Scottsbluff Nationstar Building



SWBC has purchased the Nationstar building in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

SWBC is a diversified financial services company providing a wide range of insurance, mortgage, and investment services to financial institutions, businesses, and individuals. With offices across the country, SWBC is committed to providing quality products, outstanding service, and customized solutions in all 50 states. The company employs more than 2,200 people nationwide.

Employees laid off by Nationstar have been encouraged to apply for positions as the company will be hiring locally.

SWBC, headquartered in San Antonio, held a job fair in December 2014 and plans to hire 125 staff initially, with some of them starting in late January, according to Greg Hermanson,

SWBC's vice president of human resources. Hermanson also indicated SWBC does plan to grow the Scottsbluff facility, but the pace of that expansion is unknown at this time.

Rawnda Pierce, Executive Director of Twin Cities Development Association, said, **"We are very fortunate as a community to have SWBC purchase the facility and hire 125 initial employees so quickly after the Nationstar layoffs. We have been very impressed with our dealings with SWBC and their people who were on hand for the job fair. They will be strong community partners and an employee friendly company."**

"Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) welcomes SWBC to the area and looks forward to serving you for many years. NPPD has proudly and reliably served this facility since 2007 and stands ready to serve any growth SWBC plans for the future," said Terry Rajewich, NPPD account manager.

For more information on SWBC, visit: www.swbc.com.



Study Highlights Nebraska's Advantages for The Food Processing Industry



A recent joint study by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development highlights the advantages of a Nebraska location for new or expanding food processing businesses. Benefits to food processing businesses include Nebraska's large, well developed agricultural business support sector, easy access to inputs, and low cost of operations. When compared to 15 alternative states with large food processing sectors, a Nebraska location is shown to offer significant labor and energy cost advantages. A copy of the study may be downloaded at <http://econdev.nppd.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/NE-Profit-opp-for-Food-Processors-Jan-2015.pdf>.

Nfact

Nebraska Economic Fact

According to the online publication 24/7 Wall St., Nebraska was recently ranked No. 3 as one of the "best run states in America."

Since 2010, Nebraska has annually ranked in the top five best run states, according to the website.

Source: 247WallSt.com

Nebraska Public Power District *Provides Training*

“The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes.”
Benjamin Disraeli

This same adage can be applied to community economic development as well. Communities prepared for opportunities or able to make their own opportunities will be more successful than others. To help our communities and local economic development organizations to be ready when opportunity knocks, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) strives to provide training opportunities for community leaders and developers in order to enhance their knowledge and understanding of trends in economic development. Most recently NPPD completed a three-part webinar series presented by



“Janet is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to economic development, specifically rural development. I appreciate NPPD giving us all an opportunity to learn from such an expert.” Patty Plugge, Burt County Economic Development Corporation

“Thank you NPPD Economic Development for hosting the Janet Ady webinar series. The topics were right on target in helping Nebraska ED organizations move forward in tackling various issues.” Glennis McClure, Gage Area Growth Enterprise

nationally recognized economic development marketing strategist and site consultant Janet Ady of Ady Advantage. More than 100 individuals took part in one or more of the sessions which covered—*Readiness Beyond Shovel Ready Sites, Marketing Unique Industrial Properties/Industrial Parks, and Workforce/People Recruitment.*

“We have used a variety of site selection consultants in the past to address a number of relevant topics and issues. NPPD will continue to provide webinars or in-person training sessions in 2015 in order to further assist our communities,” stated Rick Nelsen, NPPD Economic Development Manager.

Nebraska Communities Earn Recertification

Beatrice, Columbus, Holdrege, Ord, Plattsmouth, Scribner, and South Sioux City all earned their recertification in 2014 for the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Communities program. The recertification is good for five years. The program is sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NEDED). Designation as a certified community indicates that the community is prepared for business growth and ready to meet the needs of companies seeking new business and industrial locations.

Click on the following link to learn more about the program and for a complete list of all Nebraska Economic Development Certified Communities: <http://www.neded.org/economic-development-certified-community/certified-communities>.

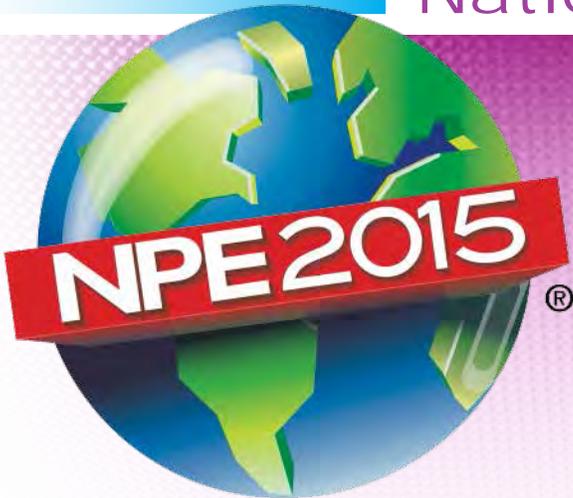
These communities are all served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District or one of its wholesale partners.



Nebraska Department of Economic Development Earns National Recognition

Congratulations to our partners at the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NEDED) in being named one of the Top Five State Economic Development Organizations in the United States. DED earned a No. 4 ranking in the inaugural study by Pollina Corporate Top 10 and American Economic Development Institute.

Nebraska to Exhibit at National Plastics Exposition



produced by **spi**

Recognized as the world's largest plastics trade show and conference, the National Plastics Exposition (NPE) is returning to Orlando, Florida, March 23–27, 2015. Over 2,000 companies will be exhibiting for more than 60,000 attendees, from 100+ countries, from every spectrum of the plastics industry representing appliances, automotive, consumer products, housing and construction, medical, packaging, and more. If you would like to visit with a Nebraska representative while attending the trade show, please contact Mary Kwapnioski, Nebraska Public Power District, at (800) 282-6773 or email her at mlkwapn@nppd.com to set up an appointment. Nebraska remains an attractive location for the plastics industry. A Profit Opportunity Study for the Plastics Industry will be updated and distributed at the show. Visit with Nebraska representatives at [Booth #S15085](#) at the National Plastics Exposition.



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Always there when you need us

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