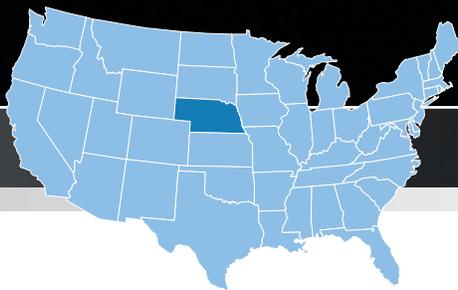


# Nebraska Overview

## Economic Development

Economic News from  
Nebraska Public Power District

Spring 2014



## Tejas Tubular Products, Inc. Announces Expansion to Norfolk, NE

Tejas Tubular Products, Inc., a leading manufacturer of Oil Country Tubular Goods for the petroleum industry, announced in late January that they would be expanding to Norfolk, Nebraska.

**“It’s great that Tejas Tubular is expanding their operations to Nebraska,”** said Governor Dave Heineman. **“Their investment is a good example of how Nebraska is moving forward as a desired, premiere destination for companies looking to expand and create jobs. Tejas Tubular and our other outstanding private industry companies are learning that Nebraska has a quality workforce, good schools, safe communities, affordable homes, and an unmatched quality of life.”**

One reason the Texas-based company chose to build their new 350,000-square-foot facility in Norfolk next to Nucor Steel Bar Mill was because Nucor will supply more than 150,000 tons of steel on an annual basis to Tejas Tubular.

Maximo Tejeda, Sr., owner of Tejas Tubular Products, Inc., said, **“The city of Norfolk was instrumental in convincing us to locate here. I can readily see the quality and dedication of the local workforce, and am looking forward to hiring hard-working Nebraskans to manufacture our line of quality products.”**

The manufacturing company will apply for incentives under the Nebraska Advantage. Additionally, the State of Nebraska is investing \$1.4 million from its Site and Building Development Fund, and the city of Norfolk has earmarked \$3.6 million in funds for the project, which is scheduled to be fully operational by late 2015.

**“Bringing Tejas Tubular to Norfolk is a monumental accomplishment for the community and all of northeast**



Left to right: Dirk Petersen, general manager, Nucor Steel Bar Mill; Gov. Dave Heineman; Max Tejeda, owner, Tejas Tubular Products, Inc.; and Norfolk Mayor Sue Fuchtmann

**Nebraska,”** said Norfolk Mayor Sue Fuchtmann. **“Our new industrial partner and its projected 200 employees will further cement Norfolk’s role as a primary steel production community in the Midwest.”**

**“Many people have worked very hard to bring the Tejas Tubular project expansion to our local area,”** said Tom Rudloff, general manager, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District. **“Elkhorn Rural Public Power District looks forward to working with others in the community to assist Max in making his expansion a success.”**

Tejas Tubular will be served electrically by Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District.

# Meatpacking Plant Reopens Under New Management



Open Range Beef (ORB) began a new meat processing operation in Gordon, Nebraska, this past December.

ORB is operating in a former processing plant that sat empty for approximately five years. The city of Gordon acquired the property in 2009. Open Range Beef purchased the facility in June 2013 and immediately began remodeling the building's refrigeration system, installing new SaniCrete floors, walls, and upgrading and installing new processing equipment.

**"It's been a tremendous amount of hard work, yet a lot of fun preparing this plant for operation,"** said ORB's Co-plant Principal Pat Shudak. **"We are very proud of the diligent**

**efforts by our entire team. An unbelievable amount of work has been accomplished in just five, short months."**

The 36,000-square-foot plant is furnished with the latest state-of-the-art equipment and 100 new and experienced employees. According to Shudak, the meat processing plant is poised to process between 250 and 300 head of cattle per day. He also indicated that plans are being made to expand the plant's cooler space in the future and add 175 additional jobs.

Open Range Beef will strictly operate as a beef processing operation. Hartley Ranch, a certified beef producer with high-end clients in both foreign and domestic markets, will be one of ORB's primary customers. The company will look to local feeders to supply the USDA-graded cattle. The plant will also serve as a local hub for custom slaughtering and will offer processing for specialty meat, such as buffalo, organic, and natural beef products.

**"With cattle and agriculture being the two top leaders in revenue generation for the state of Nebraska, it's important that we try to maximize the opportunities that we have available,"** said Gordon City Manager Fred Hlava. **"We feel very fortunate that the Open Range Beef investment group looked at this mid-sized plant as a business opportunity and to our advantage, one that will provide economic benefits for our community, region, and state."**

Open Range Beef is served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District.

## High-Tech Gas Hose to Decrease Vapor Emissions



A new product designed, tested, and manufactured by Veyance Technologies, Inc. in Norfolk, Nebraska, is now being used at gas stations and convenience stores across the country.

Veyance Technologies, Inc., exclusive manufacturer of Goodyear Engineered Products, launched a new product in January selling new gas pump hoses that decrease vapor emissions. Extensive testing on the new hose either meets or exceeds state and federal standards as well as UL requirements.

The Norfolk company employs more than 350 workers and makes hoses in many sizes and grades, as well as special hoses to withstand temperatures as low as 65 degrees below zero. Hoses are also made to handle ethanol-blended and other alternative fuels.



**"Innovative, high-tech products that solve problems lead to greater growth,"** said Chris Flint, plant manager. **"Consistently having new products in the market is what really drives the future of the business."**

Veyance Technologies is served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District.

## Brehmer Manufacturing Expansion Tops \$550,000

Brehmer Manufacturing in Lyons, Nebraska, is adding 10,000 square feet of manufacturing space. This isn't the first addition for this manufacturer of custom metal products for agricultural use, which began in 1974.

President and CEO Joe Brehmer oversees one of the largest employers in the county, with 50 employees producing six to nine distinct product lines. Their latest product is a nearly 40-ton machine that rips steel belts out of giant tires used in the mining industry.

This \$550,000+ expansion was made possible with a \$255,000 Community Development Block Grant. This is the third U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant awarded to Brehmer Manufacturing. The grants have aided the company with upgrades to help further diversify their manufacturing operations. That diversity helped the company breeze right through the economic downturn. Brehmer has a presence in 23 global markets.

**"Brehmer Manufacturing is doing things right. They continue to produce new products for a global market, and also continue to increase their workforce and capital investment here in Burt County,"** said Patty Plugge, executive director of Burt County Economic Development Corporation. **"We are so proud to have them here as our largest manufacturer."**

Brehmer Manufacturing is served electrically by the city of Lyons, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District.

## Nebraska to Attend



Nebraska representatives from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Omaha Public Power District, and Nebraska Public Power District will be attending the AWEA Windpower 2014 scheduled for May 5–8 in Las Vegas. Nebraska's location offers the benefit of significantly reduced transportation costs to manufacturers of wind turbines, blades, towers, and related firms. If you would like to visit with a Nebraska representative while attending the trade show, please contact Mary Kwapnioski at (800) 282-6773, ext. 5541 or email her at [mlkwapn@nppd.com](mailto:mlkwapn@nppd.com) to set up an appointment while at the show.



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### N-fact Nebraska Economic Fact

Nebraska is projected at 17<sup>th</sup> highest job growth rate of 1.75 percent and more than 17,000 jobs added in 2014. Source: Moody's

## In Other news

- The **Aurora Cooperative** built a \$11-million corporate headquarters in Aurora, Nebraska. The company employs 650 people at 72 facilities in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, and other states across the country.

- **Nucor Steel** will be adding a \$70-million expansion in Norfolk, Nebraska, to increase its productivity by more than 20 percent. The expansion will be in the melt shop and is expected to be complete by the first quarter of 2015.

- **Eaton** announced a \$6-million investment to increase production at its plant in Kearney, Nebraska. The project is expected to be complete in 2016.



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## NPPD Receives 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award for Economic Development Publication



Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) was a first-place award recipient at the Mid-America Economic Development Council's 2013 Annual Economic Development Awards in Chicago last December. The award was given in the community promotion and marketing program category for this newsletter—*Nebraska Economic Development Overview*. Brian Vasa, NPPD economic development consultant, accepted the award on behalf of NPPD. The Mid-America Economic Development Council is a multi-state association dedicated to being the leading resource for education, making connections, and sharing best practices for economic development professionals. Pictured above are Jeanne Bartels, editor and Dan Zastera, graphic artist of the Nebraska Economic Development Overview.

## NEBRASKA COMMUNITY GUIDES

The Economic Development Department at Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has been assisting Nebraska communities in marketing their attributes for more than 40 years. The Community Guides, a revised version of the Community Facts Books, are published for NPPD communities served at retail or wholesale to use as a tool for recruiting new industry, commercial & retail businesses, and professionals. NPPD prepares the publication for printing with the assistance of city officials and others in the community. Included in each Community Guide is a variety of detailed information on geography, economic development, labor, market access, infrastructure, communications, tax structure, local government, education, quality of life, community services, agriculture, raw materials, and climate. Community Guides are included in the searchable database on NPPD's website ([econdev.nppd.com](http://econdev.nppd.com)) and can be linked to the community's own web page. NPPD received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the Community Guide publication at the Mid-America Economic Development Council awards.

