

# PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Outreach & Public Information Offices

June 2020 Edition

## Alternative or Performance-Based Ratemaking in Nevada

On June 6, 2019, the PUCN opened Docket 19-06008, as required by the Nevada Legislature's [Senate Bill 300 \(SB 300\)](#), to adopt regulations allowing electric utilities to apply for PUCN approval of an alternative ratemaking plan.

An alternative ratemaking plan may include performance-based rates, meaning the rates charged by the utility to its customers would be tied to performance and/or desired outcomes, such as increased renewable energy, lower administrative costs or enhanced customer service.

### WHY ALTERNATIVE RATEMAKING IN NEVADA

In passing SB 300, the bill's sponsor said that alternative ratemaking would position Nevada to create a flexible and nimble regulatory environment necessary to develop a modern, reliable and efficient electrical grid. Electric vehicle charging, distributed generation like solar and rooftop solar, energy storage and integration of large amounts of renewable energy are the future for Nevada, and that future must be embraced by adoption of the bill, according to SB 300's sponsor. The complete comments from the sponsor of SB 300 at the Nevada Legislature are available in the link below.

- [Minutes from May 9, 2019, Assembly Growth & Infrastructure Committee \(PDF\)](#)

### THE PUCN'S ROLE IN ALTERNATIVE RATEMAKING

SB 300 requires the PUCN to determine if and whether alternative ratemaking is right for Nevada based on nine legislatively-established criteria (Section 16(7) of SB 300).

1. Aligns an economically viable utility model with state public policy goals.
2. Provides for just and reasonable rates that are comparable to rates established pursuant to NRS 704.110.
3. Enables the delivery of electric service and options for services and pricing that customers value including, without limitation, the development and the use of renewable resources by customers that prioritize such resources above other factors, including price.
4. Fosters statewide improvements to the economic and operational efficiency of the electrical grid.
5. Furthers the public interest including, without limitation, the promotion of safe, economic, efficient and reliable electric service

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### PUBLIC COMMENT

On March 22, Governor Sisolak signed an emergency declaration suspending the requirement that public bodies in Nevada provide a physical location for the public to attend and participate in meetings. The public may comment at PUCN agenda meetings by phone or email. These procedures will be in place until further notice.

**PHONE: (775) 687-6014**

Call in five minutes before the meeting starts to provide your name to PUCN personnel.

**EMAIL: [BPA@PUC.NV.GOV](mailto:BPA@PUC.NV.GOV)**

Submit written comments prior to the meeting.

Links to agenda meeting supporting material and the live video stream of agenda meetings are available at [puc.nv.gov](http://puc.nv.gov).



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# Working as an Electrical Engineer with the PUCN

**What educational requirements would one need to be an electrical engineer with the PUCN?** To be an electrical engineer with the PUCN, typically one must have a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering.

**Do you need experience or can you be an electrical engineer at the PUCN straight out of college?** The PUCN has hired many electrical engineers straight out of college.

**How does working as an electrical engineer with the PUCN differ from being an electrical engineer in the private sector?** Typically, electrical engineers in the private sector perform calculations, design components, or test components. At the PUCN, electrical engineers generally review and critique work performed by others.

**What are the principal job duties for an electrical engineer at the PUCN?** Electrical engineers often audit utility expenses in general rate cases and deferred accounting cases, and review the electric utility's integrated resource plan filings. They then present the results of their analyses in written and oral testimony. Although PUCN electrical engineers do not perform calculations, design components or test components, they are sort of jacks-of-all trades who get involved in accounting and economic aspects of regulatory proceedings.

## Alternate Ratemaking: *continued from page 1*

- to all customers of the electric utility.
- Enhances the resilience and security of the electrical grid while addressing concerns regarding customer privacy.
  - Ensures that customers of an electric utility benefit from lower regulatory administrative costs where appropriate.
  - Facilitates the research and development of innovative electric utility services and options to benefit customers.
  - Balances the interests of customers and shareholders by providing for services that customers want while preserving reasonable shareholder value.

Since opening Docket No. 19-06008, the PUCN has solicited three rounds of stakeholder comments and led four workshops between June 6, 2019 and February 18, 2020. A summary of the process to date in this docket is in Section I of Concept Paper 1, linked below in the Learn More section.

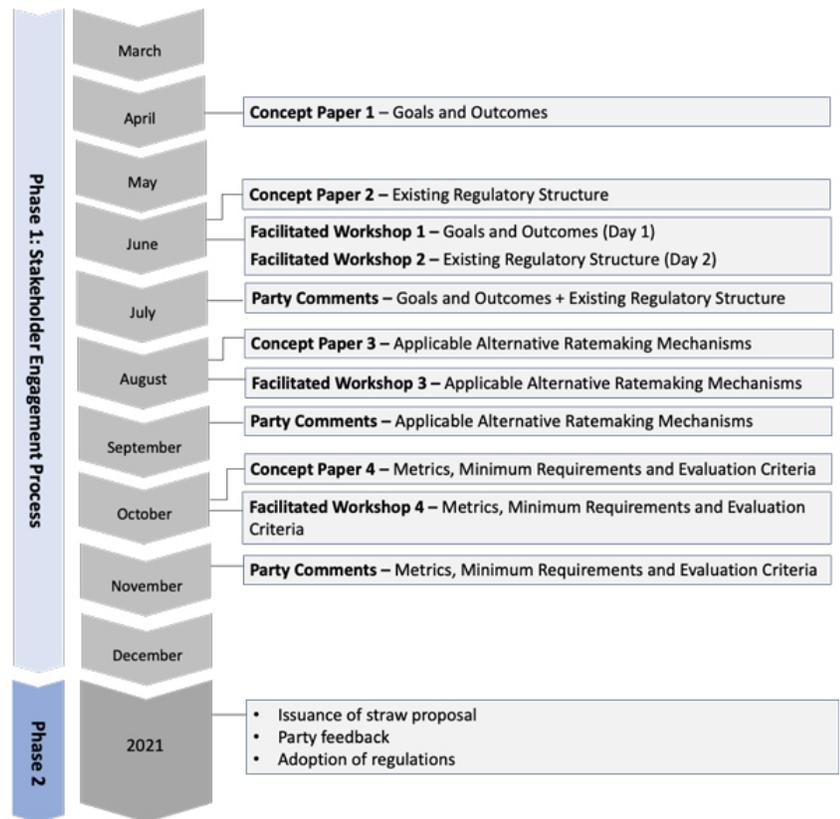
Moving forward, the docket will continue in two phases. The PUCN competitively selected [Rocky Mountain Institute](#) and the [Regulatory Assistance Project](#) to assist the PUCN in the next phases of this rulemaking docket.

### LEARN MORE

#### Concept Papers:

- [Goals & Outcomes \(PDF\)](#)
- Existing Regulatory Structure (Available in June)
- Applicable Alternative Ratemaking Mechanisms (Available in August)
- Metrics, Minimum Requirements and Evaluation Criteria (Available in October)

To view all the information filed in Docket 19-06008, including comments and other party filings, [click here](#). Scroll down to Docket 19-06008 and click the "View" link.



#### Education slide presentations provided during the early workshop process:

- [Overview of Performance-Based Regulation \(PDF\)](#)
- [Multi-Year Rate Plans \(PDF\)](#)
- [Performance Metrics \(PDF\)](#)
- [Decoupling and Revenue Regulation \(PDF\)](#)
- [Establishing Subscription Rates in the Public Interest \(PDF\)](#)

# Dockets Opened at the PUCN in May 2020

Visit [puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/](http://puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/) to view documents filed in the dockets listed below.

Docket	Date Filed	Description
20-05001	05/01/2020	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for approval of its 2019 Conservation and Energy Efficiency Plan Annual Report.
20-05002	05/04/2020	Filing by Frontier Communications Corporation of biennial audit report submitted to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") pursuant to the FCC's Final Lifeline Biennial Audit Plan.
20-05003	05/04/2020	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed under Advice Letter No. 504 to establish Customer Price Stability Tariff Schedule No. CPST (the "Program") to assist certain qualifying customers during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, and to address certain customer requests for price stability and potential cost savings in meeting customer-specific business needs and sustainability objectives.
20-05004	05/04/2020	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed under Advice Letter No. 629-E to establish Customer Price Stability Tariff Schedule No. CPST ("the Program") to assist certain qualifying customers during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, and to address certain customer requests for price stability and potential cost savings in meeting customer-specific business needs and sustainability objectives.
20-05005	05/08/2020	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and F & F Trenching, LLC ("F&F") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by F&F.
20-05006	05/11/2020	Filing by Intrado Communications, LLC of updated corporate officer listing and contact information.
20-05007	05/12/2020	Registration of Mobi Inc. as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
20-05008	05/12/2020	Application of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, filed under Advice Letter No. NV2020-06, to revise Tariff No. 1A to clarify and standardize the Trouble Isolation Charge language.
20-05009	05/12/2020	Application of White Cloud Networks NV, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
20-05010	05/15/2020	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 20-02 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective July 1, 2020.
20-05011	05/15/2020	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 20-02(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective July 1, 2020.
20-05012	05/15/2020	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 20-02(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective July 1, 2020.
20-05013	05/15/2020	Notice by FracTel, LLC of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
20-05014	5/15/2020	Registration of Best Buy Health, Inc. d/b/a GreatCall as a commercial mobile radio service provider, notice of a transaction resulting in the transfer of control of GreatCall, Inc. ("GreatCall"), and request of GreatCall to cancel its commercial mobile radio service registration.
20-05015	05/18/2020	Notice by Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc. d/b/a Humboldt Telephone Company that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
20-05016	05/18/2020	Notice by Moapa Valley Telephone Company that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
20-05017	05/18/2020	Notice by Lincoln County Telephone System, Inc. that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
20-05018	05/18/2020	Notice by Rural Telephone Company that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
20-05019	05/18/2020	Filing by Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. of replacement Informational Tariff No. 1 to reflect change of name, remove the Sprint Corporation parent name, update trademark ownership information, update customer service address, and remove reference to the Federal Communication Commission's Lifeline Broadband change customer migration.
20-05020	05/20/2020	Application of CenterPoint Energy Services, Inc. for approval of a change of name to Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC for discretionary natural gas services conducted under License G-33.

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## May Dockets: *continued from page 3*

Docket	Date Filed	Description
20-05021	05/21/2020	Application of Beehive Telephone Co., Inc., Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. 20-1, to revise Tariff No. 1 to reduce the Federal Lifeline discount for Lifeline customers pursuant to Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 16-38.
20-05022	05/22/2020	Application of Beehive Telephone Co., Inc., Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. 20-2, to revise Tariff No. 1 to modify the TDD surcharge pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 18-01033.
20-05023	05/22/2020	Joint Application of Frontier Communications Corporation ("Frontier"), Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada, Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc., Frontier Communications of America, Inc., and Frontier Communications Online and Long Distance Inc. for a determination that the restructuring of Frontier to effectuate a pre-arranged plan of reorganization complies with NRS 704.329.
20-05024	05/26/2020	Notice by Beehive Telephone Co., Inc., Nevada that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
20-05025	05/22/2020	Application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. NV-20-05, for the Elko Division to revise Tariff No. 1-B to remove residential bundles which have no subscribers and are no longer promoted.
20-05026	05/22/2020	Application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. NV-20-06, for the Tonopah Division to revise Tariff No. 1-B to remove residential bundles which have no subscribers and are no longer promoted.
20-05027	05/26/2020	Notice by Filer Mutual Telephone Company that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
20-05029	05/28/2020	Petition of RWLV CUP LLC ("RWLV CUP") for a Declaratory Order finding that the water services, natural gas, and electric services to be provided by RWLV CUP to the Resorts World Las Vegas Entertainment Complex do not constitute public utility services, nor is RWLV CUP required to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity or other exemption or permit from the Commission.

Prior editions of PUCN Connection are available at [puc.nv.gov/About/Media\\_Outreach/PUCN\\_Connection/](http://puc.nv.gov/About/Media_Outreach/PUCN_Connection/).

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Consumer Outreach Director Dawn Rivard at [drivard@puc.nv.gov](mailto:drivard@puc.nv.gov) or Communications Director Peter Kostas at [pkostas@puc.nv.gov](mailto:pkostas@puc.nv.gov).