

April is National Safe Digging Month Nevadans reminded to call 811 or place online requests before starting excavation projects

April marks the annual National Safe Digging Month, reminding Nevada residents to call the statewide 811 hotline (“Call Before You Dig” program) or place online requests through usanorth811.org two working days before beginning digging projects. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) supports the efforts of the Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance, sponsors of National Safe Digging Month in Nevada.

“Because state utility regulators and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration have authority over miles of underground pipe, we cannot stress enough the importance of following safety measures before digging underground,” said Tammy Cordova, Nevada PUCN Commissioner and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Gas Chair. “The spring season inevitably brings with it an increase in outdoor projects that can result in hitting buried utility lines. NARUC and state regulators strongly urge anyone undertaking outdoor residential or business projects to call 811 beforehand. The costs of striking and damaging underground gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines reach billions of dollars annually. A simple call can help prevent these issues and avoid serious health risks.”

Senate Bill 27 (2023) requires contractors to obtain a dig ticket if using mechanical equipment or hand tools. Non-contractors also always need a dig ticket if excavating with mechanical equipment or digging more than 12 inches deep with hand tools. However, it is good practice for everyone to call for a dig ticket whenever excavating regardless of depth.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to USA North, Nevada’s 811 call center. USA North notifies the appropriate utility companies of the homeowner’s or contractor’s intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent

to the requested dig site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint, or both. Homeowners are encouraged to take the following steps when planning a digging project this spring:

- Always call 811 a few days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm the contractor called 811. Don’t allow work to begin if the lines aren’t marked.

When natural gas pipelines have been damaged and natural gas is escaping, the following steps are the most important to take, according to PUCN Senior Gas Pipeline Regulatory Engineer Neil Pascual: “Immediately cease work, evacuate the impacted area to minimize the hazard presented by the damaged pipeline, telephone emergency 911 services from a safe area, and contact the utility operator.”

Striking a single line can cause injury, the need for costly repairs, fines, and inconvenient outages. The depth of utility lines can vary for several reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects, and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists. Every six minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. In Nevada, about one underground gas line is damaged every day.

For more information about safe digging procedures, please visit call811.com, usanorth811.org, or puc.nv.gov.



3 Southern Nevada Excavators Selected for Silver Shovel Award Recognition

93 Nevada Excavators Achieve Safety Milestone in 2023

Southwest Gas, Las Vegas Valley Water District, and AIMS Companies are vying for the top excavator honor in Southern Nevada - the 2024 Silver Shovel Award. This life-size trophy will be presented to one of the excavators at the Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance's April 4 Excavator Appreciation Dinner & Silver Shovel Award Ceremony in Henderson. The shovel trophy is a testament to the excavators' efforts to follow safe digging practices outlined in [Nevada Revised Statute 455](#).

There are miles upon miles of underground utilities buried across Nevada. Every day excavators dig into the ground for any number of residential or commercial construction projects and avoid hitting buried gas, electric, telecommunications, and water/wastewater pipes and cable.

To thank excavators for using safe digging practices in their day-to-day work, the NRCGA hosts an annual excavator appreciation event in Southern Nevada.

The Excavator Appreciation Dinner & Silver Shovel Award ceremony features a dinner, short presentations from damage prevention experts, lots of raffle prizes, and an award ceremony to present one excavator with the Silver Shovel.

In order to be in the running for the Silver Shovel, the following criteria must be met:

- 811 ticket data for the previous year, from Nevada's 811 ticket center, [Underground Service Alert](#), is used to list excavators based on ticket volume - most tickets to lowest.



Las Vegas Paving won the 2023 Silver Shovel Award. Visit [Underground Service Alert's](#) YouTube channel to learn more about the NRCGA's 2023 award: youtu.be/TPn8ZuCH0jU?si=9LKspS3U0Nc_8tok.

APRIL CALENDAR

Watch proceedings live on the PUCN website.

APRIL 3 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Investigation regarding regional market activities in the western interconnection relevant to Nevada utilities' obligations pursuant to NRS Chapter 704.
Docket 23-10019

APRIL 4 | SPECIAL AGENDA | 2 PM

APRIL 9 | REGULAR AGENDA | 10 AM

APRIL 10 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Investigation regarding regional market activities in the western interconnection relevant to Nevada utilities' obligations pursuant to NRS Chapter 704.
Docket 23-10019

Visit puc.nv.gov to view the complete PUCN calendar.

- Southern Nevada utility operators “scrub” the list to remove excavators who caused at-fault damages to underground utilities during the year in question.
- The NRCGA's Board of Directors conduct in-person interviews with the top 3 excavators.
- The top excavator receives a life-size silver shovel to display at the office, as well as one paid trip to the [Common Ground Alliance's](#) annual Excavation Safety Conference & Expo.

93 EXCAVATORS STATEWIDE ACHIEVE ZERO AT-FAULT DAMAGES IN 2023

In addition to the top 3 excavators vying for the Silver Shovel, 90 other excavators achieved the remarkable milestone in 2023 of no at-fault utility damages throughout the year! This achievement not only reflects their dedication to maintaining the highest standards of safety and damage prevention, but also contributes significantly to making Nevada a safer place for everyone.

The Silver Shovel Award is a testament to excellence in damage prevention, and these companies embody the spirit and criteria we seek in potential awardees. The NRCGA believes they are strong contenders for this prestigious recognition in the future.

For more information and to see the list of zero-at-fault-damage excavators, visit nrcga.org.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in March 2024

Visit puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/ to view documents filed in the dockets listed below.

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
24-03001	3/1/2024	Registration of CALL CENTERS INDIA INCORPORATED d/b/a Blueconnects as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
24-03002	3/1/2024	Application of Great Basin Water Co., Cold Springs, Pahrump, Spanish Springs, and Spring Creek Divisions, for approval of its 2024 Integrated Resource Plan, for approval to designate certain system improvement projects as eligible projects for which a system improvement rate may be established, and for other relief properly related thereto.
24-03003	3/1/2024	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of fuel and purchased power expenses, to reset the Temporary Renewable Energy Development charge, reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rate, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Program Rates, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rates, reset the Energy Efficiency Program Amortization Rate, reset the Energy Efficiency Implementation Amortization Rate, reset the Expanded Solar Program Costs Rate.
24-03004	3/1/2024	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of fuel and purchased power expenses, to reset the Temporary Renewable Energy Development charge, reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rate, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Program Rates, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rates, reset the Energy Efficiency Program Amortization Rate, reset the Energy Efficiency Implementation Amortization Rate, and reset the Expanded Solar Program Costs Rate.
24-03005	3/1/2024	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of natural gas expenses.
24-03006		Joint Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of the cost recovery of the regulatory assets relating to the development and implementation of their Joint Natural Disaster Protection Plan.
24-03007	3/8/2024	Registration of Approved Contact, LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
24-03008	3/5/2024	Application of Tower Consulting, Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2985.
24-03009	3/6/2024	Filing by Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of a demand side plan program change pursuant to the Stipulation approved in Docket No. 23-06044.
24-03010	3/13/2024	Notice by Intrado Communications, LLC, AP VIII Olympus VoteCo, LLC, and 46 Labs LLC of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
24-03011	3/14/2024	Application of Spirit Mountain Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 9, to revise Water Tariff No. 2 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
24-03012	3/15/2024	Application of Arcadian Infracom 3, LLC d/b/a Arcadian and Arcadian Infracom for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
24-03013	3/15/2024	Registration of Liberty Wireless, LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
24-03014	3/28/2024	Notice by IRU Networks, LLC and USA Digital Communications, Inc. of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
24-03015	3/14/2024	Application of Steamboat Springs Water Works, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 7, to revise Rate Schedules to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
24-03016	3/12/2024	Application of Verdi Meadows Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 11, to revise Water Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
24-03017	3/19/2024	Application of Metro Fibernet, LLC d/b/a Metronet for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
24-03018	3/20/2024	Notice by Vegas Valley Solar LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Aypa Solar Project consisting of an up to 1 GW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 230 kV or 500 kV transmission line, and associated facilities to be located on approximately 6,500 acres of federally-managed land in Clark County, Nevada.
24-03019	3/21/2024	Filing by Telrite Corporation d/b/a Life Wireless of updated Informational Tariff No. 2 that includes updates to Wireless Lifeline Program.
24-03020	3/21/2024	Application of Edgewood Water Company, filed under Advice Letter No. 6, to revise Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
24-03021	3/22/2024	Application of Rosemount Water Company, filed under Advice Letter No. 6, to revise Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
24-03022	3/25/2024	Notice by Impact Telecom, LLC, Lingo Management, LLC, and 46 Labs LLC of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
24-03023	3/21/2024	Application of Haas Automation, Inc. to implement and use the Economic Development Rate Rider established through NRS 704.7871 to 704.7882, inclusive.
24-03025	3/27/2024	Registration of Panda Mobile LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.

Prior editions of PUCN Connection are available at 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 or Communications Director Peter Kostas at pkostas@puc.nv.gov.