

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

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Transportation Electrification in Nevada

By Peter Kostas
Communications Director

The opportunities and challenges of transportation electrification in Nevada were discussed at a recent program presented by Sierra Nevada Forums in Carson City at the Brewery Arts Center.

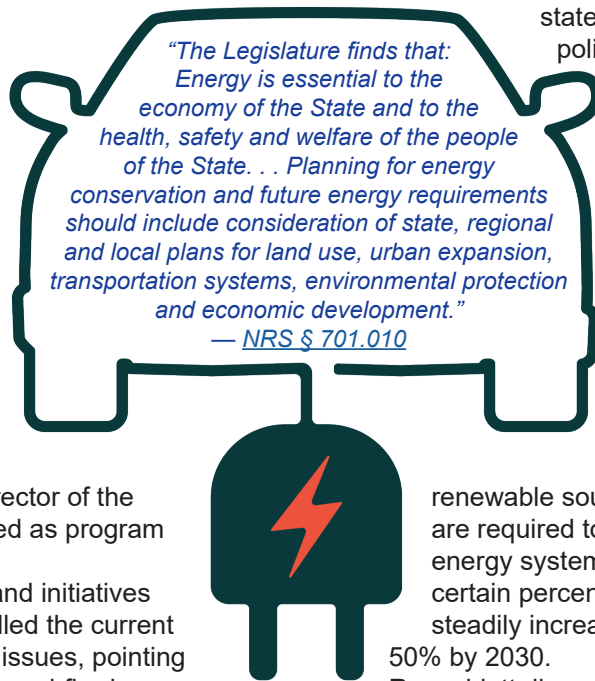
Panelists and speakers at the Nov. 12 event included David Bobzien, Director of the Governor's Office of Energy; Lauren Rosenblatt with the consulting firm E-Centricity; Tom Polikalas of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project; and Brian Beffort, director of the Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter, who served as program moderator.

Bobzien focused on state policies and initiatives regarding electric transportation. He called the current era a "great time of change" for energy issues, pointing to events such as the steady closure of coal-fired electric plants across the country since 2010 and the reality that "one in four people in America live in a community committed to 100% renewables."

With those trends having picked up steam in Nevada, Bobzien noted that the transportation sector in the state now represents the largest source of carbon emissions at 41%.

Bobzien also pointed to Governor Steve Sisolak's administration's focus on climate change as a catalyst to spur transportation electrification.

The governor's recently signed executive order requiring



state agencies to identify and evaluate policies and regulatory strategies to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions, includes direction to develop policies that support transportation electrification and demand management, including infrastructure, fleet procurement, alternative funding mechanisms and other programs.

In Nevada, the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) establishes the percentage of electricity sold by an electric utility to retail customers that must come from

renewable sources. More specifically, electric utilities are required to generate, acquire or save with portfolio energy systems or energy efficiency measures, a certain percentage of electricity annually. The RPS steadily increases every two years until it reaches 50% by 2030.

Rosenblatt discussed findings in her company's report – "Electrifying Nevada's 21st Century Transportation System: Actions, Opportunities, Aspirations" – that she co-authored. The report is available on the Office of Energy website and is viewed as an action plan the state and state agencies could be doing "to move the needle forward" regarding transportation electrification. Following is a link to the report: energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Home/Electrifying%20Nevadas%2021st%20Century%20Transportation%20System_Final.pdf.

The comprehensive report, funded by an Office of Energy

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Governor Sisolak Signs Executive Order Directing Administration to Collaborate on Achieving Nevada's Climate Goals

On Nov. 22, Governor Steve Sisolak signed [Executive Order 2019-22](#) directing his administration, under the leadership of Director Bradley Crowell of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Director David Bobzien of the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE), to collaborate with public, private, and tribal partners to help implement and accelerate cutting-edge solutions to advance the state's ambitious climate goals.

According to a Governor's Office press release, the order directs state agencies, including the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), to identify and evaluate policies and regulatory strategies to achieve the long-term goals of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, as required by Senate Bill 254 (SB 254) and in accordance with Nevada's commitments as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance. To help achieve these reduction targets, the administration, led by DCNR and GOE, will coordinate statewide efforts, including the facilitation of agency and stakeholder participation.

In addition to producing reports as required by SB 254, the governor's administration will develop a State Climate Strategy, to be delivered by Dec. 1, 2020, that will include recommendations to reduce carbon pollution from the electricity and transportation sectors, buildings, state operations, and other relevant sectors.

"This executive order will ensure Nevada continues to promote ambitious carbon-reduction standards that will help tackle the devastating impacts of climate change while creating good, high-paying jobs for Nevadans," Governor Sisolak

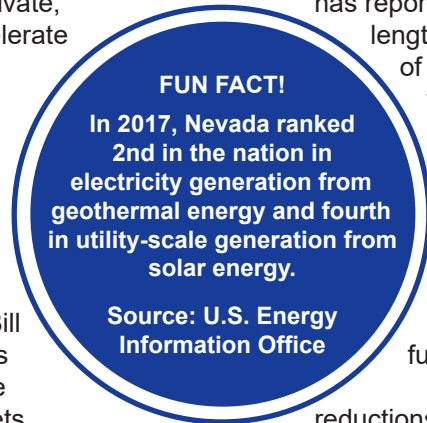
said. "The impacts of climate change, and a job market that demands renewable energy and other clean technologies, are already here. For the sake of Nevada's future, and our children's future, we must take action."

"As the climate continues to warm, the science community has reported a significant increase in the severity and length of droughts and the frequency and intensity of wildfires," Crowell said. "With Nevada being the driest state in the nation, coupled with the risks and realities our state faces from climate change, smart climate solutions are critical to the long-term health and sustainability of our state. Under the executive order, we look forward to advancing strategies that reduce Nevada's climate footprint, promote clean energy, and foster a healthy and sustainable future for all."

"Pursuing these ambitious emissions reductions goals will require collaboration with local governments, tribal governments, businesses, and stakeholders from all across Nevada," Bobzien said. "This executive order provides the direction and framework for both combating climate change and realizing the economic opportunities of a decarbonized economy."

The governor signed the executive order at a Nov. 22 press conference at the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County, which has been a leader in investing in electric vehicle technology. The RTC was the first public agency in the state to operate electric buses and added 17 to its fleet just last year.

(The Governor's Office issued this press release on Nov. 22.)



Get to Know Us: Nichole Shafer, Administrative Services Officer II, Administration

Describe your current job responsibilities and areas of focus: I am the supervisor of the Accountant Technician II and Accounting Assistant III. My main duties include preparing and monitoring the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada's (PUCN) budget. I review and approve deposits, payables and travel, making sure all transactions are in line with State requirements. I also prepare contracts and help to monitor the PUCN's grants.

What aspects of your job do you enjoy most: My favorite aspect is building the budget. I love to see all that hard work get approved and there is nothing more rewarding when those numbers finally balance.

How long have you been at the PUCN: I was hired in August 2012 as the Accountant Technician II in Fiscal Services. I have been with the PUCN 7 years. Other positions I've held in Fiscal Services include Administrative Services Officer, Management Analyst II and Financial Officer.

Prior professional experience: Before working with the PUCN, I worked for a few years at an eye doctor's office in

Reno, doing medical billing. Prior to that, I was a student worker at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) with University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) where I processed tuition billing and payments. Those were my two main jobs before here, prior to that I worked various retail locations or worked as an assistant in office locations.

Educational background: I attended Churchill County High School in Fallon. I graduated there in 2003. From there I attended UNR, earning a bachelor's degree in 2008 and then my master's in 2010, both for accounting.

Hometown: I was born in Reno, and I bounced around Reno, Carson City, and Fallon during my youth. The most interesting place I lived was Hawaii, where I began kindergarten. I currently live in Carson City, and most of my family is located in Fallon.





The Nevada Electric Highway (NEH) began as a partnership between the Governor’s Office of Energy, NV Energy, and Valley Electric Association to expand the state’s electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure by placing charging stations at cost-effective and strategic locations, initially along U.S. 95 between Reno and Las Vegas.

Nevada’s Strategic Planning Framework established the goal to complete an “electric highway” system serving the entire state by 2020, building on the initial agency plans to install publicly available EV fast-charging infrastructure along U.S. Highway 95 between Reno and Las Vegas (NEH Phase I). The NEH initiative, led by the Governor’s Office Energy, aims to achieve this goal through partnership with the Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada’s electric utilities, and private commercial host sites. Each station incentivized by the Governor’s Office of Energy in Phase I includes two Level 2 charges and one Direct Current (DC) fast charger. Phase II charger requirements are similarly a minimum of two chargers, but with the option to have both be Direct Current (DC) fast chargers.

For more information, including current and future charging station locations, visit the Office of Energy website. energy.nv.gov/Programs/Nevada_Electric_Highway/

Electrification: *continued from page 1*

grant, covers opportunities for Nevada to improve air quality, energy independence, economic development, economic efficiencies and job creation. The report also addresses challenges such as steady funding sources, investment and government focus.

Polikalas provided insight into the economic, national security and environmental reasons for transforming the transportation system. He said key economic benefits of electrifying transportation include air quality, health costs, greenhouse gas reduction and ratepayer benefits. Increased mass transit electrification will become more important to reducing emissions in Nevada’s urban areas. (The Governor’s climate goals’ executive order notes that Las Vegas is the nation’s fastest warming city, with a temperature increase of 5.76 degrees Fahrenheit between 1970 and 2018.)

The forum speakers noted the nascent electric vehicle industry currently represents only about 1% of automobiles on the road in Nevada, but those numbers are expected to significantly grow in the coming decades.

Polikalas said electric vehicles will be a key component of tourism because California is the largest electric vehicle market in the country. Travelers coming into Nevada to visit hotels and casinos will increasingly expect the availability of charging stations. In turn, that development will benefit locals as well.

Development of the state’s “Electric Highway” has been underway for several years to increase the number of charging stations on the state’s major highways and promote electric vehicle usage.

Polikalas said increased electric vehicle usage will reduce the amount of money America spends on imported oil and keep those dollars for transportation needs in the U.S. He also said reducing the reliance on foreign oil, including sources in countries such as Russia, has the potential to reduce revenue those countries must allocate toward military spending.

Bobzien said a sizeable challenge Nevada and other states face as transportation electrification increases is how governments transition from traditional gas taxes to fund road infrastructure. Ideas being discussed include a vehicle miles traveled tax or perhaps one based on vehicle weight as revenue replacements, but no one idea has moved to the forefront yet. “What is the future of highway funding? No easy answers just yet, but there is an active conversation,” Bobzien said.

Other electric vehicle challenges the panelists cited are vehicle charging times and improved battery technology. Opportunities include the use of EV systems to provide a tie-in to the grid to power homes during outages and other innovative ideas as technological advances emerge.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in December 2019

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

Docket #	Date Filed	Description
19-12001	12/06/2019	Filing by Spark Energy Gas, LLC to update license information regarding a settlement agreement between the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and an affiliate.
19-12002	12/03/2019	Application of Common Point LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2988.
19-12003	12/10/2019	Filing by Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. of updated Informational Tariff No. 1 that includes revisions to Lifeline Assistance Plan to include a charge for the replacement of a lost or stolen phone.
19-12005	12/13/2019	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to remove multi-party and measured service customer language from Vacation Get Away Service.
19-12006	12/12/2019	Joint Petition of Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. and NGA 911, L.L.C. for approval of an Interconnection and Traffic Interchange Agreement for Commercial Mobile Radio Service pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
19-12008	12/13/2019	Application of Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. NV-19-02, to revise Tariff No. 3-B to conform Wholesale services to the Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 16-141.
19-12009	12/13/2019	Application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. NV-19-12, for the Elko Division to revise Tariff No. 1-B to remove multi-party and measured service customer language from Vacation Get Away Service.
19-12010	12/13/2019	Application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. NV-19-13, for the Tonopah Division to revise Tariff No. 1-B to remove multi-party and measured service customer language from Vacation Get Away Service.
19-12011	12/12/2019	Filing by American Broadband and Telecommunications Company of updated service offerings to wireless Lifeline plans.
19-12012	12/17/2019	Filing by TAG Mobile, LLC of revised Lifeline wireless service plans.
19-12013	12/18/2019	Notice by Allegiant Networks, LLC of its intent to begin providing Interconnected Voice-over Internet Protocol services.
19-12014	12/19/2019	Filing by Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a STAND UP WIRELESS of updated Tariff No. 1 that includes revisions to wireless Lifeline plans.
19-12015	12/27/2019	Application of Correct Solutions, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
19-12016	12/20/2019	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, filed under Advice Letter No. 500, to revise Tariff No. 1-B to implement Large Customer Market Price Energy Schedule No. LCMPE to allow eligible customers to receive bundled electric service, reflecting market price of energy, using energy resources that will not subject the customer to the imposition of an impact fee.
19-12017	12/19/2019	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of an Energy Supply Agreement with Lumen Group LLC.
19-12018	12/20/2019	Filing by TerraCom Inc. of updated Advisory Tariff No. 1 that includes updates to Wireless Lifeline Program.
19-12019	12/20/2019	Investigation to determine if Chapter 704 of the Nevada Administrative Code needs to be amended to allow for a review of long-term natural gas procurement contracts.
19-12020	12/23/2019	Filing by Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of changes in rates within its Gas Tariff Schedule No. INGR pursuant to NAC 704.522 and NAC 704.526.
19-12021	12/23/2019	Application of Securus Technologies, Inc. for approval of a change of name to Securus Technologies, LLC for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2407 Sub 3.
19-12022	12/23/2019	Filing by Southwest Gas Corporation of its 2019 Status Report on the Mesquite Expansion Project.
19-12023	12/24/2019	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, filed under Advice Letter No. 499, to revise Electric Line Extensions Rule No. 9 to adjust the Tax Gross-up Rate.
19-12024	12/24/2019	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, filed under Advice Letter No. 625-E, to revise Electric Line Extensions Rule No. 9 to adjust the Tax Gross-up Rate.
19-12025	12/24/2019	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, filed under Advice Letter No. 332-G, to revise Gas Main Extensions Rule No. 9 to adjust the Tax Gross-up Rate.
19-12026	12/26/2019	Rulemaking to consider amending NAC 704.660 and 704.662 to allow the Commission more flexibility in considering cost-of-service studies in advance of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy's 2020 general rate case.
19-12027	12/27/2019	Notice by Southwest Gas Corporation of its intent to file an application for adjustment in rates.
19-12028	12/30/2019	Klondike Holding, LLC vs. Great Basin Water Co., Spring Creek Division. Complaint regarding Great Basin Water Co. refusing to provide water service due to insufficient water right allocation.
19-12029	12/31/2019	Application of Great Basin Water Co. for authority to adjust its annual revenue requirement for water and sewer service rates charged to all classes of customers in the Pahrump Division and for other relief properly related thereto.

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.