

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Public Information & Outreach Offices

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NARUC handbook helps ready consumers for potential impact on utility services due to catastrophes or emergencies

With natural disasters and severe weather events occurring with growing frequency and intensity, it is more critical than ever for consumers to be prepared for these emergencies. Three components to emergency preparedness involve being informed about the different types of emergencies to which your state and local area are vulnerable, making an emergency plan, and preparing an emergency kit.

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) "Consumers & Catastrophes" handbook is organized alphabetically according to catastrophe or emergency. Each section highlights how a particular catastrophe or emergency might impact your utility service (telecommunications, electric, gas, and water). In addition, each section includes checklists to assist you in preparing before, responding during, and recovering after catastrophes and emergencies.

There are several appendices to assist you with key emergency preparedness components, including food safety, understanding emergency alerts, developing emergency plans for your family and pets, preparing emergency supply kits, and emergency preparation tips for travelers. There is also a blank form that you can download to list emergency contacts such as phone numbers for utilities and your local emergency service agencies.

Download the handbook on NARUC's website at <https://pubs.naruc.org/pub/16F6F370-92B2-5780-4C6D-D1754303DA02>.

CONSUMERS & CATASTROPHES



Understanding the Impact to You, Your Family, and Your Utilities



Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest
FEBRUARY 2019



Public Utilities Commission of Nevada | puc.nv.gov



New law requires electric utilities to develop, implement natural disaster protection plan

On June 6, 2019, the PUCN opened rulemaking Docket 19-06009 to implement Senate Bill 329 (SB 329), which requires investor-owned electric utilities in Nevada to submit a natural disaster protection plan to the PUCN on or before June 1, 2020, and then on or before June 1 of every third year after.

The utility's plan must:

- Identify areas within the service territory of the electric utility that are subject to a heightened threat of a fire or other natural disaster.
- Propose an approach for the mitigation of potential fires or other natural disasters that is cost effective, prudent and reasonable.
- Describe the preventive measures and programs the electric utility will implement to minimize the risk of its electric infrastructure causing a fire.
- Describe the participation of the electric utility, including, without limitation, any commitments made, in any community wildfire protection plans, as defined in 16 U.S.C. § 6511, established in this State.



Caughlin Fire near Reno, NV, November 2011.
Photo credit: City of Reno

- Propose protocols for de-energizing distribution lines and disabling reclosers on those lines in the event of a fire or other natural disaster. Such protocols must consider the associated impact of such actions on public safety and mitigate any adverse impact on public safety plans, including, without limitation, impact on critical first responders and on health and communication infrastructure.
- Describe the procedures the electric utility intends to use to inspect the electric infrastructure of the electric utility.

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Get to Know Us:

Shayla Hooker, *Executive Assistant, General Counsel*

Describe your current job responsibilities and areas of focus:

My many duties include providing daily support for the Office of General Counsel, maintaining litigation files and tracking the calendaring of General Counsel deadlines, including Commission and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceedings and legislative items. In addition, I maintain law library materials and publications, research non-legal issues, serve, process and file documents at courts, maintain confidential files, and track and maintain numerous other records (public records requests, federal agency filings, compliance filings and administrative penalties and fines).

What aspects of your job do you enjoy most: The ability to be able to learn new things and grow and progress within the PUCN. I also feel that I am valued and a part of the team.

How long have you been at the PUCN: I have been



at the PUCN for 15 years. I was hired in February 2004. Positions I have held include front desk Administrative Assistant I, Legal Secretary II (Staff Counsel), Executive Assistant (Staff) and more recently I moved over to the Commission side as Executive Assistant for General Counsel.

Prior professional experience: I was a Cosmetologist and also worked as a teller in the banking industry (Nevada State Bank, Wells Fargo and Silver State Schools Credit Union).

Educational background (high school/colleges attended; degrees obtained): Graduated from Southern

Nevada Vocational Technical Center (Vo-Tech) with a high school diploma. I also have attended classes at College of Southern Nevada (CSN).

Hometown (current and where you grew up): I was born and raised in Las Vegas, where I currently reside.

Disaster plan: *continued from page 2*

- Describe the procedures the electric utility intends to use for vegetation management.
- Describe the procedures the electric utility intends to use to restore its distribution system in the event of a natural disaster.
- Demonstrate that the natural disaster protection plan is consistent with the emergency response plan submitted by the electric utility pursuant to NRS 239C.270.
- Describe the ability of the electric utility to implement the natural disaster protection plan and identify additional funding needed for the implementation of the plan.

Anyone interested in following docket 19-06009 should subscribe online to the docket's service list at puc.nv.gov/About/Docs/servicelists/Docket_Service_List_Email/.

Review SB 329 at the Nevada Legislature's website at leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6598/Overview.

Weatherization Assistance Program helps seniors, disabled

The Nevada Housing Division's (Division) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was established in 1977 to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities and children by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. *The assistance is provided to eligible people free of charge.*

Typical measures installed include but are not limited to:

- Health and safety measures- carbon monoxide detector installation and testing of gas appliances, assurance of indoor air quality standards
- Ceiling, floor and duct insulation
- Duct leakage sealing
- Replace broken windows, replace exterior doors and windows, weather stripping, caulking, evaporative cooler covers, etc.
- Insulation of water heater and water heater pipes
- Installation of low-flow shower heads
- Solar screens (Southern Nevada only)
- Minor home repairs to facilitate the installation of weatherization materials
- Heating and cooling system repairs/replacements
- LED Light Bulbs
- Refrigerators

Visit housing.nv.gov/programs/Weatherization/ for more information.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in September 2019

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

Docket #	Date Filed	Description
19-09001	09/03/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and R & N Construction LLC ("R & N Construction") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by R & N Construction.
19-09002	09/04/2019	Notice by Harry Allen Solar Energy LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct a temporary water pipeline to the Harry Allen Solar Energy Center located approximately 15 miles north of Las Vegas in Clark County, Nevada.
19-09003	09/19/2019	Application of Local Access LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 3030.
19-09004	09/11/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Curtis & Sons Construction, Inc. ("Curtis & Sons Construction") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Curtis & Sons Construction.
19-09005	09/11/2019	Application of Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Integra Telecom for approval of a change of fictitious business name to Allstream for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2232 Sub 3.
19-09006	09/10/2019	Notice by Combined Public Communications, LLC of its intent to do business in the State of Nevada as a provider of inmate services.
19-09007	09/11/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Northwest Landscape & Maintenance LLC ("Northwest") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Northwest.
19-09008	09/13/2019	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and WANRack, LLC for approval of an Interconnection and/or Resale Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

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Dockets: continued from page 3

Docket #	Date Filed	Description
19-09009	09/16/2019	Biannual filing by Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy regarding the Solar Program, providing a status update and a summary of discussion from a meeting with industry stakeholders pursuant to NAC 701B.145.
19-09010	09/17/2019	Application of Combined Public Communications, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
19-09011	09/18/2019	Investigation and rulemaking to consider, amend, and/or adopt regulations establishing increased leak survey requirements for distribution pipelines transporting natural gas and/or liquefied petroleum gas.
19-09012	09/24/2019	Petition of Pilot Pipeline LLC for a non-emergency special permit to deviate from certain state and federal pipeline safety regulations regarding use of composite pipe in building and operating a gas transmission pipeline.
19-09013	09/26/2019	Application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. NV-19-08, for the Elko Division to revise Tariff No. 1-B to grandfather certain residential bundles and to change language for Frontier Digital Phone Unlimited and Frontier Digital Phone Unlimited Plus making non-recurring charges no longer applicable for establishing service.
09-09014	09/26/2019	Application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada, filed under Advice Letter No. NV-19-09, for the Tonopah Division to revise Tariff No. 1-B to grandfather certain residential bundles and to change language for Frontier Digital Phone Unlimited and Frontier Digital Phone Unlimited Plus making non-recurring charges no longer applicable for establishing service.
09-09015	09/24/2019	Filing by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. and Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada of annual data regarding Connect America Fund Inter-carrier Compensation Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304 and annual certification that price cap carrier is not seeking duplicative Eligible Recovery pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 51.915.
09-09016	09/24/2019	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.
09-09017	09/25/2019	Petition of Southwest Gas Corporation for an Advisory Opinion to clarify the intent of regulations relating to gas infrastructure replacement projects and gas infrastructure replacement mechanisms under NAC 704.796 et al.
09/09018	09/26/2019	Investigation and rulemaking to consider amending certain regulations contained in Chapter 455 of the Nevada Administrative Code regarding information provided to the association of operators on the location of subsurface installations.
09/09019	09/24/2019	Joint Petition of Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink and NHC Communications for approval of an Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
09/09020	09/24/2019	Joint Petition of Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink and NHC Communications for approval of a Local Wholesale Solutions Complete Service Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

- **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES:**

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- **DOCKET-SPECIFIC SERVICE LIST:** Subscribers receive notification of all notices and orders specific to a selected open docket before the PUCN. Subscribers could receive multiple emails or mailings monthly depending on activity within the selected docket.

- **MASTER SERVICE LIST:** Subscribers may choose to receive notification of all notices and orders issued in PUCN rulemaking dockets; notification of all initial notices issued for new dockets before the PUCN; notification of initial notices issued for new dockets regarding a specific utility type (electric, gas, telecom, water, and railroad); or notification of initial notices issued for new dockets regarding a specific utility company or specialty list (Sierra Pacific Power Company, Nevada Power Company, Renewable List, and 252 Interconnection/Resale List). Subscribers could receive multiple emails or mailings monthly depending on notification selections. *Subscriptions must be renewed every six months.*



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