

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Public Information & Outreach Offices

September 2019 Edition

LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK (Sept. 9-13) 'STAY CONNECTED' THROUGH LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) is promoting Lifeline Awareness Week, Sept. 9-13. The Lifeline Assistance Program is a government benefit program supported by the Universal Service Fund that provides a discount on voice or broadband services for qualifying low-income consumers.

The PUCN wants residents to "stay connected" and is reaching out to those who need voice or broadband services but can't afford it. Lifeline helps low-income consumers connect to the nation's communications networks, find jobs, access health care services, connect with family, and call for help in an emergency.

Under the federal Lifeline program, persons who participate in or are eligible for certain public assistance programs, or qualify based on income, can receive a discount of at least \$9.25 per month off their monthly bill for phone, broadband, or bundled phone and broadband service. More information on program eligibility, including links to a list of Lifeline providers in Nevada, is available at lifelinesupport.org and fcc.gov/consumers/guides/lifeline-support-affordable-communications. In addition,



a video explaining the Lifeline program is available at: [Lifeline: It's a Life Changer](http://lifeline.org).

To apply for benefits, consumers should contact their provider of telephone or internet service, including wireless providers.

Beginning later this year, Nevada will transition to using the National Verifier for determining Lifeline eligibility. Consumers will be able to apply directly for Lifeline benefits from the National Verifier before choosing a telephone or internet provider. Direct applications with the National Verifier will be available by accessing the

Consumer Portal at lifelinesupport.org/ls/nv/default.aspx once Nevada is listed on this website as a participating state.

Once Nevada transitions to the National Verifier, existing Lifeline customers will be required to reverify their Lifeline eligibility. Customers will be contacted by their telephone or internet provider to assist in this reverification process. Additional information about the reverification process can be found at usac.org/li/tools/national-verifier/migration.aspx.



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Below and above, PUCN and Nigerian Commission staff tour the Hoover Dam in Boulder City.



Nigerian delegation learns from PUCN during August visit

In partnership with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the U.S. Department of State, the PUCN hosted a three-person delegation from the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (Nigerian Commission) from Aug. 12-16. The delegation sought a better understanding of how both regulators and utilities implement and use the Uniform System of Accounts.

The delegation's travel plans included visits to the PUCN's Carson City and Las Vegas offices, conversations with PUCN commissioners, financial analysts, policy advisors and staff attorneys, and a tour of Hoover Dam with PUCN staff.



In the photo above, commissioners Hayley Williamson, left, and C.J. Manthe, second from right, meet with Nigerian Commission staff in Carson City.

Get to Know Us:

Gary Cameron, *Regulatory Operations Staff Resource Planning Engineer*

Describe your current job responsibilities and areas of focus: My primary responsibilities are to participate in analysis of most Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), General Rate Cases (GRCs) and Deferred Energy Accounting Adjustment (DEAA) dockets (since 2010). Additionally, over the last 10 years, I have worked extensively with NV Energy's Rule 9 tariffs and related rule makings and consumer complaints. Also, plenty of "Other Duties as Assigned" that have ranged from energy storage investigations and rulemakings to 704B exit applications (NRS chapter 704B allows qualified electric utility customers to apply to buy energy from a third-party provider instead of the local utility).

What aspects of your job do you enjoy most: I like working on IRPs and IRP amendments. I enjoy being part of the team that will keep Nevadans' lights on in the future and their energy sources increasingly cleaner.

How long have you been at the PUCN: I've been employed with the PUCN since Feb. 15, 2010, all as resource planning engineer.

Prior professional experience: Owner, Gary Cameron Custom Homes.

Educational background (high school/colleges attended; degrees obtained): I graduated from Reno High School and then from University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Hometown (current and where you grew up): I currently live in Reno and was also raised in Reno.



Western EIM benefits reach nearly \$740 million since 2014 launch

BANC receives its first benefits since joining the real-time energy market

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) released its Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) second quarter 2019 report on July 31, stating the market generated \$86 million in gross benefits. According to CAISO, the real-time energy market has produced \$736.26 million in total benefits since its launch in November 2014.

The Western EIM uses advanced technologies to automatically find and deliver the lowest cost energy to consumers across eight western states. By optimizing resources from a larger and more diverse pool, the Western EIM better facilitates the integration of renewable energy that may otherwise be curtailed at certain times of the day, providing an added environmental benefit.

The table at right displays CAISO's claimed second quarter benefits by participant. The Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC), which began participation in April 2019, is included in the total calculation for the first time.

	(millions \$)
Arizona Public Service	\$8.55
BANC	\$8.81
California ISO	\$23.53
Idaho Power	\$8.33
NV Energy	\$4.62
PacifiCorp	\$15.15
Portland General Electric	\$10.89
Powerex	\$3.06
Puget Sound Energy	\$3.06
Total	\$86.0

The Western Energy Imbalance Market is a real-time wholesale energy trading market that enables participants anywhere in the West to buy and sell energy when needed. EIM has generated hundreds of millions in gross benefits.

westerneim.com

The benefits report estimates the Western EIM reduced CO2 levels by 56,897 metric tons by using surplus renewable energy that otherwise would have been curtailed.

According to CAISO, since 2015, the effective use of carbon-free generation from the market has resulted in a gross reduction of 403,546 metric tons of CO2, which is the equivalent of removing the emissions of 84,844 passenger cars driven for one year.

Looking forward, CAISO projects that the market will continue to grow with benefits anticipated to increase as other participants enter the market. Those future participants include Arizona's Salt River Project and Seattle City Light in April 2020. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, NorthWestern Energy, Turlock Irrigation District, and the Public Service Company of New Mexico are slated to begin participation in 2021. Tucson Electric Power in Arizona and Avista, which serves parts of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, announced plans to participate in 2022.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in August 2019

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

Docket #	Date Filed	Description
19-08001	08/01/2019	Filings by Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of its monthly financial statements and quarterly calculations of its earned rate(s) of return and returns on equity for the Nevada jurisdiction pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 13-07021.
19-08002	08/01/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and ICG Construction LLC (ICG) requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by ICG.
19-08003	08/01/2019	Application of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale, filed under Advice Letter No. 2064, to revise Access Tariff No. C2-A to increase the Cost Assessment Charge for business customers subscribing to AT&T Dedicated Ethernet service.
19-08004	08/02/2019	Filing by Rosemount Water Company requesting assistance of the Regulatory Operations Staff in preparing an application for a general rate change.
19-08005	08/05/2019	Application of Mitel Cloud Services, Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPC) 1096 Sub 4.
19-08006	08/06/2019	Joint Petition of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink and Teliix, Inc. for approval of the Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
19-08007	08/06/2019	Joint Petition of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink and Teliix, Inc. for approval of an Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
19-08008	08/07/2019	Notice by Exiant Communications LLC of its intent to request numbering resources for the Las Vegas and Reno rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
19-08009	08/07/2019	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to introduce a promotional offering for new Digital Phone customers who purchase qualifying broadband services.

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Dockets: *continued from page 3*

Docket #	Date Filed	Description
19-08010	08/08/2019	Petition of Cypress Creek Renewables, LLC for an Advisory Opinion or Declaratory Order as to whether a solar bifacial test facility constitutes a utility facility pursuant to NRS 704.860(1).
19-08011	08/09/2019	Notice by Fusion Cloud Services, LLC, Fusion Connect, Inc., Fusion LLC, and Telecom Holdings LLC of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of telecommunication companies.
19-08012	08/12/2019	Application of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale, filed under Advice Letter No. 2065, to revise its Guidebook to modify the Lifeline service description and incorporate the adoption of the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier.
19-08013	08/13/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Sunstate Companies, LLC (Sunstate) requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Sunstate.
19-08014	08/14/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Sommercial Construction Inc. (Sommercial Construction) requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Sommercial Construction.
19-08015	08/14/2019	Application of Great Basin Water Co., filed under Advice Letter No. 3, to revise Tariff No. 1-W to consolidate and coordinate tariffs for its Pahump and Spring Creek Divisions.
19-08016	08/15/2019	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-03 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2019.
19-08017	08/15/2019	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-03(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2019.
19-08018	08/15/2019	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-03(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2019.
19-08019	08/21/2019	Petition of UC Won, LLC for a Declaratory Order finding that a renewable energy facility that delivers energy on a retail basis to only one customer is not subject to regulation by the Commission and not subject to the requirements of Chapter 704 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.
19-08020	08/19/2019	Application of AmeriGas Propane, L.P. for authority to provide liquefied petroleum gas service to Pineview Estates in Gardnerville, Nevada.
19-08021	08/19/2019	Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff to open an investigatory and rulemaking docket to amend certain regulations contained in Chapter 703 of the Nevada Administrative Code regarding annual leak surveys of distribution pipelines transporting natural gas and/or liquefied petroleum gas.
19-08022	08/20/2019	Petition of Arrow Canyon Solar, LLC for an Advisory Opinion or Declaratory Order as to whether a renewable energy facility of less than 70 MW is considered a utility facility pursuant to NRS 704.860(1) when it is part of a larger project that is not required to obtain a Utility Environmental Protection Act Permit.
19-08023	08/30/2019	Filing by i-wireless, LLC d/b/a Access Wireless of updated Advisory Tariff No. 1 that includes revisions to wireless Lifeline plans.
19-08024	08/23/2019	Petition of Nevada Gold Mines LLC for a waiver of the material requirements for the construction of a new natural gas pipeline from the Ruby Pipeline to the Long Canyon Mine.
19-08025	08/22/2019	Notice by Ooma, Inc of its intent to begin providing Interconnected Voice-over Internet Protocol services.
19-08026	08/23/2019	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to include rate increases to certain Custom Calling Service features.
19-08027	08/23/2019	Report by Solix, Inc., as Administrator of the Nevada Universal Service Fund, regarding fiscal year 2020 assessment recommendation concerning the minimum annual contribution and assessment rate on the intrastate retail revenues of all obligated providers of telecommunication services in Nevada.
19-08028	08/26/2019	Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff to open an investigation and rulemaking docket for regulations contained in Chapter 455 of the Nevada Administrative Code regarding information provided to the association of operators on the location of subsurface installations.
19-08029	08/26/2019	Notice by FracTel, LLC of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
19-08030	08/29/2019	Informational Report of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy concerning its natural gas resource planning activities.
19-08033	08/29/2019	Notice by Lithium Nevada Corp. of Plan of Operations submitted to Bureau of Land Management to construct and operate the Thacker Pass Project in northern Humboldt County, Nevada.
19-08034	08/30/2019	Joint Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for acceptance of their Joint Energy Supply Plan Update for 2020-2021.

Prior editions of PUCN Connection are available at puc.nv.gov/About/Media_Outreach/PUCN_Connection/.
 For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Public Information Officer Peter Kostas at pkostas@puc.nv.gov
 or Consumer Outreach Director Dawn Rivard at drivard@puc.nv.gov.