

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Outreach & Public Information Offices

October 2020 Edition

PUCN Issues Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2025

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada's Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 integrates input from all personnel levels of the PUCN and reflects a planning process that is guided by the statutory duties of the PUCN.

The PUCN is made up of the Commission and the Regulatory Operations Division, referred to as the Regulatory Operations Staff (or Staff). The Commission is a quasi-judicial body with three gubernatorial appointees (referred to as Commissioners) who are appointed by the governor in staggered four-year terms. The appointed Commissioners preside over contested cases and make decisions regarding the operations of public utilities. The Regulatory Operations Division is an independent division that investigates and audits utility operations and participates as a party in all proceedings before the Commission.



5-YEAR PLAN

goals
strategies
objectives

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The PUCN ensures that investor-owned utilities comply with Nevada law. The PUCN regulates approximately 400 investor-owned utilities engaged in electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and wastewater services; gas and electric "master meter" service at mobile home parks; and some propane systems. The PUCN is also involved in monitoring gas pipeline safety, rail safety, and excavation near subsurface installations.

The PUCN provides for fair and impartial regulation of public utilities and the safe, economic, efficient, prudent and reliable operation and service of public utilities. The PUCN balances the interests of customers and shareholders of public utilities by providing public utilities with the opportunity to earn a fair return on their investments while providing customers with just and reasonable rates.

PUBLIC COMMENT at PUCN AGENDA MEETINGS

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 are 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

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.



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THREE WAYS TO APPLY



APPLY ONLINE Find the online application at CheckLifeline.org.

If you live in CA, OR, and TX, work with your provider to apply.

OR



MAIL YOUR APPLICATION Print an application from www.LifelineSupport.org.

Fill out and mail it with proof of eligibility to:

Lifeline Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

OR



CONTACT A PHONE OR INTERNET COMPANY

Find a company that provides Lifeline at

www.LifelineSupport.org.

Click *Companies Near Me*.

HOW TO SHOW YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

You may need to show proof that you qualify for Lifeline, such as:

- **A copy of your SNAP or program letter OR**
- **A copy of your pay stub or tax return** to prove your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Lifeline Assistance Program Keeps People Connected

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. 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.

Consumers can receive up to \$9.25 in federal Lifeline benefits and an additional \$3.50 from the Nevada Lifeline fund, for a combined benefit of \$12.75 for non-tribal consumers. Certain eligible Tribal consumers can receive up to \$34.25 in federal Lifeline discounts.

More information on program eligibility and how to apply directly through the National Eligibility Verifier, including links to a list of Lifeline providers in Nevada, is available at lifelinesupport.org.

For additional Lifeline application support, consumers also may contact their provider of telephone or internet service, including wireless providers. If your wireless provider is a designated Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, it should offer the Lifeline discount. Check the PUCN's website to see if your provider is a designated [Eligible Telecommunications Carrier](#).

PUCN helps coordinate infrared thermometer distribution to state schools and Tribal communities

Thanks to cooperation from the PUCN and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, surplus infrared thermometers are being distributed to school districts and Tribal communities across the state.

Infrared thermometers are handheld devices that can display temperature readouts after scanning a person's forehead.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PUCN recently received about 400 thermometers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for distribution to the state's critical water and wastewater sector to ensure the health and safety of essential utility workers. The PUCN's water division initially received the delivery of thermometers from the National Guard and the Division of Emergency Management.

Following the original round of distribution to all water and wastewater companies in Nevada, about 145 thermometers were still available, according to PUCN Water Engineer Cindy Turiczek.

The remaining thermometers were offered to state school district officials after the schools contacted NDEP. Working with NDEP, a memo was sent to school superintendents and Tribal representatives in August. Delivery has been aided by the volunteer efforts of the Nevada Rural Water Association and Nevada Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network.

ELKO COUNTY GENERAL CONSUMER SESSION

MONDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.

Live telephone conference: 775-687-6014

Written comments via email: BPA@puc.nv.gov

Written comments via U.S. mail should be addressed:
PUCN

Attn: Docket 20-07003
1150 E. William St.
Carson City, NV 89701

More Information:

puc.nv.gov/Consumers/Be_Heard/Consumer_Sessions/

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in September 2020

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

Docket	Date Filed	Description
20-09001	9/1/2020	Informational Report of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy concerning its natural gas resource planning activities.
20-09002	9/1/2020	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 2021-2022.
20-09003	9/3/2020	Application of GridLiance West LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for permits to construct upgrades to the existing Gamebird Substation consisting of the expansion of the substation by approximately 14 acres, a 230 kV transmission line, and associated facilities to be located south of Pahrump in Nye County, Nevada.
20-09004	9/3/2020	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for approval of renewable natural gas activity related to a Renewable Natural Gas Procurement Agreement with the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada.
20-09005	9/4/2020	Notice by EDF Renewables Development, Inc., under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Playa del Sol Solar Project consisting of an up to 120 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility and associated facilities to be located in Clark County, Nevada.
20-09006	9/9/2020	Application of Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever, Inc. for approval of a change of name to Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc. for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2930.
20-09007	9/9/2020	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and Peerless Network of Nevada, LLC for approval of Amendment No. 2 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
20-09008	9/9/2020	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and ACN Communication Services, LLC for approval of Amendment No. 6 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
20-09010	9/15/2020	Registration of 2600HZ, Inc. d/b/a ZSwitch as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
20-09011	9/16/2020	Registration of Telispire, LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
20-09012	9/16/2020	Notice by Libra Solar LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Libra Solar Project consisting of a 700 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 700 MW battery energy storage system, and associated facilities to be located approximately 11 miles southeast of Yerington in Mineral County, Nevada.
20-09013	9/17/2020	Notice by Pantheon Solar LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Pantheon Solar Project consisting of a 1,000 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 1,000 MW battery energy storage system, and associated facilities to be located approximately 15 miles west of Ely in White Pine County, Nevada.
20-09014	9/17/2020	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to introduce Frontier Residential Unlimited Voice Service bundle.
20-09015	9/17/2020	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to remove early termination fee and auto-renewal conditions and standardize the non-recurring charge for Frontier OneVoice.
20-09016	9/22/2020	Application of DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC d/b/a XpressWest for authority to operate a high-speed passenger rail system in Clark County, Nevada.
20-09017	9/23/2020	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 Intercarrier 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.
20-09018	9/23/2020	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.
20-09019	9/28/2020	Notice by Terra Nova Telecom, Inc. of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
20-09020	09/29/2020	Application of Citadel Solar, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for permits to construct the Citadel Solar Project consisting of a 250 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, two 120 kV generation-tie lines, and associated facilities to be located approximately 10 miles east of Reno in Storey County, Nevada.
20-09021	9/30/2020	Application of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, filed under Advice Letter No. NV2020-12, to revise Tariff No. 1A to add indemnification language and conditions pursuant to 47 CFR 9.16(b)(1) and (2), pertaining to Kari's Law.
20-09022	9/30/2020	Notice by Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale that it will no longer provide a printed residential white pages directory upon request, however, it will continue to provide a single-line directory listing in electronic format.
20-09023	9/29/2020	Notice by Pioneer Mobile Home Ranch, LLC of a change of ownership to Ralph Martin and Linda Shepner.
20-09024	9/30/2020	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for authority to recover costs of gas infrastructure replacement projects through the gas infrastructure replacement mechanism.

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.