

# PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Outreach & Public Information Offices

February 2020 Edition

## Rail Safety in Nevada

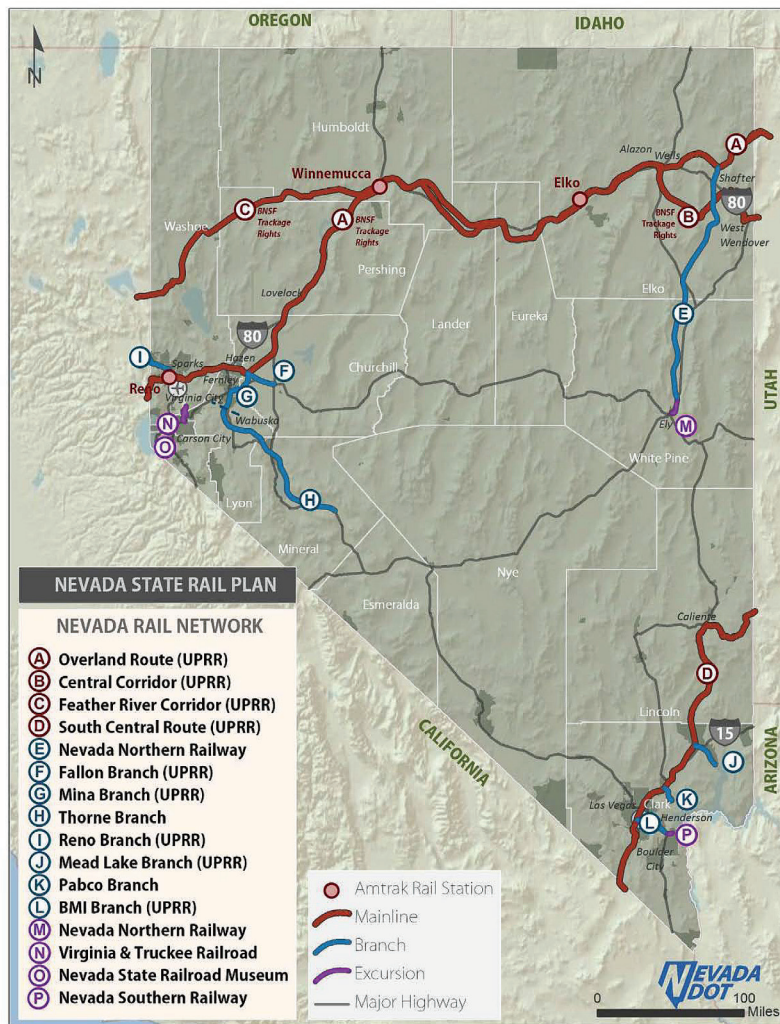
By Mahin Quintero  
Rail Safety Supervisor

Though not as extensive as other areas of the country, Nevada has an active railroad industry with nearly 2,000 miles of track that allows for the movement of people and goods around the state and the country.

Most people feel safe when traveling via Amtrak or driving over railroad tracks; this is due to the robust relationship between the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada's (PUCN) Rail Safety Division and the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Created in 1970 under the Federal Rail Safety Act, this partnership provides a mechanism for states to have a continuing role in rail safety regulation following the federal preemption of independent state regulation.

Nevada's four inspectors, who specialize in the safety inspections of track, hazmat tankers and shippers, operating practices of railroads, and the mechanical components of rolling stock, are trained and certified by the FRA. PUCN and FRA inspectors coordinate efforts regarding the activities, information, data, and inspections in Nevada to ensure that Nevada's railway system is operating in a safe and reliable manner.

As part of this relationship between Nevada and the FRA, the PUCN's Rail Safety Supervisor is required to attend annual meetings to learn of future railroad safety concerns, discuss current railroad events, and to provide a platform for state managers and FRA personnel to talk freely and frankly about the administrative side of the relationship.



Source: Nevada DOT 2012 State Rail Map, [nevadadot.com/home/showdocument?id=3700](http://nevadadot.com/home/showdocument?id=3700)

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# CONSUMER FRAUD PREVENTION FAIR

\*\*\* FREE ADMISSION \*\*\*

FREE Income Tax Preparation See below\*

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

Nevada State Business Center- 3300 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas

### RESOURCE FAIR EXHIBITORS

- AARP Nevada
- Clark County Recorder
- Dress for Success
- Federal Trade Commission
- IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service
- Nevada ADSD, Medicare's Extra Help
- Nevada Consumer Affairs
- Nevada Division of Mortgage Lending
- Nevada Division of Insurance
- Nevada Financial Institutions
- Nevada DMV
- Nevada Welfare Fraud Investigations
- Office of the Attorney General
- Office of the Labor Commissioner
- Office of Secretary of State
- Public Utilities Commission of NV
- Senior Medicare Patrol & SHIP
- State Treasurer's Office
- U.S. Dept of Labor-Wage and Hour
- U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission
- Women of Global Change ...AND MORE!

Your first line of defense against fraud is education! Mark your calendars for this one-day event to learn about steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim or speak with agencies that can help if you have already been victimized.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11 am - 3 pm: **Resource Fair Booths Open,**

11 am - 3 pm: **FREE Income Tax Preparation Services**

11:30 am: **Fraud Prevention Panel Featuring:**

♦ **Cris C. Williams**, Chief Compliance Investigator  
Nevada Consumer Affairs

♦ **Michael Gomez**, Detective  
Las Vegas Metro Police Department

♦ **John Kirk**, Assistant Special Agent  
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration

1:00 pm: **Fraud Prevention Panel Featuring:**

♦ **Dawn Rivard**, Consumer Outreach Director  
Public Utilities Commission

♦ **Sheri Ann Forbes**, Senior Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General

♦ **Annie Walters**, Public Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration

\*Provided by Nevada Free Taxes Coalition. What to bring: 1) Original Social Security Card, 2) Government issued ID, 3) All income + deductible expense documents What to know: Volunteer preparers are IRS certified, NO COST to you, annual income must be less than \$59K

Questions? Contact (844) 594-7275 or [consumerhelp@business.nv.gov](mailto:consumerhelp@business.nv.gov)



Hosted by Nevada Consumer Affairs and Consumer Awareness Coalition  
[consumeraffairs.nv.gov](http://consumeraffairs.nv.gov) ♦ (702) 486-2750 ♦ [consumerhelp@business.nv.gov](mailto:consumerhelp@business.nv.gov)



# CONSUMER FRAUD PREVENTION FAIR

\*\*\* FREE ADMISSION \*\*\*

2 for 1 lunch menu offer for CFPF attendees\*

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020

Tamarack Junction Casino- 13101 S. Virginia Street, Reno

### RESOURCE FAIR EXHIBITORS

- AARP Nevada
- Access to Healthcare Network
- BBB Serving Northern Nevada and Utah
- Federal Trade Commission
- Nevada Consumer Affairs
- Nevada Division of Mortgage Lending
- Nevada Division of Insurance
- Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles
- Nevada Welfare Fraud Investigations
- Office of the Attorney General
- Office of the Labor Commissioner
- Public Utilities Commission of NV
- Senior Medicare Patrol & SHIP
- US Securities and Exchange Commission
- ...AND MORE

Your first line of defense against fraud is education! Mark your calendars for this one-day event to learn about steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim or speak with agencies that can help if you have already been victimized.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11 am - 3 pm: **Resource Fair Booths Open**

11:30 am: **Fraud Prevention Panel featuring:**

♦ **Cris Williams**, Chief Compliance Investigator  
Nevada Consumer Affairs

♦ **Timothy Johnston**, VP of Outreach  
BBB Serving Northern NV and Utah

♦ **Nicolas Coates**, Attorney  
Federal Trade Commission

♦ **John Kirk**, Assistant Special Agent  
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration

♦ **Michelle Newman and Whitney Digesti**  
Office of the Attorney General

\*Tamarack Junction is offering a special 2 for 1 menu at Sully's Sports Bar and Grill for all attendees during the Consumer Fraud Prevention Fair.

Questions? Contact (844) 594-7275 or [consumerhelp@business.nv.gov](mailto:consumerhelp@business.nv.gov)



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## Railroad: *continued from page 1*

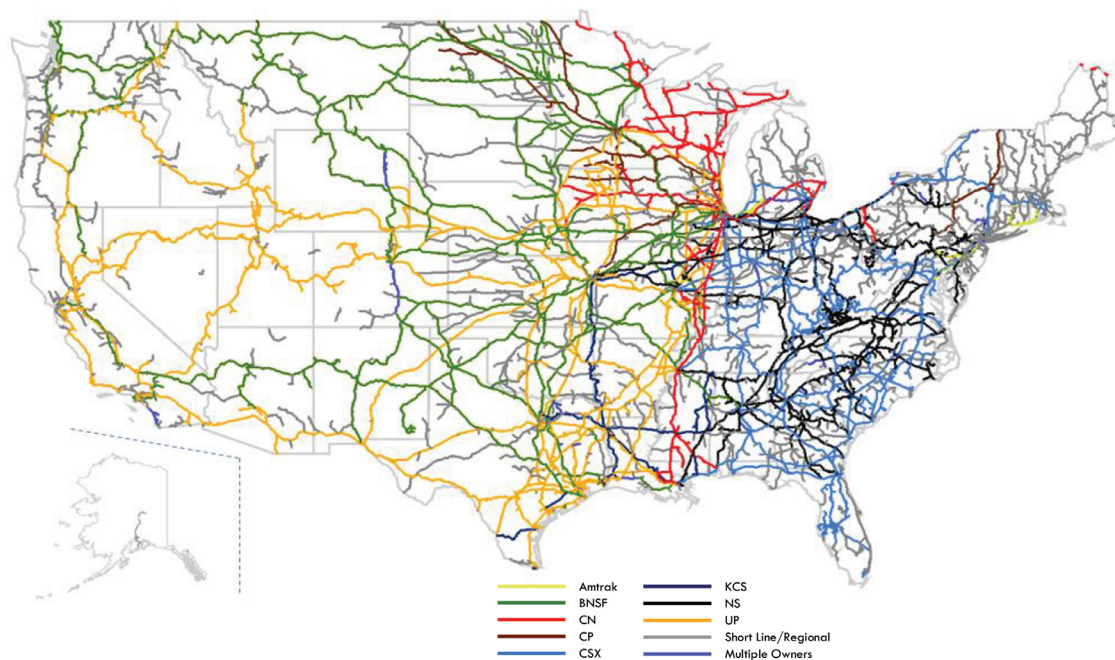
The 2019 meeting with the FRA and 32 participating state managers, which is also known as the Association of State Rail Safety Managers (ASRSM), was held in Seattle, Washington, the week of October 21.

Led by the FRA's State Participation Program Director, Mel Strong, the three-day conference began with presentations from each state. State managers shared information on their states' most pressing rail safety concerns, current workforce, and regulation changes.

One of the most pressing concerns discussed at this year's conference was the two-crew rule (requiring trains to be staffed by at least two railroad employees) enacted by several states, Nevada included. However, the FRA has preempted states from enforcing the two-crew rule, which has led to ongoing litigation between the FRA and affected states. The PUCN's General Counsel is participating in litigation regarding this matter; General Counsel and the Rail Safety Division continue to monitor this issue closely.



## Freight Railroads in United States



Map is based on the 2018 National Transportation Atlas Database published by the U.S. DOT, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

© 1993–2019, Association of American Railroads. For more information about railroads, visit [www.aar.org](http://www.aar.org).

July 2019

### FREIGHT RAILROADS IN NEVADA

- BNSF Railway ..... 798 Track Miles
- Union Pacific Railroad ..... 1,193 Track Miles

Source: Association of American Railroads, [aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/AAR-Nevada-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf](http://aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/AAR-Nevada-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf).

### SHORT & PRIVATE RAIL LINES IN NEVADA

- Nevada Northern Railway ..... 14 Track Miles
- Virginia & Truckee Railroad ..... 14 Track Miles
- Nevada State Railroad Museum ..... 1 Track Mile
- Nevada Southern Railway ..... 3.5 Track Miles

Source: Nevada DOT 2012 State Rail Plan, [nevadadot.com/home/showdocument?id=3696](http://nevadadot.com/home/showdocument?id=3696)

## Dockets Opened at the PUCN in January 2020

Visit [puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/](http://puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/) to view documents filed in the dockets listed below.

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
20-01001	01/02/2020	Reports from public utilities operating in Nevada of accidents or significant service outages occurring during calendar year 2020 pursuant to NRS 704.190 and NAC 704.230.
20-01002	01/02/2020	Annual Reports for calendar year 2019 submitted by Electric, Natural Gas, LPG, Geothermal, Alternative Sellers, and Railroad companies operating in Nevada pursuant to NRS 703.191 and NAC 704.225.
20-01003	01/02/2020	Annual Reports for calendar year 2019 submitted by Water and Wastewater companies operating in Nevada pursuant to NRS 703.191, NAC 703.199, and NAC 704.225.
20-01004	01/02/2020	Annual Reports for calendar year 2019 submitted by Mobile Home Parks operating in Nevada pursuant to NRS 704.960 and NAC 704.987.
20-01005	01/02/2020	Annual Reports for calendar year 2019 submitted by Telecommunication companies operating in Nevada pursuant to NRS 703.191 and NAC 704.7483.
20-01006	01/02/2020	One Call Enforcement Actions and Inspection Reports by the Regulatory Operations Staff pursuant to NRS 455 for calendar year 2020.
20-01007	01/02/2020	Pipeline Safety Enforcement Actions and Inspection Reports by the Regulatory Operations Staff pursuant to 49 CFR 191 and 192 for calendar year 2020.

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## Dockets: continued from page 3

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
20-01008	01/02/2020	Rail Safety FRA Form 96 Inspection Reports for calendar year 2020.
20-01009	01/02/2020	Reports from electric and gas utilities operating in Nevada of transactions and calculations affecting the deferred energy accounts pursuant to NAC 704.195 for calendar year 2020.
20-01010	01/02/2020	Applications for calendar year 2020 received by a utility under the Solar Energy Systems Incentive Program.
20-01011	01/02/2020	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.
20-01012	01/02/2020	Filing by Assist Wireless, LLC to update information.
20-01013	01/06/2020	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Landscape Specialties Inc d/b/a LSI ("LSI") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by LSI.
20-01014	01/10/2020	Application of Deluxe Mobile Home Park to withdraw \$14,982.35 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to upgrade the electric distribution system.
20-01015	01/09/2020	Application of Tolas Mobile Home Park to withdraw \$22,036.50 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to upgrade the electric distribution system.
20-01016	01/07/2020	Salvatore Veltre Jr. vs. Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("NV Energy"). Compliant regarding customer being denied electric service provided by NV Energy.
20-01017	01/08/2020	Notice by Lingo Telecom of the West, LLC, Lingo Communications, LLC, Matrix Telecom, LLC d/b/a Clear Choice Communications, Excel Telecommunications, and VarTec Telecom, and Garrison LM LLC of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of telecommunication companies.
20-01018	01/13/2020	Registration of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
20-01019	01/16/2020	Filing by Telrite Corporation d/b/a Life Wireless of updated Informational Tariff No. 2 including updates to Wireless Lifeline Program.
20-01020	01/21/2020	Complaint of PHWLV, LLC d/b/a Planet Hollywood Las Vegas vs. Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for resolution of dispute regarding overpayment of electric service under non-residential tariffs.
20-01021	01/17/2020	Notice by HFA Services LLC d/b/a Call48 of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
20-01022	01/17/2020	Application of Rosemount Water Company for authority to increase rates and charges for water service.
20-01023	01/17/2020	Application of Gentry Place Mobile Home Park to withdraw \$949.75 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to repair and maintain the electrical system.
20-01024	01/21/2020	Application of Citadel Solar LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct the Citadel Solar Project consisting of a 250 MW alternating current solar photovoltaic electric generating facility, two 120 kV generation-tie power lines, and associated facilities to be located approximately 10 miles east of Reno in Storey County, Nevada.
20-01025	01/21/2020	Filings by Eligible Telecommunications Carriers of Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") Form 555 to comply with the FCC's annual reporting requirements.
20-01026	01/23/2020	Filing by Spark Energy Gas, LLC of updated legal counsel contact information.
20-01027	01/24/2020	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to include an increase to residential and business non-recurring service charges.
20-01028	1/24/2020	Application of the Department of Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services Division for approval of a State Fiscal Year ("SFY") 2021 telecommunication device for the deaf surcharge that is calculated based on its legislatively approved budget for SFY 2021.
20-01029	01/28/2020	Application of West Safety Communications Inc. for approval of a change of name to Intrado Safety Communications, Inc. for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2689 Sub 2.
20-01030	01/27/2020	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and CBTS Technology Solutions LLC for approval of an Interconnection and/or Resale Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
20-01031	01/28/2020	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and Entelephant Solutions, Inc. for approval of Amendment No. 1 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
20-01032	01/30/2020	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and Entelephant Solutions, Inc. for approval of Amendment No. 1 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
20-01033	01/30/2020	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Western States Contracting, Inc. ("Western States") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Western States.
20-01034	01/30/2020	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.
20-01035	01/30/2020	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and V.T. Construction, Inc. ("VT Construction") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by VT Construction.
20-01036	01/30/2020	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, filed under Advice Letter No. 501, to revise Electric Tariff No. 1-B to reflect the avoided short-term cost rates for purchases from Qualifying Facilities pursuant to Qualifying Facilities Schedule QF - Short Term.

Prior editions of PUCN Connection are available at [puc.nv.gov/About/Media\\_Outreach/PUCN\\_Connection/](http://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](mailto:drivard@puc.nv.gov) or  
Communications Director Peter Kostas at [pkostas@puc.nv.gov](mailto:pkostas@puc.nv.gov).