

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Public Information & Outreach Offices

July 2019 Edition

2019 legislative session leads to PUCN rulemaking proceedings

The PUCN has opened several rulemaking dockets to address new laws passed during the 80th (2019) legislative session. The PUCN adopts regulations, or rules, to determine how utilities or other regulated entities must comply with laws passed by the Legislature. The process of adopting regulations is called rulemaking.

Most of the regulations created by the PUCN are contained in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) chapters 701B, 703 and 704. Rulemakings must be conducted according to a formal process spelled out in Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 233B, which includes a workshop and a hearing. Regulations must be approved by the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Legislative Commission to become effective and codified in the NAC.

A summary of bills that affect the PUCN that passed during the 80th legislative session are below. To view the bills in their entirety, visit <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bills/List>.

To follow the rulemaking process for the dockets associated with the bills below, submit a service list request: [http://puc.nv.gov/About/Docs/Forms/Service_List_Requests_\(Subscribe_or_Unsubscribe\)/](http://puc.nv.gov/About/Docs/Forms/Service_List_Requests_(Subscribe_or_Unsubscribe)/).

SENATE BILL 154 | PUCN DOCKET 19-06006

AN ACT relating to natural gas; requiring the PUCN to adopt regulations authorizing a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale to engage in renewable natural gas activities and to recover the reasonable and prudent costs of such activities; requiring such a public utility to attempt to incorporate renewable natural gas into its gas supply portfolio; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

SENATE BILL 299 | PUCN DOCKET 19-06007

AN ACT relating to vehicles; revising provisions governing the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

SENATE BILL 300 | DOCKET 19-06008

AN ACT relating to electric utilities; authorizing an electric utility to file an application for the establishment of an alternative rate-making plan; requiring the PUCN to adopt regulations governing the filing of such an application; revising the dates for the filing of general rate applications by electric

utilities; repealing certain duties of the Commission relating to determining the impact of net metering on rates charged by electric utilities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

SENATE BILL 329 | DOCKET 19-06009

AN ACT relating to the prevention of natural disasters; requiring an electric utility to submit a natural disaster protection plan to the PUCN; setting forth the requirements for such a plan; authorizing an electric utility to recover costs relating to the development and implementation of a natural disaster protection plan; prohibiting, with certain exceptions, a person who is not a qualified electrical worker from performing certain work on the electric infrastructure of an electric utility; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

SENATE BILL 358 | DOCKET 19-06010

AN ACT relating to renewable energy; declaring the policy of this State concerning renewable energy; revising provisions governing certain reports relating to the portfolio standard;

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PUCN pipeline safety division urges safe excavating procedures

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (“PUCN”) pipeline safety division reports it has investigated several incidents this spring involving excavators attempting improper repairs to stop the flow of natural gas from damaged facilities.

When natural gas pipelines have been damaged and natural gas is escaping, the following steps are the most important to take, according to PUCN Senior Gas Pipeline Engineer Neil Pascual: “Immediately cease work, evacuate the impacted area to minimize the hazard presented by the damaged pipeline, telephone emergency 911 services from a safe area, and contact the utility operator.”

Nevada Revised Statute (“NRS”) 455.140 and Nevada Administrative Code (“NAC”) 455.160 require excavators to follow the steps outlined above and not attempt to operate any valve or other device owned by a utility.

Excavators can minimize the ongoing hazard of a broken pipeline by evacuating all persons from the area, rather than having an unqualified person try to stop the gas flow.

Excavators should not attempt to temporarily stop the flow of gas from a damaged pipeline because:

- The potential for a buildup of static electricity on the plastic pipeline or a person’s fingers can cause ignition. If an excavator attempts to touch the damaged pipeline, that action could result in a spark that ignites the escaping gas and causes a fireball in the immediate area.

- If the excavator is in a deep enough hole or trench where the gas is escaping, the gas could displace most of the oxygen in the trench, resulting in the person inhaling a large quantity of pure natural gas and losing consciousness.

Any person or entity failing to adhere to the laws outlined in NRS Chapter 455 can be subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day per violation, up to a maximum of \$250,000 for a given calendar year. Additionally, the excavator could face utility repair and damage costs that may range from a few thousand dollars to millions of dollars if the damage were to result in a significant incident. The PUCN has issued more than 50 civil penalties to excavators and operators in the past three years for violations associated with NRS Chapter 455 totaling more than \$300,000.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

811 – Call Before You Dig

The PUCN reminds businesses and residents that before starting any digging project, no matter how large or small, a call should be placed to the statewide 811 hotline (“Call Before You Dig” program). Professional locators are dispatched, usually within two working days, to the requested dig site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

For more information about safe digging procedures, visit www.call811.com, www.usanorth811.org or www.puc.nv.gov.

Legislature: *continued from page 1*

revising provisions relating to the price charged by certain electric utilities for electricity generated by certain renewable energy facilities; revising provisions relating to the acquisition or construction of renewable energy facilities by certain electric utilities; revising the types of renewable energy that may be used to comply with the portfolio standard; revising the portfolio standard for providers of electric service in this State; revising the applicability of the portfolio standard; revising the authority of the PUCN to impose administrative fines or take administrative action; requiring the PUCN to revise any existing portfolio standard applicable to a provider of new electric resources to comply with the portfolio standard established by this act; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

SENATE BILL 547 | PUCN DOCKET 19-06029

AN ACT relating to energy; excluding from regulation as a public utility certain plants or equipment used by a data center; revising provisions governing the applicability of certain assessments imposed by the PUCN; revising the information required to be included in the integrated resource plan filed by an electric utility with the Commission; revising the criteria to be eligible to apply to the Commission to purchase energy, capacity or ancillary services from a provider of new electric

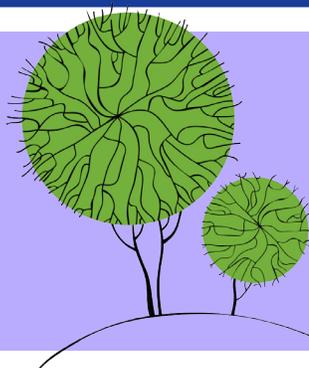
resources; revising the requirements a provider of new electric resources must satisfy to be eligible to sell energy, capacity or ancillary services to eligible customers; revising the requirements an eligible customer must satisfy to be authorized to purchase energy, capacity or ancillary services from a provider of new electric resources; revising the terms and conditions for the purchase of energy, capacity or ancillary services by eligible customers who have been approved to make such purchases from a provider of new electric resources; repealing provisions governing certain agreements relating to generation assets of an electric utility; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

ASSEMBLY BILL 465 | PUCN DOCKET 19-06028

AN ACT relating to energy; requiring electric utilities to offer an expanded solar access program to certain customers and to submit a plan to the PUCN for such a program; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations establishing standards for the program; requiring the Commission to approve a plan for an expanded solar access program if certain requirements are met; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

PUCN performance & accomplishments

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2018		Total
Agenda Meetings of the Full Commission	Agenda Meetings Held.....	49
Certificates, Licenses & Permits	Utility Environmental Protection Act (UEPA) Permits Issued.....	21
	Certificates of Public Convenience & Commercial Mobile Radio Service Certificates.....	56
Complaints	Consumer Complaints & Questions Received.....	10,476
Consumer Sessions	Consumer Sessions & Community Meetings Held.....	26
Dockets Opened	Dockets Opened - ALL.....	877
	Rulemakings Opened to Address Legislative Directives from the 2017 Legislative Session.....	8
	Electric & Water Resource Planning.....	13
	Dockets Closed - ALL.....	873
Fines & Penalties Collected and Transferred to State's General Fund	Compliances Ordered.....	169
	Total Civil Penalties Assessed - One Call Violations.....	\$224,750
	Total Civil Penalties Assessed - Gas Violations.....	\$358,500
	Fines & Penalties Collected.....	\$545,413
General Counsel Representation	Court Cases.....	12
	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Cases.....	21
	Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Cases.....	4
Investigations	Gas Incidents Investigated.....	7
	Railroad & Rail Transit Incidents Investigated.....	62
Inspections	Number of Gas Pipeline Inspection Field Days Per Inspector (6 Inspectors).....	215
	Rail Units Inspected (Motive Power & Equipment, Track, Hazmat & Operating Practices) (4 Inspectors).....	31,395
Outreach	Community Events Attended by the PUCN.....	50
	Information Pieces Distributed to Consumers at Events.....	19,623
Public Information	Number of Media Requests for Information.....	328
	Number of Non-Media Requests for Information.....	254
	Number of Press Releases Distributed.....	34



2,485 Trees Saved

Since 2007, the PUCN's Electronic Filings & Records Management System has saved 4,142 cases of paper and over 2,485 trees. The entire system stores docket information dating back to 1996, including over 7,569 dockets and 132,369 filings... over 2.9 million pages in all.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in June 2019

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

Docket #	Date Filed	Description
19-06001	6/3/2019	Notice by Beehive Telephone Co., Inc., Nevada that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
19-06002	6/3/2019	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for authority to adjust its annual revenue requirement for general rates charged to all classes of electric customers and for relief properly related thereto.
19-06003	6/4/2019	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation to establish the Average Variable Interest Rate and Accumulated Deferred Interest rate in Southern Nevada, Unrecovered Gas Cost Expense rates, system shrinkage rates, Imbalance Commodity and Reservation Charges, Renewable Energy Program Rates, General Revenues Adjustment rates, and Conservation and Energy Efficiency rates.
19-06004	6/5/2019	Notice by HD Carrier LLC of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
19-06005	6/5/2019	Application of Great Basin Water Co., under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct a water storage tank and pump house at the existing tank 106 site located in Spring Creek, Nevada.
19-06006	6/6/2019	Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 154 (2019).
19-06007	6/6/2019	Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 299 (2019).
19-06008	6/6/2019	Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 300 (2019).
19-06009	6/6/2019	Investigation and rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 329 (2019).
19-06010	6/6/2019	Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 358 (2019).
19-06011	6/7/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Las Vegas Electric, Inc. ("Las Vegas Electric") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Las Vegas Electric.
19-06012	6/7/2019	Filing by Churchill County Board of Commissioners d/b/a CC Communications of annual data regarding Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304.
19-06013	6/6/2019	Notice by FracTel, LLC of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
19-06015	6/11/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Coons Construction LLC ("Coons Construction") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Coons Construction.
19-06016	6/10/2019	Filing by Rio Virgin Telephone Company d/b/a Reliance Connects of annual data regarding Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304.
19-06017	6/13/2019	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for authority to expand its gas infrastructure, recover costs of the gas infrastructure expansion project through alternative cost-recovery methodologies, and amend Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2627 Sub 6 to expand its service territory to include areas located in Spring Creek, Nevada.
19-06018	6/13/2019	Filing by Moapa Valley Telephone Company of annual report of high-cost recipient pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.313, annual data regarding Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation ("CAF ICC") Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304, supplemental TRP data pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 51.909, and annual certifications regarding CAF ICC data reported to the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 57.917.
19-06019	6/13/2019	Filing by Lincoln County Telephone System, Inc. of annual report of high-cost recipient pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.313, annual data regarding Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation ("CAF ICC") Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304, supplemental TRP data pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 51.909, and annual certifications regarding CAF ICC data reported to the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 57.917.
19-06020	6/13/2019	Filing by Rural Telephone Company of annual report of high-cost recipient pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.313, annual data regarding Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation ("CAF ICC") Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304, supplemental TRP data pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 51.909, and annual certifications regarding CAF ICC data reported to the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 57.917.
19-06021	6/11/2019	Notice by Filer Mutual Telephone Company that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
19-06022	6/11/2019	Filing by Filer Mutual Telephone Company of annual data regarding Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304.
19-06023	6/13/2019	Filing by Southwest Gas Corporation of revised rate for transportation customer Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy previously approved in Docket No. 95-3052.

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June Dockets: *continued from page 4*

Docket #	Date Filed	Description
19-06024	6/13/2019	Filing by Beehive Telephone Co., Inc., Nevada of annual data regarding Connect America Fund Inter-carrier Compensation Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304.
19-06025	6/18/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and A & K Earth Movers Inc. ("A&K") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by A&K.
19-06026	6/18/2019	Filings by Eligible Telecommunications Carriers related to Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") Form 481 to comply with the FCC's annual reporting requirements pursuant to 47 CFR 54.314.
19-06027	6/18/2019	Application of Network Billing Systems, L.L.C. for approval of a change of name to Fusion Connect LLC for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2399 Sub 1.
19-06028	6/18/2019	Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Assembly Bill 465 (2019).
19-06029	6/18/2019	Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 547 (2019).
19-06030	6/19/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Vantage Concepts, LLC ("Vantage Concepts") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Vantage Concepts.
19-06031	6/19/2019	Filing by Avalon Geothermal, Inc. of an executed Service Agreement for customer The Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 19-03006.
19-06032	6/19/2019	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.
19-06033	6/20/2019	Staff report on Gold Country Water Company, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of NAC 704.627.
19-06034	6/20/2019	Staff report on Pahump Utility Company, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of NAC 704.627.
19-06035	6/20/2019	Staff report on Spirit Mountain Utility Company, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of NAC 704.627.
19-06036	6/21/2019	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.
19-06038	6/24/2019	Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff to open an investigatory and rulemaking docket to amend certain regulations contained in Chapter 704 of the Nevada Administrative Code regarding alternative sellers of natural gas service.
19-06039	6/24/2019	Joint Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of the third amendment to its 2018 Joint Integrated Resource Plan to update and modify the renewable portion of the Supply-Side Action Plan and the Transmission Action Plan.
19-06040		Joint Petition of and Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink and Southwest Telephone Company for approval of an Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
19-06041	6/25/2019	Water Conservation Plan of Old River Water Company filed pursuant to NRS 704.662 through 704.6624.
19-06042	6/25/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and XL Concrete Masonry, LLC and XL Landscape Development LLC ("XL") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by XL.
19-06043	6/21/2019	Filing by Filer Mutual Telephone Company of annual report of high-cost recipient pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.313.
19-06044	6/27/2019	Filing by Commnet of Nevada, LLC of Federal Communications Commission Form 690 pursuant to 47 CFR 54.1009.
19-06045	6/27/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Q&D Construction LLC ("Q&D") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Q&D.
19-06046	6/25/2019	Filing by Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc. d/b/a Humboldt Telephone Company of annual report of high-cost recipient pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.313.
19-06047	6/24/2019	Notice by Atlantic Specialty Insurance Company on behalf of U.S. TelePacific Corp. d/b/a TPx Communications of a bond cancellation for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2436 Sub 3.
19-06048	6/27/2019	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Topp Equipment Service ("Topp Equipment") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Topp Equipment.
19-06050	6/28/2019	Show Cause Proceeding to determine why Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy should not be administratively fined pursuant to NRS 703.380 and examining other potential remedies to address the funding shortfall for energy storage incentives.

Prior editions of this newsletter are available on the PUCN's website at puc.nv.gov/About/Media_Outreach/PUCN_Connection/. For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Public Information Officer Peter Kostes at pkostes@puc.nv.gov or Consumer Outreach Director Dawn Rivard at drivard@puc.nv.gov.