

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Public Information & Outreach Offices

June 2019 Edition

The PUCN's All-Female Commission

CHAIRWOMAN ANN PONGRACZ

On May 9, Governor Steve Sisolak announced the appointment of Public Utilities Commissioner Ann Pongracz to be the new chairwoman of the PUCN through the term ending September 30, 2019.

"I'm thrilled to appoint one of our state's foremost experts in utility law and regulation as chairwoman of the Public Utilities Commission," Governor Sisolak said. "Ann's knowledge and expertise make her the perfect choice to chair the PUCN, and I'm excited to see the PUCN make thrilling progress toward our state's renewable energy goals under Ann's leadership."

Chairwoman Pongracz has served as a commissioner of the PUCN since 2016. Chairwoman Pongracz is a public utilities law expert and leader, with over 30 years of corporate and government agency experience in utility regulation, infrastructure and economic development, interconnection, pricing, renewables, resource planning, demand side management, and consumer protection.

Prior to her appointment to the PUCN, Chairwoman Pongracz was special counsel to the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, where she supported the CRC's electric services staff, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development. At the CRC, she headed the Nevada/Arizona/California legal team supporting enactment of the federal Hoover Allocation Act of 2011 and negotiated 50-year federal and state Hoover power contracts.

Chairwoman Pongracz moved to Las Vegas in 1993 to



become general counsel to Sprint of Nevada, then the major incumbent telecommunications utility serving Southern Nevada. Chairwoman Pongracz also represented Sprint's competitive long distance and wireless divisions in 18 western states and managed the company's government relations offices. Prior to joining Sprint, she represented transportation and telecommunications clients before the California Public Utilities Commission.

Chairwoman Pongracz earned her Bachelor of Arts cum laude in government from Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, and her Juris Doctorate from Temple University Law School in Philadelphia, PA.

COMMISSIONER C.J. MANTHE

Governor Brian Sandoval appointed C.J. Manthe to the PUCN effective November 2, 2018.

Commissioner Manthe, previously the Director of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Prior to her service as director, Commissioner Manthe served as the Housing Administrator in the Department of Business and Industry. She is a certified public accountant with both public and private sector experience having worked in the fields of banking, healthcare, public accounting, non-profits and state and local governments. Previously, Commissioner Manthe was elected to serve as a council member for the City of Blaine in Washington State and as a county commissioner for Marathon County in Wisconsin.



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Public Utilities Commission of Nevada | puc.nv.gov



PUCN 101: Who we are and what we regulate

PUCN'S BASIC REGULATORY DUTIES AS DEFINED BY THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE (NRS 704.001)

- ◆ To provide for fair and impartial regulation of public utilities.
- ◆ To provide for the safe, economic, efficient, prudent and reliable operation and service of public utilities.
- ◆ To balance 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.

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

The PUCN is made up of three full-time commissioners appointed by the governor to serve four-year terms. The PUCN also has a staff of approximately 95 professionals including attorneys, policy advisors, analysts, economists, electrical engineers, rail safety specialists, gas pipeline engineers, administrative assistants, and others.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & MEETINGS

Public hearings, workshops and consumer sessions regarding rate changes, regulation changes, investigations, complaints, etc., are conducted throughout the year. All matters over which the PUCN has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power must be approved by a vote of at least 2 of the 3 commissioners during public agenda meetings. Dates and times for all hearings, meetings, and proceedings are posted on the PUCN website.

ELECTRIC

The PUCN regulates the operations of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, both doing business as NV Energy. Regulatory activities include:

- ◆ Establishing the rates charged by the electric utility for service.
- ◆ Evaluating the utility's long and short-term plans for generation and transmission to fulfill its obligation to serve customers located in its service territory.
- ◆ Evaluating the utility's plans for compliance with Nevada's renewable standards and other legislative requirements.
- ◆ Authorizing the issuance of security transactions.

NATURAL GAS

The PUCN's jurisdiction over natural gas service falls into three general categories.

1. Regulating Nevada's two investor-owned, natural gas local distribution utilities, Southwest Gas Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company (d/b/a NV Energy). Regulatory activities include:
 - ◆ Ensuring the rates charged by gas utilities are just and reasonable.
 - ◆ Evaluating each utility's annual informational reports to ensure the utility's resource planning is sufficient to fulfill its obligation to serve its customers.
 - ◆ Ensuring each utility complies with legislative requirements to implement energy efficiency programs.
2. Licensing approximately 16 discretionary suppliers of natural gas, which sell natural gas to industrial and large commercial consumers.
3. Overseeing gas pipeline safety in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

Safety Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The PUCN regulates providers of local land-line telephone service, including CenturyLink and AT&T. Regulatory duties include:

- ◆ Ensuring telecommunication providers establish discount rates for low-income consumers, schools, libraries and rural health care providers.
- ◆ Encouraging competition and discouraging discrimination in the delivery of telecommunication services through standards and penalties.
- ◆ Ensuring telecommunication services are available to consumers in rural areas at rates comparable to rates in urban areas.
- ◆ Reviewing and approving annual performance measurements plans and performance incentives plans from competitive suppliers.

WATER/WASTEWATER

The PUCN regulates the rates, service quality and service territories of 27 investor-owned water and wastewater utilities serving approximately 22,300 customers. Regulatory activities include:

- ◆ Ensuring the delivery of clean, safe and reliable water to customers at reasonable rates.
- ◆ Ensuring reliable sewer service to customers at reasonable rates.
- ◆ Monitoring quality of service, environmental compliance and financial performance.

400

The number of investor-owned utilities regulated by the PUCN, including electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and wastewater services; gas and electric "master meter" service at mobile home parks; and some propane systems. The PUCN's regulatory duties include providing for fair and impartial regulation of public utilities and providing for the safe, economic, efficient, prudent, and reliable operations of public utilities.

MOBILE HOME PARKS

The PUCN's jurisdiction over mobile home parks (MHP) is generally limited to the five areas of the resale of utility services: 1) annual reports, 2) safety, 3) reliable utility service, 4) utility rates, and 5) tenant complaints about the safety, reliability and rates of the utility service(s) provided by the MHP.

RAILROAD SAFETY

The PUCN maintains a Rail Safety Program as part of Nevada's State Participation Program with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The agreement provides that the PUCN employ FRA certified inspectors in one or more of five inspection disciplines: 1) track, 2) operating practices, 3) motive power and equipment, 4) signal and train control, and 5) hazardous materials. The PUCN employs inspection personnel in the following four disciplines: 1) track, 2) operating practices, 3) motive power and equipment, and 4) hazardous materials.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The PUCN makes determinations in a number of renewable energy-related dockets, has oversight authority regarding electric and gas utilities' administration of renewable energy incentive and demonstration programs, and administers the portfolio energy credit program.

UEPA PERMITS

The PUCN also reviews Utility Environmental Protection Act permits for compliance with environmental requirements for new investor-owned electric, water and/or wastewater facilities, and renewable energy.

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COMMISSIONER HAYLEY WILLIAMSON

On April 23, 2019, Governor Steve Sisolak announced the appointment of Hayley Williamson of Stateline to the PUCN. Commissioner Williamson's first day on the commission was April 29, 2019.

"With over ten years of experience in public utility law, Hayley is a superb choice to join the Public Utilities Commission," Governor Sisolak said. "As the PUCN charts a new course toward our state's bold renewable energy goals, Hayley's expertise will be invaluable and I'm thrilled to bring her on board."

Commissioner Williamson brings over a decade of experience specializing in utility law. Commissioner Williamson has worked for the PUCN since 2013 and served as its senior assistant general counsel, having also served as acting general counsel. During her time with the PUCN, Commissioner Williamson has successfully represented the agency in the Nevada Supreme Court and at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Commissioner Williamson was also instrumental in drafting the PUCN's comments on the Clean Energy Plan.



Prior to working at the PUCN, Commissioner Williamson taught environmental law and environmental science at the University of Wisconsin and at Sierra Nevada College.

Commissioner Williamson graduated magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where she earned her B.A., and magna cum laude from Vermont Law School, where she earned her J.D. At Vermont Law School. Commissioner Williamson was an editor of the Vermont Law Review. She also holds a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge, where she wrote her master's thesis on renewable energy and land use issues on the West Coast.

Commissioner Williamson was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, and lives in Stateline, Nevada, with her husband and son.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in May 2019

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

Docket Number	Description
19-05001	Joint Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of a new Joint Dispatch Agreement governing transactions utilizing the One Nevada Transmission Line pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 15-03001.
19-05002	Joint Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval to reallocate costs of the One Nevada Transmission Line pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 18-06003.
19-05003	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 second amendment to its 2018 Joint Integrated Resource Plan to update and modify the load forecast, the Demand-Side Management Action Plan, the generation portion of the Supply-Side Action Plan, and the Transmission Action Plan.
19-05004	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for approval of its 2018 Conservation and Energy Efficiency Plan Annual Report.
19-05006	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of a Renewable Energy Agreement with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of Truckee Meadows Community College.
19-05007	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.
19-05008	Filing by Southwest Gas Corporation of revised rate for transportation customer Desert Star Energy Center pursuant to the Opinion issued in Docket Nos. 93-3003, et al.
19-05009	Filing by Southwest Gas Corporation of revised rate for transportation customer Saguaro Power Company previously approved in Docket No. 94-4050.
19-05010	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct a 230/69 kV auto bank and associated facilities at the Bighorn Substation located in Clark County, Nevada.
19-05011	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct a new water equalization pond at the Tracy Generating Station located in Storey County, Nevada.
19-05012	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct to expand the existing West Tracy Substation located in Storey County, Nevada.

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Docket Number	Description
19-05013	Notice by ExteNet Systems, Inc. ("ESI") and ExteNet Asset Entity, LLC ("EAE") of the transfer of certain assets, including customer contracts and related telecommunications network infrastructure assets, from ESI to EAE.
19-05014	Application of Sage Telecom Communications, LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2852 Sub 2.
19-05015	Filing by Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of an update to the Merrill Lynch residential and non-residential surcharges pursuant to Docket Nos. 06-11035 and 17-01014.
19-05016	Notice by VISION CTS, LLC of its intent to begin providing Interconnected Voice-over Internet Protocol services.
19-05017	Notice by Southwest Gas Corporation, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct a 69.5 mile natural gas transmission pipeline to be located in Clark County, Nevada.
19-05018	Application of 365 Wireless, LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2981.
19-05019	Registration of Lingo Telecom of the West, LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
19-05020	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and AmeriGas Propane, L.P. d/b/a Bi-State Propane ("AmeriGas") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations by AmeriGas.
10-05021	Notice by DCT Telecom Group, Inc. and MBS Holdings, Inc. of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
19-05022	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-02(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective July 1, 2019.
19-05023	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-02 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective July 1, 2019.
19-05024	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-02(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective July 1, 2019.
19-05025	Notice by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada of a promotional offering for the Elko and Tonopah Divisions for new Digital Phone customers who purchase qualifying broadband services.
19-05026	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to introduce promotional offerings for new Digital Phone customers who purchase qualifying broadband services.
19-05027	Joint Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of their Undergrounding Management Plan.
19-05028	Notice by Lincoln County Telephone System, Inc. that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
19-05029	Notice by Rural Telephone Company that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
19-05030	Application of Moapa Valley Telephone Company filed under Advice Letter No. 10 to revise Tariff No. 3 to modify switched access service rates as mandated in the Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
19-05031	Notice by TracFone Wireless, Inc. d/b/a SafeLink Wireless, Simple Mobile, NET10, Total Wireless, Page Plus Cellular, TelCel, and Straight Talk of a change in terms and conditions of service for Lifeline customers of SafeLink Wireless.
19-05032	Monthly reports by Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy demonstrating the amount of total incentive funds expended and reserved for all programs funded under NRS 701B.005 pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 18-02002.
19-05033	Notice by Rio Virgin Telephone Company d/b/a Reliance Connects that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
19-05034	Petition of GridLiance West LLC for an Advisory Opinion or Declaratory Order that the proposed replacement of twenty transmission towers, the addition of one new tower, and the replacement of the 230 kV transmission line constitutes a "like facility" for the purposes of NRS 704.865(1).
19-05035	Application of American Dark Fiber, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.

Prior editions of this newsletter are available on the CPUC'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.