

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Outreach & Public Information Offices

March 2020 Edition



March 16–22, 2020
Fix a Leak Week

By **Cynthia Turiczek**
Water Engineer

Water in Nevada is always going to be a hot topic. No matter where you stand in the debate, we can all agree that water conservation is a necessity. The demand for this precious resource is increasing while the supply is threatened by drought, pollution, etc. It is always easy to remember to conserve water in the peak of summer when everything is hot, brown, and dry; yet we need to conserve year-round.

In March, we seem to be surrounded by green, and a lot of green thumbs start to itch with the need to get out in the yard. Fixing leaks in your landscaping irrigation system that may have occurred during the winter months is one way to help conserve water.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) annual Fix a Leak Week (March 16-22, 2020) program promotes water conservation through leak detection and repair, which should be applied to both inside and outside water sources.

There are numerous ways one can save water around the house (the following tips are directly from the EPA):

1. Consider replacing old equipment (like toilets, dishwashers and laundry machines) with WaterSense certified products.
2. When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.
3. Fill your sink or basin when washing and rinsing dishes.
4. Only run the dishwasher or washing machine when it's full.

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THE FACTS ON LEAKS

10

percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day

A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than

3,000 gallons

per year

Did you know?
Minor water leaks account for nearly



1

trillion gallons

of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in nearly

A shower leaking at

10 Drips

per minute wastes more than

500

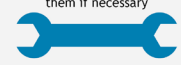
gallons per year

11


million homes

Repair

leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary




Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save



13,000


gallons of water savings for the average family

Homeowners can save




10 percent on their water bills

look for



Meets EPA Criteria


epa.gov/watersense

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada | puc.nv.gov

Save Water During Fix a Leak Week

PUCN supports EPA's WaterSense program

By Peter Kostas
Communications Director

As part of an ongoing campaign supported by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), this year's Fix a Leak Week encourages Nevadans to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted nationally each year from household water leaks.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense Program, Fix a Leak Week is March 16-22. In support of this public awareness campaign, the PUCN encourages Nevada consumers to find and fix residential leaks

to save water.

"Household leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water in an average home every year. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves.

These types of leaks are often easy to fix,

requiring only a few tools and hardware," said PUCN Water Engineer Cindy Turiczek.



Check. Twist. Replace.

"The PUCN encourages consumers to take a few simple steps that can add up to a significant positive impact. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills. Consumers are not just losing water, but also money that communities put into keeping our water clean and healthy," Turiczek said.

EPA's Fix a Leak Week tips include:

- **Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, shower heads and other fixtures. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots too. Look at your water usage during a colder month. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.
- **Toilet leaks.** Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- **Replace the fixture if necessary.** Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

In many cases, fixture replacement parts pay for themselves quickly and can be installed by handy do-it-yourselfers or local plumbing professionals. Irrigation professionals certified through a WaterSense labeled program can also check systems for leaks. For more information, visit epa.gov/watersense or puc.nv.gov to find WaterSense labeled products or an auditor in your area.

How to Replace a Faucet Aerator in 4 Easy Steps

You will need:

- WaterSense Labeled Aerator
- Wrench (optional)
- Cloth (optional)

www.epa.gov/watersense

1: Cover your drain.
2: Remove aerator.
3: Remove rubber washer if stuck.
4: Twist on new WaterSense labeled aerator.

How to Replace a Showerhead in 4 Easy Steps

You will need:

- Toothbrush
- Plumbing Tape
- Cloth (optional)
- WaterSense Labeled Showerhead
- Wrench (optional)

www.epa.gov/watersense

1: Remove old showerhead.
2: Clean the thread.
3: Apply plumbing tape clockwise.
4: Twist on new WaterSense labeled showerhead.

How to Replace a Toilet Flapper in 6 Easy Steps

Save water by stopping leaks in your bathroom.

www.epa.gov/watersense

1: Turn off the water.
2: Remove the toilet's tank cover and flush.
3: Remove the old flapper.
4: Attach the new flapper to the pegs.
5: Reattach the chain for a tight seal, making sure the seal is strong.
6: Turn the water back on and flush.

Fix a Leak: *continued from page 1*

5. Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).
6. Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
7. Take short showers instead of baths.
8. Turn off the water while brushing teeth, shaving, and soaping up in the shower.
9. When purchasing a new washing machine, buy a water saving model that can be adjusted to the load size.
10. Maximize the use of natural vegetation and establish smaller lawns.
11. When mowing your lawn, set the mower blades to 2-3 inches high. Longer grass shades the soil improving moisture retention, has more leaf surface to take in sunlight, allowing it to grow thicker and develop a deeper root system.
12. Only water the lawn when necessary (and adhere to your utility's water schedule). Avoid watering on windy days. Water the lawn and garden in the morning or late in the evening to maximize the amount of water which

reaches the plant roots (otherwise most of the water will evaporate). If sprinklers are used, take care to be sure they don't water sidewalks, driveways, etc. When you water, lawns do not need more than 1 inch each week (Tip: Set out an empty tuna can to determine how long it takes to water 1 inch). This watering pattern will encourage more healthy, deep grass roots. If an automatic lawn irrigation system is used, be sure it has been properly installed, is programmed to deliver the appropriate amount and rate of water, and has rain shut-off capability.

13. Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth, and control weeds.
14. Add compost or an organic matter to soil as necessary, to improve soil conditions and water retention.
15. Collect rainfall for irrigation in a screened container (to prevent mosquito larvae growth).
16. When washing a car, wet it quickly, then use a bucket of water to wash the car. Turn on the hose to final rinse.
17. Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks, and porches, rather than hosing off these areas.

PUCN Regulates 27 Investor-Owned Water & Wastewater Utilities

The PUCN fully regulates the rates, service quality, and service territories of 27 investor-owned water and wastewater utilities serving approximately 22,300 customers in Nevada.

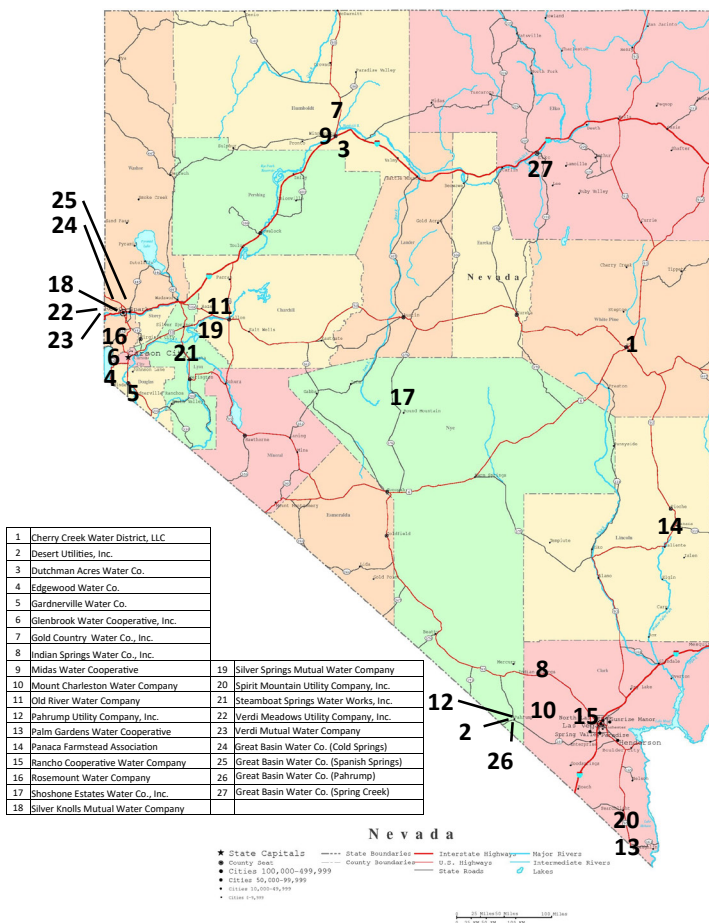
The PUCN regulates the service territories, but not the rates or service quality, of water and wastewater utilities under the control of a non-investor-owned governing body, such as a co-op or homeowner's association. The PUCN also does not have any regulatory oversight over utilities operated by governmental bodies, quasi-governmental bodies, or political subdivisions of the state, including the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

The PUCN's primary regulatory activities over investor-owned water/wastewater utilities 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.

The PUCN also reviews Utility Environmental Protection Act (UEPA) permits for compliance with environmental requirements for new investor-owned water and/or wastewater facilities.

Water quality, supply and wastewater discharge issues are governed by various federal and state agencies. The PUCN works collaboratively with these other agencies to ensure utility compliance.



Dockets Opened at the PUCN in February 2020

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

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
20-02001	02/05/2020	Notice by Grasshopper Group, LLC, Logan Parent, LLC, and LogMeln, Inc. of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
20-02002	02/05/2020	Notice by Grasshopper Group, LLC, Logan Parent, LLC, and LogMeln, Inc. of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
20-02003	02/11/2020	Registration of Gabb Wireless, Inc. as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
20-02004	02/10/2020	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and WANRack, LLC for approval of Amendment No. 1 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
20-02005	02/10/2020	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and Bandwidth.com CLEC, LLC for approval of Amendment No. 2 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
20-02006	20/13/2020	Request of Southwestco Wireless, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless to cancel its commercial mobile radio service registration.
20-02007	02/12/2020	Notice by the Regulatory Operations Staff of the 2020 range of reasonable returns on equity for water and sewer utilities.
20-02008	02/13/2020	Application of Star City Property Owners Association to voluntarily discontinue water service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPC) 2967.
20-02009	02/13/2020	Notice by Machaen Enterprises, Inc. on behalf of IDT America Corp. of a bond renewal.
20-02010	02/14/2020	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 20-01 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2020.
20-02011	02/14/2020	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 20-01(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2020.
20-02012	02/14/2020	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 20-01(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2020.
20-02013	02/18/2020	Application of Gold Country Water Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 9, to revise Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
20-02014	02/19/2020	Application of Spirit Mountain Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 6, to revise Water Tariff No. 2 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
20-02015	02/19/2020	Application of West Telecom Services, LLC for approval of a change of name to Intrado Communications, LLC for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPC) 2664 Sub 4.
20-02016	02/20/2020	Notice by Ton 80 Communications, LLC of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
20-02017	02/21/2020	Filing by Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of annual report on the Economic Development Electric Rate Rider Program pursuant to NAC 704.8958.
20-02018	02/21/2020	Filing by Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of annual report on the Economic Development Electric Rate Rider Program pursuant to NAC 704.8958.
20-02019	02/21/2020	Application of Pahrump Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 16, to revise Water Tariff No. 1A and Sewer Tariff No. 1A to adjust rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
20-02020	02/24/2020	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Southwest Gas Corporation (SWG) requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by SWG.
20-02021	02/21/2020	Application of Verdi Meadows Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 7, to revise Water Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
20-02022	02/25/2020	Notice of Vonage Holdings Corp. of its intent to request numbering resources for the Las Vegas rate center from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
20-02024	02/27/2020	Investigation and Rulemaking to adopt a new regulation in Chapter 455 of the Nevada Administrative Code regarding damage to subsurface installations while using hand tools.
20-02025	02/27/2020	Report of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy on the progress of its Action Plan relative to its 2019-2038 Integrated Resource Plan.

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.