

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Outreach & Public Information Offices

August 2021 Edition

General Consumer Sessions Scheduled

8/11 Day is 8-1-1 on the calendar



See 8/11 Day Story on page 3.

PUCN also conducts a general consumer session annually in Elko County.

General consumer sessions allow the public to provide input about any topic concerning utilities regulated by the PUCN, including NV Energy and Southwest Gas, as well as some telecommunication, railroad and water companies. Visit puc.nv.gov/FAQ/Who_Does_The_PUCN_Regulate/ to learn which utilities are regulated by the PUCN. The record from the general consumer sessions is provided to the Legislature.

Public comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker. If, within 15 minutes after the start of the consumer session, no member of the public has appeared to participate or comment, the consumer session may be adjourned.

Interested persons may also file comments electronically

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 704.069 requires the PUCN to, each calendar year, conduct at least one general consumer session in the county with the largest population (Clark) and in the county with the second largest population (Washoe). The

through the [Electronic Filings System](#) on the PUCN website or at either of the PUCN's offices (1150 E. William Street, Carson City, NV 89701 and 9075 W. Diablo Drive, Suite 250, Las Vegas, NV 89148) on or before the date of the consumer sessions.

GENERAL CONSUMER SESSION SCHEDULE

WASHOE COUNTY

THURSDAY | AUGUST 19 | 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Washoe County Commission Chambers
1001 E. 9th Street, Building A
Reno, NV 89512

ELKO COUNTY

THURSDAY | AUGUST 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Elko County Commission Chambers
Nannini Administration Building
540 Court Street, Suite 102
Elko, NV 89801

CLARK COUNTY

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 7 | 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Hearing Room A
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
9075 W. Diablo Drive, Suite 250
Las Vegas, NV 89148
Comments via Telephone: (775) 687-6014

To learn more about PUCN consumer sessions, visit puc.nv.gov/Consumers/Be_Heard/Consumer_Sessions/.



Public Utilities Commission of Nevada | puc.nv.gov



PUCN Report Summarizes Investigation of Electric Capacity Constraints Resulting from 2020 Heat Wave

After a widespread heat wave in the Western United States in August 2020 that led to public pleas to voluntarily conserve energy, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) opened an investigation into resource adequacy and planning to ensure Nevada has sufficient resources to maintain continuous reliable electric service.

As a result of the ongoing investigation in Docket No. 20-08014, the PUCN approved an order on Tuesday, June 15, that accepted a report summarizing information examined during the investigation into the capacity restraints experienced in mid-August 2020 due to the extreme heat.

According to the report, “a western electric region increasingly tight on resources, a growing reliance on a market that is interconnected through California, a limited ability to ascertain the physical generation backing some sales and their potential deliverability, and an ever-rising number of market participants competing for the same resources worked in combination until excessive temperatures caused demand to rise to unexpected levels. This is the perfect storm that arrived in Nevada in August 2020.”

Additionally, the report notes that “the West as a region and Nevada as a state need a larger, regional market that integrates multiple utilities allowing renewable generating resources to balance across large geographic areas. A predictable, reliable western transmission system is critical to ensuring electric reliability in the region.”

The report states that although Nevada currently has a robust integrated resource planning process through statute and regulation, the PUCN recommends a variety of actions to ensure that current practices and regulations provide for adequate, reliable, reasonably-priced energy resources for Nevadans. In particular, the investigation and report focused on Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company, d/b/a NV Energy (together, NVE), given that both are the primary PUCN-jurisdictional electric utilities serving the majority of Nevadans.

The report outlines five integrated subject areas of investigation: energy supply planning and load forecasting; balancing authority transmission system operations and related issues; wholesale market considerations for planning; demand response opportunities; and utility information dissemination and communications process.

“The electric grid in Nevada is a very complicated apparatus,” the report states. “As NV Energy’s customer demand increases and energy policy changes to adapt to climate concerns, the tools for ensuring reliable electric service must also adapt. This report is the first in many steps to move Nevada

toward assessing what changes may be needed to assure our resource adequacy goals.”

At the June 15 PUCN meeting, Commissioner Tammy Cordova, the presiding officer in Docket No. 20-08014, noted: “Finally, customer communication and engagement must increase. NV Energy’s calls to its customers for conservation last August, and the call to all of our demand-side programs worked, and likely kept Nevada without a single forced electric interruption last summer. Kudos to everyone who responded to that call. There are lessons to be learned here which we need to integrate into our planning.”

The PUCN investigation to date has included a review of comments submitted by NVE, other power providers, and large commercial customers. Representatives of those stakeholders, the Regulatory Operations Staff of the PUCN, and the Nevada Bureau of Consumer Protection participated in a December 2020 workshop. Afterward, the PUCN requested that NVE provide follow-up comments addressing certain questions that arose during the workshop.

The full report approved on June 15 is included in the order filed in Docket No. 20-08014 and is available on the PUCN's website. From the top navigational bar on the home page, select Dockets, followed by Investigation and Rulemaking Dockets. Scroll to Docket No. 20-08014 and click View.



[Click to access the report . . .](#)



Get to Know Us: *Rail Safety*

The Rail Safety Division, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Railroad Administration, participates in the enforcement of federal and state safety regulations and orders applicable to railroad tracks, hazardous materials shipments, rolling equipment, and operations in Nevada.

The division also reviews applications to modify or construct new railroad crossings.

Visit the PUCN's website for more information: <https://puc.nv.gov/Safety/Rail/>.

811 DAY

Aug. 11 serves as a reminder to always call 811 before digging

With Aug. 11 almost here, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) hopes that the 8/11 date on the calendar will serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 811 to have underground utility lines marked prior to any digging project.

Every few minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines, and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, requires a call to 811 to avoid inconvenient outages. With summer being a peak time to work on home improvement projects, it's timelier than ever that residents remember to dig safely.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to USA North, Nevada's 811 call center. USA North notifies the appropriate utility companies of the homeowner's or contractor's intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested dig site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint, or both.

"On Aug. 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to use the free 811 service before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line," said Neil Pascual, PUCN Senior Gas Pipeline Engineer. "Contacting 811 is really the only way to



know which utilities are buried in your area so that you dig safely."

The depth of utility lines can vary for several reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists even when digging only a few inches or digging in a location that's previously been marked.

According to Pascual, when natural gas pipelines have been damaged and natural gas is escaping, the following steps are the most important to take:

- 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

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.

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

Nevada Wildfire Awareness - Living With Fire Virtual Series

Protect, Prevent and Prepare with NV Energy

On June 24, NV Energy provided a free, online webinar as part of Living With Fire's (LWF) annual wildfire awareness campaign. NV Energy's webinar centered on how the utility is working with customers and partners using innovative strategies to reduce the risk of wildfire.

LWF has conducted an annual wildfire awareness campaign since 2006. This year's campaign, held May through October, includes a series of nine free webinars to help Nevadans prepare, be informed and get involved in wildfire prevention.

Register at www.livingwithfire.com/webinars for upcoming workshops.



Photo Source: www.livingwithfire.com/webinars

Topics Include:

- Wildfire Smoke and Health
- Home Hardening
- Reseeding and Flood after Wildfire
- Prescribed Fire in Tahoe and Nevada

To watch previous workshops, including NV Energy's, go to www.livingwithfire.com/resources/living-with-fire-videos/ to watch previous LWF workshops, webinars and videos.

LWF is a collaborative effort among federal, state, local firefighting agencies, and resource management agencies. LWF is managed by the University of Reno, Extension.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in July 2021

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

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
21-07001	7/1/2021	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada-sponsored Consumer Session to be held in Washoe County, Nevada, pursuant to NRS 704.069(2).
21-07002	7/1/2021	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada-sponsored Consumer Session to be held in Clark County, Nevada, pursuant to NRS 704.069(2).
21-07003	7/1/2021	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada-sponsored Consumer Session to be held in Elko County, Nevada.
21-07004	7/1/2021	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for approval to offer the Move2Zero Program to its northern and southern Nevada sales customers and to establish a regulatory asset to track costs associated with the Program.
21-07005	7/1/2021	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Shoshone, Inc. d/b/a Shoshone Propane ("Shoshone Propane") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of 49 CFR Part 192 by Shoshone Propane.
21-07006	7/1/2021	Notice by Alliance Global Networks LLC and Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc. of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
21-07007	7/1/2021	Filing by Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy to advise there are no customers taking service under its Gas Tariff Schedule No. INGR and changes in rates will no longer be calculated pursuant to NAC 704.522 and NAC 704.526.
21-07008	7/7/2021	Notice by Beehive Telephone Co., Inc., Nevada that current switched access service rates comply with Federal Communications Commission Docket No. FCC 11-161.
21-07009	7/9/2021	Notice by Onvoy, LLC, Broadvox-CLEC, LLC, ANPI Business, LLC, ANPI, LLC, Onvoy Spectrum, LLC, Neutral Tandem-Nevada, LLC, GTCR Onvoy Holdings LLC and Sinch US Holding Inc. of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of telecommunication companies.
21-07010	7/9/2021	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Ohana Landscape and Tree Service ("Ohana Landscape") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Ohana Landscape.
21-07011	7/9/2021	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 CD Solar Project consisting of a 2 GW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 1 GW battery energy storage system, a 230 or 525 kV transmission line, and associated facilities to be located in Esmeralda and Nye Counties, Nevada.
21-07012	7/12/2021	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Green Image, LLC d/b/a GTI ("GTI") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by GTI.
21-07013	7/14/2021	Filing by Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. of updated Informational Tariff No. 1 that includes revisions to Lifeline Assistance Broadband Plan.
21-07014	7/16/2021	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Gothic Landscaping, Inc. d/b/a Gothic Landscape Construction ("Gothic Landscape") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Gothic Landscape.
21-07015	7/14/2021	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Peek Brothers Construction Incorporated d/b/a Peek Brothers Construction ("Peek Brothers Construction") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Peek Brothers Construction.
21-07016	7/20/2021	Application of Gray Fox Court to withdraw \$1,359.27 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to repair and maintain the electrical system.
21-07017	7/15/2021	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Southwest Gas Corporation ("Southwest Gas") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of 49 CFR Part 192 by Southwest Gas.
21-07018	7/21/2021	Joint Petition of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada and Onvoy, LLC for approval of Amendment No. 1 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
21-07019	7/16/2021	Notice by 331LB 8me LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Lava Butte Solar Project consisting of a 200 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 200 MW battery energy storage system, a 500 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Clark County, Nevada.
21-07020	7/19/2021	Investigation regarding the potential rate impact of projects included in Great Basin Water Co.'s Spanish Springs Division's Preferred Plan, the potential future operations and maintenance costs associated with poor water quality in the basin, and potential remedies to address groundwater quantity and quality concerns.
21-07021	7/19/2021	Notice by 333NV 8me LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Busted Butte 1 Solar Project consisting of a 600 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 600 MW battery energy storage system, a 525 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Nye County, Nevada.
21-07022	7/19/2021	Notice by 334AV 8me LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Busted Butte 2 Solar Project consisting of a 1,000 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 1,000 MW battery energy storage system, a 525 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Nye County, Nevada.

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.