

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

April 2023 Edition

National Safe Digging Month

Before starting excavation projects Nevadans reminded to call 811 or place online requests

April marks the annual National Safe Digging Month, reminding Nevada residents to call the statewide 811 hotline ("Call Before You Dig" program) or place online requests through www.811express.com two working days before beginning any digging project. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) supports the efforts of the Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance, sponsors of National Safe Digging Month in the Silver State.

"Calling 811 a few days before any planned home improvement projects that require digging – including common landscaping projects like planting trees and shrubs – is critical to preventing incidents like utility service outages and serious injuries," said Neil Pascual, PUCN Senior Gas Pipeline Engineer.

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. Pascual encourages homeowners to take the following steps when planning a digging project this spring:

- Always call 811 at least two working days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work

planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.

- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has called 811. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.

When natural gas pipelines have been damaged and natural gas is escaping, the following steps are the most important to take, according to 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."

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. 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 even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists. Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

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



Public Utilities Commission of Nevada | puc.nv.gov



Underground Damage Prevention

The purpose of Nevada's One-Call Program is to promote safety and reduce excavation damage to all underground facilities, not just those owned and operated by utilities jurisdictional to the PUCN, by ensuring compliance with requirements in the One-Call law and regulation (NRS/NAC Chapter 455). This is achieved through field inspections and select audits by pipeline safety program (PSP) engineers, and training on safe excavation practices by the Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance (NRCGA).

Addressing violations found during a field inspection is conducted through a three-stage process: a first offense generally results in a verbal warning, and a strong encouragement for training on safe excavation practices; a repeat violation generally results in a written warning from PUCN Staff Counsel, and training on safe excavation practices is mandated; and, finally, if similar violations continue, Staff can file a complaint petition with the PUCN asking that a civil penalty be assessed. If the first and/or second violation is deemed egregious or if the violating party appears to be unwilling to improve its practices, the process can be upgraded directly to a civil penalty complaint petition.

The NRCGA, a stakeholder-driven association dedicated to the reduction of damage to underground infrastructure, conducts monthly meetings that are routinely attended by 25 to 30 stakeholders including PUCN engineers. Since 2005, the PUCN's engineers have helped to galvanize what had been a loose knit NRCGA into a formal, highly structured stakeholder advisory group which now meets regularly, with formal agendas, minutes and a website (nrcga.org).

The NRCGA is also the main resource for damage prevention training that deals with safe excavation practices and requirements of the state's damage prevention law. PSP engineers will often suggest or even mandate attendance to One-Call law violators or new excavators.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The Nevada Legislature enacted SB 396 in 2007 to revise Nevada's One-Call statute (NRS Chapter 455) to grant enforcement authority to the PUCN's Staff. Additionally, SB 86, passed during the 2015 Nevada Legislative Session, increased the maximum civil penalty amount associated with violations of NRS Chapter 455, including allowing penalties to be tripled for violations involving high-consequence facilities, such as natural gas pipelines operating above 100 pounds per square inch.

Improvements and growth in Nevada's economy have brought increased development in underground infrastructure, along with additional excavators and new excavation companies. Efforts made by PUCN engineers have managed to keep the damage trend going down despite the significant increase in construction activity.

The following table outlines the increase in enforcement trending along with the increase in 811 Call Before You Dig tickets.

DESCRIPTION	YEAR					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Verbal Warnings Issued	162	208	256	235	248	176
Number of Written Warnings Sent	13	21	16	14	10	13
Number of Civil Penalties Assessed	7	24	19	33	16	15
Number of Civil Penalty \$ Collected	\$78,500	\$112,000	\$74,500	\$149,750	\$94,000	\$59,000
Number of Gas Damages	385	398	431	341	341	365
Number of Dig Tickets Issued	114,101	129,991	139,910	150,593	150,145	169,737
Ratio of Gas Damages per 1,000 tickets	3.37	3.06	3.10	2.26	2.27	2.15

APRIL PUCN CALENDAR

APRIL 10 - 12 | 10 A.M.

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 fourth amendment to its 2021 Joint Integrated Resource Plan.

Docket 22-11032

Livestreamed between PUCN offices in Carson City & Las Vegas & on the PUCN website

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APRIL 25 | 10 A.M.

Regular Agenda

Livestreamed between PUCN offices in Carson City & Las Vegas & on the PUCN website

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View the full calendar at

<https://pucweb1.state.nv.us/puc2/PUCCalendar.aspx>

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in March 2023

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

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
23-03001	3/1/2023	Informational Report of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy on the progress of their Expanded Solar Access Program Plan for the period 2021-2023.
23-03002	3/1/2023	Notice by Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc. d/b/a Humboldt Telephone Company of its intent to file an application for adjustment in rates.
23-03003	3/1/2023	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 Joint Natural Disaster Protection Plan for the period 2024-2026.
23-03004	3/1/2023	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 cost recovery of the regulatory assets relating to the development and implementation of their Joint Natural Disaster Protection Plan.
23-03005	3/1/2023	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of fuel and purchased power expenses, to reset the Temporary Renewable Energy Development charge, reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rate, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Program Rates, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rates, reset the Energy Efficiency Program Amortization Rate, reset the Energy Efficiency Implementation Amortization Rate, reset the Expanded Solar Program Costs Rate, and refund the total amount of Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rate revenue received in 2022, including carrying charges.
23-03006	3/1/2023	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of fuel and purchased power expenses, to reset the Temporary Renewable Energy Development charge, reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rate, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Program Rates, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rates, reset the Energy Efficiency Program Amortization Rate, reset the Energy Efficiency Implementation Amortization Rate, and reset the Expanded Solar Program Costs Rate.
23-03007	3/1/2023	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of natural gas expenses and to cancel Incentive Natural Gas Rate Schedule INGR.
23-03008	3/6/2023	Notice by Phoenix Prospero LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Prospero Solar Project consisting of an up to 350 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 138 kV or 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Mineral County, NV.
23-03009	3/6/2023	Notice by Phoenix Titania LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Titania Solar Project consisting of an up to 350 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 138 kV or 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Mineral County, Nevada.
23-03010	3/6/2023	Notice by Phoenix Juliet LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Juliet Solar Project consisting of an up to 350 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 138 kV or 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Mineral County, Nevada.
23-03011	3/6/2023	Notice by Phoenix Portia LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Portia Solar Project consisting of an up to 350 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 138 kV or 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Mineral County, Nevada.
23-03012	3/9/2023	Notice by CNS Networks LLC, Congruex Group LLC, Congruex Intermediate III LLC, Congruex Intermediate II LLC, and Congruex Intermediate Parent LLC of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
23-03013	3/7/2023	Filing by IM Telecom, LLC d/b/a Infiniti Mobile to replace NV Tariff No. 2 to correct monthly data amounts for the Infiniti Enhanced Lifeline Plan and Infiniti Enhanced Plus Tribal Lifeline Plan.
23-03014	3/9/2023	Donald Munn vs. Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy. Complaint regarding request that solar credits be transferred from one account to another.
23-03015	3/7/2023	Application of Steamboat Springs Water Works, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 6, to revise Rate Schedules to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
23-03016	3/13/2023	Notice by Twilight Energy Storage LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Twilight Energy Storage Transmission Project consisting of an approximately 0.5-mile 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities to connect the proposed Twilight Energy Battery Storage System to the Magnolia Substation to be located in Clark County, Nevada.

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Dockets: *continued from page 3*

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
23-03017	3/13/2023	Notice by Burro Canyon Energy Storage LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Burro Canyon Energy Storage Transmission Project consisting of an approximately 0.5-mile 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities to connect the proposed Burro Canyon Energy Battery Storage System to the Northwest Substation to be located in Clark County, Nevada.
23-03018	3/13/2023	Notice by Opal Energy Storage LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Opal Energy Storage Transmission Project consisting of an approximately 0.5-mile 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities to connect the proposed Opal Energy Battery Storage System to the Crystal Substation to be located in Clark County, Nevada.
23-03019	3/13/2023	Application of the Nevada Department of Transportation for authority to alter the existing Bridge No. G-58 over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks at FREL49, an Interstate 80 Frontage Road, located near West Wendover in Elko County, Nevada.
23-03020	3/13/2023	Application of the Nevada Department of Transportation for authority to alter the existing at-grade crossing on US Highway 50 located in Silver Springs, Nevada.
23-03021	3/16/2023	Application of Spirit Mountain Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 8, to revise Water Tariff No. 2 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
23-03023	3/16/2023	Application of Mount Charleston Water Company, filed under Advice Letter No. 23-1, to revise Water Tariff and Sewer Tariff to adjust rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
23-03025	3/20/2023	Registration of Comlink Total Solutions Corp as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
23-03026	3/28/2023	Notice by Winston FC Solar, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Winston Solar Project consisting of an approximately 600 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Lyon County, Nevada.
23-03027	3/29/2023	Application of Indian Springs Water Co., Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 11, to revise Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
23-03028	3/29/2023	Application of MOSAIC NETWORKX LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2989.



Think it's not that deep?

Think again. 40% of active diggers don't contact 811 before digging because they think their project is too shallow to require it.

The truth is, utilities can be buried just inches below the surface. The only way to know for sure is to contact 811 before ANY digging project. Contact 811 before you dig.

811beforeyoudig.com



Over 49 million homeowners will put themselves at risk this year by not contacting 811 before digging.*



Remember to add contacting 811 to your to-do list for any project that requires digging!

- Planting trees, shrubs or a garden
- Building a deck or patio
- Installing a fence or mailbox

*According to a February 2023 survey of American homeowners.



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.