

# PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

August 2022 Edition

## Aug. 11 serves as a reminder for Nevadans to call 811 or place online requests 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.

Nevada residents should call the statewide 811 hotline ("Call Before You Dig" program) or place online requests through [www.811express.com](http://www.811express.com) two working days before beginning excavation projects.

Every few minutes in the United States an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first contacting 811. In Nevada, about one underground gas line is damaged every day. 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. Contacting 811 is really the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area so that you dig safely," said Neil Pascual, PUCN Senior Gas Pipeline Engineer.

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



**NRCGA**  
Nevada Regional  
Common Ground Alliance

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

**Saturday,  
August 6th**  
11 - 4 PM

**COWABUNGA  
VEGAS  
WATERPARKS**

**811 DAY  
AT COWABUNGA  
BAY!**

**Discount Tickets for \$24.99!**  
A portion of all proceeds will help fund future  
NRCGA 811 outreach programs.

**PROMO CODE: 811DAY**  
Please go to [www.cowabungavegas.com](http://www.cowabungavegas.com) and click on the Henderson  
Location. Under BUY NOW, enter Promo Code!

\*Free 811 Swag\*  
\*Live DJ\*Giveaways\*  
\*Private VIP areas available for reservation\*

**GET TICKETS NOW!**

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Public Utilities Commission of Nevada | [puc.nv.gov](http://puc.nv.gov)



## General Rate Cases - Electric Utilities

Investor-owned electric utilities in Nevada must seek approval from the PUCN through a general rate case (GRC) application to change the rates charged to customers for services. The utility cannot change the rates until after the PUCN finishes the process of investigating the GRC application and issues an order authorizing changes in rates.

### FREQUENCY OF GRC FILINGS

The Legislature requires electric utilities in Nevada to file a GRC application with the PUCN in June every 36 months (3 years).

### RATIONALE & CUSTOMER CLASSES

When a utility files a GRC application, it must include the reasons for the requested rate change. It must also propose the classes of customers who will pay for the rate change: residential, commercial or industrial. The application must state who will pay how much and why.

### FORMAL EVIDENTIARY PROCESS

The receipt of a utility's GRC application initiates a formal evidentiary hearing process that must, by Nevada law, be completed within 210 days.

The PUCN must establish the amount of money the utility needs

to collect from customers through rates. The basis for the amount is the PUCN's determination as to the reasonable and prudent costs for the utility to provide service. In addition to labor, materials and taxes, the costs considered include depreciation on plant used to produce and deliver the utility's product, as well as interest costs for debt issued by the utility to finance construction of that plant. Rates must also allow a reasonable profit on the equity invested by the company's shareholders. This information is primarily based on historical costs, not future projections. When added together, all of these costs produce the revenue requirement that needs to be collected from customers through rates.

### NV ENERGY GRC FILINGS

NV Energy filed a GRC application on June 6 to change rates in its Northern Nevada territory. The application is **Docket 22-06014** and is available to view on the [PUCN website](#). File a [service list request](#) to be notified of PUCN-issued notices and orders in the docket.

NV Energy is scheduled to file a GRC application for its Southern Nevada territory in June 2023.

Nevada Revised Statutes (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, visit [call811.com](https://www.call811.com), [usanorth811.org](https://www.usanorth811.org), or [puc.nv.gov](https://www.puc.nv.gov).

## 811 Day: *continued from page 1*

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.
- Contact the utility operator.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Tuesday, August 9 Regular Agenda Meeting

10:00 a.m.

PUCN Carson City & Las Vegas Offices  
(Live streamed on the PUCN website)

[More Info](#)

### Monday, August 15 Washoe County General Consumer Sessions

1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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

[More Info](#)

### Tuesday, August 23 Special Agenda Meeting

10:00 a.m.

PUCN Carson City & Las Vegas Offices  
(Live streamed on the PUCN website)

[More Info](#)

### Wednesday, August 24 Lincoln County Telephone System, Inc. Consumer Session

6:00 p.m.

PUCN Carson City Office  
Live Telephone Conference Line:  
775-687-6014

[More Info](#)

### Thursday, August 25 Elko County General Consumer Session

6:00 p.m.

Elko County Commission Chambers  
Nannini Administration Building  
540 Court Street, Suite 120  
Elko, NV 89801

[More Info](#)

### Tuesday, August 30 Regular Agenda Meeting

10:00 a.m.

PUCN Carson City & Las Vegas Offices  
(Live streamed on the PUCN website)

[More Info](#)

# Dockets Opened at the PUCN in July 2022

Visit [puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/](https://puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/) to view documents filed in the dockets listed below.

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
22-07001	7/1/2022	Request of DataBytes Inc. to cancel its commercial mobile radio service registration.
22-07002	7/5/2022	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of its 2022 Natural Gas Conservation and Energy Efficiency Plan Annual Report.
22-07003	7/5/2022	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 2021 Joint Integrated Resource Plan.
22-07004	7/5/2022	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 2022 Combined Annual Electric Demand Side Management Update Report as it relates to the Action Plan of their 2022-2041 Joint Integrated Resource Plan.
22-07005	7/7/2022	Notice by X2Comm, Inc. d/b/a Direct Connect Communications ("X2Comm") and Legent Comm LLC d/b/a Affordable Long Distance dba Long Distance Savings ("Legent Comm") of the transfer of customers from X2Comm to Legent Comm.
22-07006	7/7/2022	Application of Communications Network Billing, Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2850 Sub 1.
22-07007	7/19/2022	Petition of Soft Lights Foundation to prohibit Nevada utility companies from installing Light Emitting Diodes ("LED") streetlights until the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves and develops safety standards for LED products.
22-07008	7/12/2022	Application of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, filed under Advice Letter No. NV2022-11, to revise Tariff No. 1A to modify the convenience fees assessed by its third-party vendor for one-time debit or credit card payments.
22-07009	7/12/2022	Registration of Hoop Wireless, LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
22-07010	7/15/2022	Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff for an Advisory Opinion or Declaratory Order as to the applicability of various Nevada Revised Statutes to the single corporate entity that would emerge from the proposed transaction for the merger of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed in Docket No. 22-03028.
22-07011	7/15/2022	Application of Peering Hub Inc. for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
22-07012	7/19/2022	Notice by U.S. TelePacific Corp. d/b/a TPx Communications of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
22-07013	7/20/2022	Revised registration of MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services for a change of name to MCI Communications Services LLC d/b/a Verizon Business Services.
22-07014	7/20/2022	Registration of Whoop Connect Inc. as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
22-07015	7/22/2022	Application of X2Comm, Inc. d/b/a Direct Connect Communications to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2677 Sub 2.
22-07016	7/21/2022	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for approval of its Solar Thermal Systems Demonstration Program Annual Plan for Program Year 2023.
22-07017	7/22/2022	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.
22-07018	7/26/2022	Informational Report of Prospector Pipeline Company concerning its natural gas resource planning activities.

Prior editions of PUCN Connection are available at [puc.nv.gov/About/Media\\_Outreach/PUCN\\_Connection/](https://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](mailto:drivard@puc.nv.gov) or Communications Director Peter Kostas at [pkostas@puc.nv.gov](mailto:pkostas@puc.nv.gov).