

# PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

March 2022 Edition

## Fix A Leak Week (March 14-20)

### PUCN supports EPA's WaterSense event to save water

The annual Fix a Leak Week campaign sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense Program is scheduled March 14-20.

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) supports the event and urges Nevadans to help put a stop to household water leaks that the EPA estimates account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted nationwide each year – an amount equal to the annual household water use in nearly 11 million homes.

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, according to the EPA.

"Household leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water in an average home every year. Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more a day," PUCN Water Engineer Cindy Turiczek said.

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, Turiczek added.

EPA's Fix a Leak Week tips include:

- **Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads

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.



## Fix a Leak Week



- **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.

Visit [epa.gov/watersense](https://epa.gov/watersense) or [epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week](https://epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week) to find WaterSense labeled products or an auditor in your area.



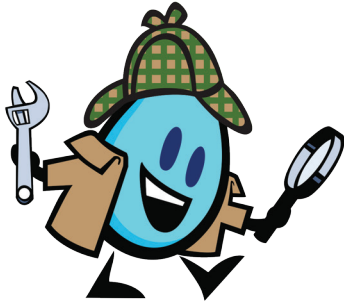
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# DETECT AND CHASE DOWN LEAKS



## Did You Know

that easy-to-fix water leaks account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes? In fact, the average household leaks nearly 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 300 loads of laundry, and could be costing you an extra 10 percent on your water bills.

In just 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and crack down on water waste. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking showerheads all are easily correctable and can save on your utility bill expenses and water in your community.

So put on your detective hat, lace up your running shoes, and take this 10-minute challenge to detect and chase down leaks!

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>



## Start by Gathering Clues

These clues can help you detect leaks before you even start investigating your home.

# 1

### Check Your Utility Bill

A place to start is to examine your utility bill for January or February. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons (or 16 CCF) per month. You can also look for spikes—is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month? Learn more about your water bill:

[www.epa.gov/watersense/understanding-your-water-bill](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/understanding-your-water-bill).

# 2

### Read Your Water Meter

Find your water meter, which is usually near the curb in front of your home but can be inside your home (e.g., in the basement) in cold climates. Use a screwdriver to remove the lid on your meter, which is heavy and usually marked "water."

Now that you've found the meter, take a reading during a period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same after two hours, you probably have a leak. Here's a tip on how to read a water meter:

[www.smarthomewaterguide.org/how-to-read-your-water-meter](http://www.smarthomewaterguide.org/how-to-read-your-water-meter).

# 3

### Take a Toilet Test

Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Make sure to flush afterward to avoid staining, and consider replacing your old toilet flapper if it is torn or worn. Check our Fix a Leak web page for handy videos that show you how to do it.

# PUCN Regulation of Water & Wastewater Facilities

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



**Desert Utilities water tank, Pahrump, Nevada.**  
Source: PUCN

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.

Visit <https://pucweb1.state.nv.us/PUC2/WaterLists.aspx> to view a list of PUCN-regulated water and wastewater companies.

## Dockets Opened at the PUCN in February 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
22-02001	2/1/2022	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and Teliix, Inc. for approval of Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
22-02002	2/1/2022	Joint Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of annual plans for the Solar Energy Systems Incentive Program and its Energy Storage component, the Lower Income Solar Energy Program, the Wind Energy Systems Demonstration Program, the Waterpower Energy Systems Demonstration Program, and the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Program for Program Year 2022-2023.
22-02003	2/2/2022	Application of Global Tel*Link Corporation for approval to add fictitious business name ViaPath Technologies for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2080 Sub 1.
22-02004	2/2/2022	Application of Value-Added Communications, Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2549 Sub 1.
22-02005	2/2/2022	Application of Public Communications Services, Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2834 Sub 1.
22-02006	2/3/2022	Application of Gold Country Water Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 10, to revise Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
22-02007	2/4/2022	Application of Congruex Networks LLC for approval of a change of name to CNS Networks LLC for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 3082.
22-02008	2/4/2022	Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by MTX Contractors, Inc.
22-02009	2/4/2022	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 Rigel Solar Project consisting of an up to 500 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Nye County, Nevada.

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## Dockets: *continued from page 3*

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
22-02010	2/4/2022	Notice by US Solar Assets, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Esmeralda Solar Project consisting of a 650 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 650 MW battery energy storage system, a 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located in Esmeralda County, Nevada.
22-02011	2/7/2022	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, filed under Advice Letter No. 524, to revise Electric Tariff No. 1-B to reflect the avoided short-term cost rates for purchases from Qualifying Facilities pursuant to Qualifying Facilities Schedule QF - Short Term.
22-02012	2/7/2022	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy, filed under Advice Letter No. 650-E, to revise Electric Tariff No. 2 to submit short-term avoided cost rates for purchases from Qualifying Facilities pursuant to Schedule CSPP - Short-Term.
22-02013	2/10/2022	Application of Fairview Mobile Manor to withdraw \$56,216.67 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to repair and maintain the electrical system.
22-02014	2/24/2022	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Boss Plumbing Inc ("Boss Plumbing") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Boss Plumbing.
22-02015	2/10/2022	Notice by the Regulatory Operations Staff of the 2022 range of reasonable returns on equity for water and sewer utilities.
22-02016	2/10/2022	Application of Pahrump Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 18, to revise Water Tariff No. 1A and Sewer Tariff No. 1A to adjust rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
22-02017	2/14/2022	Registration of Insight Mobile, Inc. as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
22-02018	2/14/2022	Filing by Spark Energy Gas, LLC to update license information regarding civil, criminal or regulatory sanctions or penalties that have been imposed by any state.
22-02019	2/15/2022	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 22-01 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2022.
22-02020	2/15/2022	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 22-01(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2022.
22-02021	2/15/2022	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 22-01(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2022.
22-02022	2/15/2022	Joint Petition of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada and Level 3 Communications, LLC for approval of an Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
22-02023	2/15/2022	Joint Petition of Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. and Level 3 Communications, LLC for approval of an Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
22-02024	2/16/2022	Joint Petition of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada and DISH Wireless L.L.C. for approval of an Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
22-02025	2/16/2022	Joint Petition of Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. and DISH Wireless L.L.C. for approval of an Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
22-02026	2/16/2022	Howard Stephan vs. Southwest Gas Corporation ("SWG"). Complaint requesting that SWG replace all gas lines in complainant's cul-de-sac.
22-02027	2/16/2022	Application of Draupnir Infrastructure Group, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
22-02028	2/16/2022	Application of Great Basin Water Co., Pahrump Division, filed under Advice Letter No. 10, to revise Water Tariff No. 1-W to implement the deferred water service adjustment rate mechanism relating to the Order issued in Docket No. 19-12029.
22-02029	2/16/2022	Petition of Great Basin Water Co., Pahrump Division, requesting a waiver of the requirement in NAC 704.63435 to file an application recommending the continuation or adjustment of a system improvement rate by April 1, 2022.
22-02030	2/18/2022	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.
22-02031	2/18/2022	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.
22-02032	2/23/2022	Notice by Orken Solar, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Orken Solar II Project consisting of a 2,000 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a battery energy storage system, a 230 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/](https://puc.nv.gov/About/Media_Outreach/PUCN_Connection/).

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