

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

March 2024 Edition



March 18-24, 2024

Fix a Leak Week

EPA
WaterSense

Are you ready to chase down leaks? Household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide, so each year we hunt down the drips during Fix a Leak Week. Mark your calendars for EPA's annual Fix a Leak Week, March 18 through 24, 2024—but remember that you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long.

The average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year and ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. 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 that can pay for themselves in water savings. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can

save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

To check for leaks in your home, you first need to determine whether you're wasting water and then identify the source of the leak. Here are some tips for finding leaks:

- Take a look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- 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.)
- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.
- Use the EPA's checklist to keep track of your search for leaks: [Detect and Chase Down Leaks at Home Checklist](#) (PDF).

STAY INFORMED

The PUCN maintains three official service lists to keep interested persons informed of PUCN proceedings and agenda meetings.

Download the [PUCN's Service Lists fact sheet](#) to learn more about Master Service Lists, Docket Service Lists, and Public Meeting Notice Service Lists.

Visit the [PUCN's website](#) to subscribe to a service list. You may subscribe to multiple service lists.

Take the 10-Minute Leak Challenge

Drop food coloring in the tank and replace the flapper if color shows in the bowl.



EPA
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Nevada's new surveying requirements increase detection of intrastate natural gas pipeline leaks

New pipeline safety regulations that the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) approved in 2021 have significantly increased the detection of gas pipeline leaks and improved pipeline safety.

PUCN regulations now require leak detection surveys at least once each calendar year at intervals not exceeding 15 months for all intrastate systems transporting natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The leak surveys conducted in 2023, which marked the first year of expanded annual inspection requirements, found approximately 242 hazardous leaks that otherwise might have gone undetected had an annual leak survey rule not been adopted. Additionally, Nevada gas utilities found approximately 526 non-hazardous leaks that were also identified and corrected. The hazardous and non-hazardous leaks were detected in areas that previously would not have been inspected until 2024 and 2025.

With the PUCN's adoption of annual leak surveys for all distribution systems, Nevada became the first state in the nation to apply such a standard to every type, vintage, and mile of distribution pipe.

Current federal regulations require operators to conduct annual leak detection only in "business districts" within a utility's service area; however, the regulations do not define "business districts." Previously in Nevada, utilities were responsible for determining what areas are considered "business districts," but that determination was not uniform across utilities and led to variations in how operators determined which properties should be subject to annual leak surveys. In areas outside of business districts, federal regulations require leak detection surveys at least once every five years.

By requiring annual leak detection surveys on all distribution systems transporting natural gas or LPG, the inspections ensure that all business and residential areas are surveyed in a timely manner. Identifying leaks sooner reduces the risk of injury and property damage from an explosion due to a hazardous gas leak. Additionally, proponents of the inspections highlight that quicker detection benefits the environment by lowering methane emissions.

"The data proves that this regulation results in a triple win – annual leak detection surveys improve safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by finding leaks much sooner than they would have been found on the five-year requirement, and create more jobs in Nevada because surveys require people to walk the gas lines during inspections, a task that cannot be outsourced," said Paul Maguire, PUCN Regulatory Engineering Manager.

The operators affected by this regulation include NV Energy, Southwest Gas Corporation, Wendover Gas Co. and

MARCH CALENDAR

Watch proceedings live on the PUCN website.

MARCH 1 | REGULAR AGENDA | 10 AM

MARCH 4 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Investigation regarding regional market activities in the western interconnection relevant to Nevada utilities' obligations pursuant to NRS Chapter 704.
Docket 23-10019

MARCH 12 | REGULAR AGENDA | 10 AM

MARCH 14 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Investigation and Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 329 (2019).
Docket 19-06009

MARCH 26 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 547 (2019).
Docket 19-06029

MARCH 26 | WORKSHOP | 2 PM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 300 (2019).
Docket 19-06008

MARCH 28 | HEARING | 10 AM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 547 (2019).
Docket 19-06029

MARCH 28 | HEARING | 2 PM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 300 (2019).
Docket 19-06008

Visit puc.nv.gov to view the complete PUCN calendar.

Amerigas Propane, L.P. The cost of damages from some gas incidents across the country has reached tens of millions of dollars, the PUCN's Regulatory Operations Staff (Staff) noted in its 2019 petition proposing the annual leak detection surveys. Avoiding just one such incident represents an instant payback compared to the increased costs of mandating annual leak detection surveys, Staff said.

For more information about the investigation and rulemaking proceeding, visit the PUCN website at puc.nv.gov. From the top navigational bar on the home page, select Dockets and go to Docket No. 19-09011 and click "View."

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in February 2024

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

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
24-02001	2/1/2024	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 2024-2025.
24-02002	2/5/2024	Application of Gentry Place Mobile Home Park to withdraw \$27,018.00 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to repair and maintain the electrical system.
24-02003	2/5/2024	Application of Gentry Manor Mobile Home Park to withdraw \$44,473.69 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to repair and maintain the electrical system.
24-02004	2/5/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Ridgeline Development, LLC ("Ridgeline") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Ridgeline.
24-02005	2/6/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and NNE Construction, Inc. ("NNE") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by NNE.
24-02006	2/6/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Charter.
24-02007	2/6/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("Sierra") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law and 49 CFR Part 192 of the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations by Sierra.
24-02008	2/7/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Tilson Technology Management, Inc. ("Tilson") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Tilson.
24-02009	2/8/2024	Notice by BluIP, Inc. of its intent to request numbering resources for the Las Vegas rate center from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
24-02010	2/8/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("Sierra") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Sierra.
24-02011	2/9/2024	Application of Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2232 Sub 4.
24-02012	2/9/2024	Filing by the Regulatory Operations Staff of calendar year 2023 accounting report for each utility authorized to collect a rate surcharge pursuant to NAC 704.600(6).
24-02013	2/5/2024	Notice by Machaen Enterprises, Inc. on behalf of IDT America Corp. of a bond renewal.
24-02014	2/13/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and NNE Construction, Inc. ("NNE") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by NNE.
24-02015	2/14/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale ("AT&T") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by AT&T.
24-02017	2/14/2024	Notice by the Regulatory Operations Staff of the 2024 range of reasonable returns on equity for water and sewer utilities.
24-02018	2/15/2024	Application of Great Basin Water Co. for authority to establish a system improvement rate in the Spring Creek Division for an eligible project designated by the Commission in Docket No. 21-03003 and for other relief properly related thereto.
24-02019	2/15/2024	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 24-01 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2024.
24-02020	2/15/2024	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 24-01(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2024.

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Dockets: *continued from page 3*

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
24-02021	2/20/2024	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 24-01(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2024.
24-02022	2/20/2024	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and R. & J. Joy, Inc. d/b/a Joy Engineering ("Joy") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Joy.
24-02023	2/20/2024	Application of Great Basin Water Co. for authority to establish a system improvement rate in the Pahrump Division for an eligible project designated by the Commission in Docket No. 21-03003 and for other relief properly related thereto.
24-02024	2/21/2024	Southwest Gas Corporation filed Notice, under Advice Letter No. 538, to adjust Northern and Southern Nevada Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2024.
24-02025	2/22/2024	Notice by Arcadian Infracom 2, LLC d/b/a Arcadian and Arcadian Infracom of change of toll-free number.
24-02026	2/23/2024	Application of Pahrump Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 20, to revise Water Tariff No. 1A and Sewer Tariff No. 1A to adjust rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
24-12027	2/23/2024	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for authority to adjust its annual revenue requirement for general rates charged to all classes of gas customers and for relief properly related thereto.
24-02028	2/23/2024	Application of Pahrump Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 20, to revise Water Tariff No. 1A and Sewer Tariff No. 1A to adjust rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
24-02029	2/23/2024	Notice by Moapa Valley Telephone Company of its intent to file an application for adjustment in rates.
24-02030	2/26/2024	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.
24-02031	2/26/2024	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.
24-02032	2/27/2024	Notice by Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless of updates to Lifeline Bundled Plans.
24-02034	2/28/2024	Application of Nevada Bell Telephone d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale to amend its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier service area to match its current Provider of Last Resort service area.
24-02035	2/29/2024	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to increase month-to-month and one year term plans for Frontier OneVoice.

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.