

# PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Public Information & Outreach Offices

May 2019 Edition

## PUCN to have role in Nevada wildfire prevention

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada could become more involved in Nevada's efforts to combat natural disasters such as wildfires if Senate Bill 329 passes during this current legislative session. SB 329 would amend Chapter 704 of the Nevada Revised Statutes to require privately-owned electric utilities to, on or before June 1 of every third year, submit a natural disaster protection plan to the PUCN. This bill generally requires a natural disaster protection plan to contain certain information, procedures, and protocols relating to the efforts of the electric utility to prevent or respond to a fire or other natural disaster.

According to the National Interagency Coordination Center, an agency that oversees all wildfire interagency coordination activities throughout the United States, there were 649 wildfires in Nevada in 2018 and 1,001,966 acres burned.

Wildfires can cause electrical outages by damaging power lines, but power lines can also be the cause of a fire. Broken power lines caused by wind, falling trees or vehicle accidents can cause sparks which then can contribute to wildfires. According to the March 2019 edition of online magazine Wildfire Today, investigators concluded that the Dec. 2017 Thomas Fire near Santa Barbara, Calif., started as a result of strong winds causing "power lines to come in contact with each other,

resulting in molten metal falling to the ground which ignited vegetation." The Thomas Fire spread over 42 miles, destroyed 1,063 structures, and killed one civilian and one firefighter.

SB 329 requires the PUCN to vet wildfire management plans in future integrated resource plan filings, or IRP filings, made by electric utilities every three years. An IRP is a utility's long-term (20-year) plan to meet demand for services in an efficient, reliable, and sustainable manner at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers. The 20-year IRP includes an immediate three-year plan.

IRPs are referred to as planning prudence determinations, meaning utility expenditures for plant, generation, transmission, and distribution are scrutinized and approved by the PUCN before the facilities are actually acquired or constructed. A determination is made by the PUCN in an IRP that a specific facility is a prudent investment and the utility should proceed with its plan for the facility. The IRP process is public and thorough and analyzes and assesses many different ways to meet forecasted demand, including conservation and renewable energy resources.

If SB 329 passes as written, an electric utility's IRP will also include a natural disaster protection plan, setting forth the requirements for such a plan and authorizing an electric utility



**Limerick Fire, 15 miles northeast of Lovelock, NV. The fire started July 3, 2017, by an unknown cause and burned nearly 15,000 acres.**

Photo source:  
[www.nevadafireinfo.org](http://www.nevadafireinfo.org)

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# What is a docket?

Each time a new filing is received by the PUCN, such as an application, petition, rulemaking or investigation, the PUCN opens a docket and assigns it a number that serves as a unique ID for the filing.

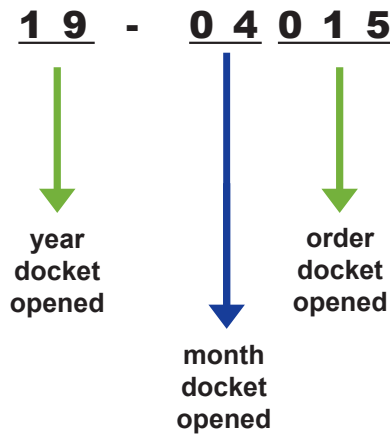
A docket is similar to a case number that would be issued by a court. After a docket is opened and assigned a number, all documents submitted by any party involved in the docket (such as comments or testimony) or issued by the PUCN (such as notices and orders) are filed under the same docket number.

PUCN docket numbers usually look like this: **19-04015**. The first two digits before the hyphen represent the year the docket was opened, which would be 2019 in this case. The first two digits after the hyphen represent the month the docket was opened, or April for 04. The last three digits represent the order in which the docket was opened in relation to all other dockets that opened during the same month. For example, 19-04015 means this docket was opened in April 2019, and it was the fifteenth docket opened that month.

To view open and recently closed dockets, visit the PUCN's website, [puc.nv.gov](http://puc.nv.gov), and click on the "Dockets" link.

If you'd like to stay informed of the ongoing activity in a specific docket, subscribe to a public meeting notice, docket-specific, or master service list.

## HOW A DOCKET GETS ITS NUMBER



# Finding a docket



1 From the PUCN's website home page, click on dockets.

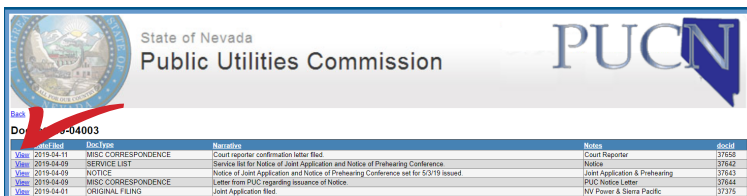


2 Select the type of utility dockets you're interested in viewing.



3 Click "View" to see a list of all filings made in the docket.

[HTTP://PUC.NV.GOV/ABOUT/DOCS/FORMS/SERVICE\\_LIST\\_REQUESTS\\_\(SUBSCRIBE\\_OR\\_UNSUBSCRIBE\)/](http://PUC.NV.GOV/ABOUT/DOCS/FORMS/SERVICE_LIST_REQUESTS_(SUBSCRIBE_OR_UNSUBSCRIBE)/)



4 Click "View" to see PDF copies of all filings made in the docket.



## Wildfire prevention: from page 1

to eventually recover reasonably-incurred costs relating to the development and implementation of the PUCN-approved plan.

In addition to SB 329, Assembly Concurrent Resolution 4 directs the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study concerning wildfires. ACR4 passed out of the Assembly on March 14 and looks to be passed out of the Senate shortly.

### Resources:

- Senate Bill 329 text - <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6598/Text>
- NRS Chapter 704 - Regulation of Public Utilities Generally - <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-704.html>
- Planning for Nevada's Water & Energy Needs (PUCN Fact Sheet on the IRP Process) - [http://puc.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/puc.nv.gov/Content/Consumers/Fact\\_Sheets/Utility\\_Regulation\\_Fact\\_Sheets/Fact\\_Sheet\\_IRP.pdf](http://puc.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/puc.nv.gov/Content/Consumers/Fact_Sheets/Utility_Regulation_Fact_Sheets/Fact_Sheet_IRP.pdf)
- Wildfire Today - <https://wildfiretoday.com/tag/power-line/>
- Living with Fire - [www.livingwithfire.info](http://www.livingwithfire.info)
- Nevada Fire Info - <https://www.nevadafireinfo.org/>
- Division of Emergency Management – Homeland Security - [http://dem.nv.gov/Fire\\_Information/](http://dem.nv.gov/Fire_Information/)
- Assembly Concurrent Resolution 4 - <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6395/Text>



## May is Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month

For more information and  
details on events in your  
area, visit  
[www.livingwithfire.info](http://www.livingwithfire.info).

## Dockets Opened at the PUCN in April 2019

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

Docket Number	Description
19-04001	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Southwest Gas Corporation ("SWG") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by SWG.
19-04002	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Las Vegas Paving Corporation ("Las Vegas Paving") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Las Vegas Paving.
19-04003	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 first amendment to its 2019-2038 Triennial Integrated Resource Plan to include a Distributed Resources Plan.
19-04004	Application of Great Basin Water Co., filed under Advice Letter No. 2, to revise Tariff No. 1-W to update its Water Conservation Plan tariff sheets in accordance with its 2018 Integrated Resource Plan in Docket No. 18-03005.
19-04005	Annual Report of Switch Ltd. on compliance with the Portfolio Standard for Renewable Energy for Compliance Year 2018.
19-04006	Annual Report of Exelon Generation Company, LLC on compliance with the Portfolio Standard for Renewable Energy for Compliance Year 2018.

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## April Dockets: *continued from page 3*

Docket Number	Description
19-04007	Application of Desert Utilities, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 7, to revise water Tariff No. 1 and sewer Tariff No. 2 to adjust rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
19-04008	Notice by Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of its intent to file an application for adjustment in electric rates.
19-04009	Filing by Southwest Gas Corporation of tax adjustment pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 00-1028.
19-04010	Annual Report of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy on compliance with the Portfolio Standard for Renewable Energy for Compliance Year 2018.
19-04011	Application of Copper Mountain Solar 5, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct the Copper Mountain Solar 5 Project consisting of a 250 MW alternating current solar photovoltaic electric generating facility, an optional energy storage system, a 230 kV generation-tie power line, and associated facilities to be located in Boulder City, Nevada.
19-04012	Notice by Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale of revisions to its Guidebook to reflect updated exchange area boundaries and company address.
19-04013	Annual Report of Tenaska Power Services Co. on compliance with the Portfolio Standard for Renewable Energy for Compliance Year 2018.
19-04014	Annual Report of Macquarie Energy LLC on compliance with the Portfolio Standard for Renewable Energy for Compliance Year 2018.
19-04015	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Greenscapes of Nevada L.L.C. ("Greenscapes") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Greenscapes.
19-04016	Annual Report of Shell Energy North America (US), L.P. on compliance with the Portfolio Standard for Renewable Energy for Compliance Year 2018.
19-04017	Application of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, filed under Advice Letter No. 19-08, to introduce CenturyLink Business Bundle available to business customers and Natural Disaster Relief for Customers.
19-04018	Notice by BCN Telecom, Inc. of termination of Wholesale Carrier Services Agreement with Network Billing Systems, L.L.C.
19-04019	Joint Petition of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale and IDT America Corp. for approval of Amendment No. 4 to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
19-04020	Application of Span3 Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2974.
19-04021	Notice by Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland on behalf of Switch Business Solutions, LLC of a bond cancellation for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2841 Sub 1.
19-04022	Application of Two Blackbirds Hospitality Management LLC to purchase energy, capacity, and/or ancillary services from a provider of new electric resources.
19-04023	Revised registration of Q LINK MOBILE LLC for a change of name to HELLO MOBILE TELECOM LLC.
19-04024	Filing by West Telecom Services, LLC of updated corporate officer listing and contact information.
19-04025	Application of Hudson Fiber Network Inc for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
19-04026	Filing by Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy of changes in rates within its Gas Tariff Schedule No. INGR pursuant to NAC 704.522 and NAC 704.526.
19-04027	Filing by Corcom Communications, Inc. of informational price list for private line services in Nevada.
19-04028	Notice by Harry Allen Solar Energy LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct a 230 kV transmission line, new 230 kV interconnection equipment inside the existing Harry Allen Substation, and associated facilities to be located within the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone approximately 15 miles northeast of Las Vegas in Clark County, Nevada.
19-04029	Application of Kensington Land Lease Community, LLC d/b/a Kensington Community to withdraw \$105,116.00 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to repair and maintain the electrical system.

Prior editions of this newsletter are available on the CPUC's website at [puc.nv.gov/About/Media\\_Outreach/PUCN\\_Connection/](http://puc.nv.gov/About/Media_Outreach/PUCN_Connection/).  
For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Public Information Officer Peter Kostas at [pkostas@puc.nv.gov](mailto:pkostas@puc.nv.gov) or  
Consumer Outreach Director Dawn Rivard at [drivard@puc.nv.gov](mailto:drivard@puc.nv.gov).