

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

October 2025 Edition

Who Does the PUCN Regulate?

1. Who does the PUCN regulate?

This is determined by state law ([NRS 704.020](#)). As a general rule, the PUCN regulates investor-owned public utilities that provide a monopoly utility service to customers.

2. What is an investor-owned utility?

It is a utility owned by an individual or group of people who invest their money in the utility for the purpose of making a reasonable profit. That is, they want to sell service at a price higher than their costs. Any money left over can then be reinvested in the utility or returned to the owners as a cash dividend.

3. What is a monopoly?

The Nevada Legislature passed laws which allow investor-owned utilities in Nevada to be monopolies. A monopoly exists when there is no competition for a product or service. In the case of utility companies, this means that there is only one provider of a utility service in a given area, or service territory. In return for being granted the right to be sole provider in a service territory, the investor-owned utility submits to price and service quality regulation by the PUCN. Regulation of investor-owned utilities exists because the investor-owned utility is motivated by the pursuit of a reasonable profit. Regulation ensures that the utility provides reliable service at just and reasonable rates. In other words, the PUCN's role is to prevent utilities from price gouging and/or providing substandard service because their customers have no available alternative provider of service.

4. Why monopolies?

Utility services such as water, gas and electric service, etc., are considered essential public services and require expensive infrastructure, such as transmission and distribution lines and pipes. It is often impractical for more than one provider in an area to provide utility services due to the cost of producing and constructing competing infrastructure. In other words, the barriers to entry for a competitor are high.

Deregulation of utility services is a possible alternative to a monopoly system. For example, the telecommunications industry was largely deregulated by the federal government through the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Advances in technology, such as fiber optics and cell phones, allowed competitors to function in this industry and a competitive market to be created. As a result, the PUCN's regulation of telecommunication companies in Nevada is minimal.

As of May 2013, the PUCN exercises traditional regulatory authority over rate and service quality for only 10 telecommunications companies called Small Scale Providers of Last Resort, which operate largely in the rural areas of Nevada.

5. Which utilities are not regulated by PUCN?

As a general rule, the PUCN does not regulate the service quality or rates of cooperatives or other non-profit utilities. The PUCN also does not regulate utilities operated by a city, county or state government, or quasi-governmental entity. However, the PUCN may have some limited oversight concerning these types of utilities' service territory, construction permits for new plant, and excavation practices that may impact underground facilities (pipeline, electrical wire, etc.). Additionally, the PUCN has no regulatory authority over cable companies, Internet, satellite service, or trash collection services.

6. Why doesn't the PUCN regulate cooperatives, non-profit utilities or utilities owned by municipalities?

The primary reason is that these utilities have their own governing bodies, generally elected by customers, which set prices and determine service quality. Thus, these utilities are considered by lawmakers to be self-regulated because they are run by and/or take direction from their customers. They set prices as high or as low as they deem appropriate and customers weigh in on these matters through the voting process. Regulation by the PUCN would be duplicative of the customer protections these utilities already have in place.

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PUCN REGULATION: *continued from page 1*

7. How can I tell the difference between a for-profit, investor-owned utility and a cooperative, non-profit or quasi-governmental utility?

The best way to determine this is to contact the utility or look for this information on its website. Short of that, many times the name of the utility provides a clue. Look for the words “cooperative” or “association” in the name (e.g., Valley Electric Association, Inc.). Cooperatives and associations generally have their own governing bodies. Other words in a name that indicate an entity is not regulated by the PUCN include: authority, district, and mutual. These words indicate that a utility was created and is run by a government or quasi-governmental entity (e.g., Las Vegas Valley Water District).

8. What is a quasi-governmental utility?

A quasi-governmental utility is formed by an act of legislation and is generally run similarly to a government agency. The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is an example. Its website, tmwa.com, states that it “is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.” The

website also states that TMWA was “formed under the Joint Powers Legislation of the state of Nevada and is subject to the Open Meeting Law.”

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is another example. Its website, snwa.com, states that it “is a cooperative agency . . . governed by a seven-member agency comprised of representatives from each of its member organizations.” The member organizations include the city of North Las Vegas, the city of Henderson, and the city of Las Vegas, among others.

More Information

For comprehensive lists of PUCN-regulated companies, visit puc.nv.gov/Consumers/Be_Informed/PUCN_Regulated_Uilities.

October PUCN Calendar

Visit puc.nv.gov to view the complete PUCN calendar and for links to watch live streams of the proceedings.

OCTOBER 7 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Investigation and Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Assembly Bill 452 (2025). Docket 25-07003

OCTOBER 8 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 326 (2025). Docket 25-07005

OCTOBER 8 | WORKSHOP | 11 AM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 442 (2025). Docket 25-07007

OCTOBER 8 | WORKSHOP | 2 PM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 417 (2025). Docket 25-07006

OCTOBER 9 | CONSUMER SESSION | 6 PM

Hosted by NV Energy - NOT a Commission proceeding. [More information from NV Energy.](#)

OCTOBER 13 | HEARING | 10 AM

Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of an Energy Supply Agreement with MSG Las Vegas, LLC. Docket 23-08019

OCTOBER 14 | REGULAR AGENDA | 10 AM

OCTOBER 14 | WORKSHOP | 11 AM

Investigation to address rate misclassifications by Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy. Docket 25-05010

OCTOBER 22 | WORKSHOP | 10 AM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Assembly Bill 46 (2025). Docket 25-07001

OCTOBER 22 | CONSUMER SESSION

1 PM & 6 PM

NO LIVE STREAM

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada-sponsored Consumer Session to be held in Clark County, Nevada, pursuant to NRS 704.069(2). Docket 25-06002

[More Information](#)

OCTOBER 28 | REGULAR AGENDA | 10 AM

OCTOBER 29 | WORKSHOP | 9 AM

Rulemaking to amend, adopt, and/or repeal regulations in accordance with Assembly Bill 524 (2023). Docket 23-07026

OCTOBER 31 | NEVADA DAY HOLIDAY

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in September 2025

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

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
25-09001	9/5/2025	Application of Nevada Bell Telephone Company, LLC d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale, filed under Advice Letter No. 2081, to revise Tariff No. C to modify General Regulations Schedule C2-A and Special Access Service Schedule C7-A to grandfather intrastate DS1 and DS3 High Capacity Services.
25-09002	9/5/2025	Application of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, filed under Advice Letter No. NV2025-08, to revise Tariff No. 1A to add clarifying language to bundled services that include and reference non-regulated High-Speed Internet services and to remove CenturyLink Line Volume Plan.
25-09003	9/5/2025	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to increase PBX Trunk rates and bundle rates for Frontier OneVoice.
25-09004	9/5/2025	Application of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale for relief from designation as a provider of last resort in Lander, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Washoe, and White Pine Counties, Nevada pursuant to NRS 704.68886.
25-09005	9/9/2025	Notice by Tidewater Solar Farm, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct an up to 1,200 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, an up to 1,200 MW battery energy storage system, an on-site substation, a potential generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located on approximately 10,122 acres of federally-managed land in Nye County, Nevada.
25-09006	9/10/2025	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.
25-09007	9/8/2025	Application of Steamboat Springs Water Works, Inc. for approval to withdraw \$25,623.68, in funds from its surcharge funds account, established by the Commission in Docket No. 24-09006, to pay for an emergency leak repair.
25-09008	9/15/2025	Petition of Reno Power NR 1, LLC for an Advisory Opinion or Declaratory Order confirming the applicability of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy's Rule 9.A.16 to proportionate share allocations for subsequent interconnections to a master planned community line extension.
25-09009	9/16/2025	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Campbell Construction Co., Inc. ("Campbell") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Campbell.
25-09010	9/18/2025	Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for approval of its 2026-2028 Triennial Integrated Resource Plan.
25-09011	9/19/2025	Filing by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. and Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada of annual data regarding Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation Replacement funding eligibility pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 54.304 and annual certification that price cap carrier is not seeking duplicative Eligible Recovery pursuant to the requirements of 47 CFR 51.915.
25-09012	9/22/2025	Notice by Scorpio Energy Center LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Scorpio Energy Center consisting of an up to 400 MW gas-powered electric generating facility, an up to 500 kV transmission line, a natural gas pipeline, and associated facilities to be located on approximately 110 acres of federally-managed land in Lyon County, Nevada.
25-09013	9/24/2025	Request of 2600Hz, Inc. d/b/a ZSwitch to cancel its commercial mobile radio service registration.
25-09014	9/23/2025	Notice by Star Peak Solar Farm, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct an up to 300 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, an up to 300 MW battery energy storage system, an on-site substation, a potential generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located on approximately 12,555 acres of federally-managed land and 7,024 acres of private land in Churchill and Pershing Counties, Nevada.
25-09015	9/25/2025	Notice by Markel Insurance Company on behalf of G3 Telecom USA Inc. of a bond cancellation for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2972.
25-09016	9/30/2025	Notice by Delamar Transmission LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Lincoln-Clark Transmission Project consisting of an approximately 32-mile 500 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be located on 8.5 acres of private land and 767.3 acres of federally-managed land in Clark and Lincoln Counties, Nevada.

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.