

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

September 2023 Edition

Sept. 11 - 15: National Digital Connectivity & Lifeline Awareness Week

The PUCN is promoting “Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness Week,” Sept. 11-15.

The PUCN wants residents to “stay connected” and is reaching out to those who need voice and broadband services but can’t afford it. During the annual “Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness Week,” the PUCN is highlighting the Lifeline Program, which offers discounts to help residents access voice or broadband services, and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which offers discounts to help residents access broadband services.

Lifeline helps low-income consumers connect to the nation’s communications networks, find jobs, access health care services, connect with family and call for help in an emergency. Under the federal Lifeline Program, low-income consumers who participate in certain public assistance programs, or qualify based on income, can receive a discount of up to \$9.25 per month off their monthly bill for broadband, or bundled phone and broadband service (and up to an additional

for qualifying tribal consumers.

In 2021, the Federal Communications Commission implemented the complementary ACP, which provides eligible households up to a \$30 per month discount for broadband services and up to \$75 per

month for households on qualifying tribal lands. Current Lifeline participants are automatically eligible, but they still need to select a provider and eligible ACP plan to receive the benefit.

Consumers can apply for Lifeline benefits online or request a mail-in application at: nv.fcc.gov or lifelinesupport.org. To apply online or download an application for the ACP, go to: GetInternet.gov.

For additional Lifeline or ACP application support, consumers also may contact their provider of telephone or internet service, including wireless providers. If your wireless provider is a designated Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, it should offer the Lifeline or ACP discounts. Check the PUCN’s website to see if your provider is a designated [Eligible Telecommunications Carrier](https://puc.nv.gov). Lifeline and ACP funds are administered by the Universal Service Administrative Co. (usac.org/lifeline).

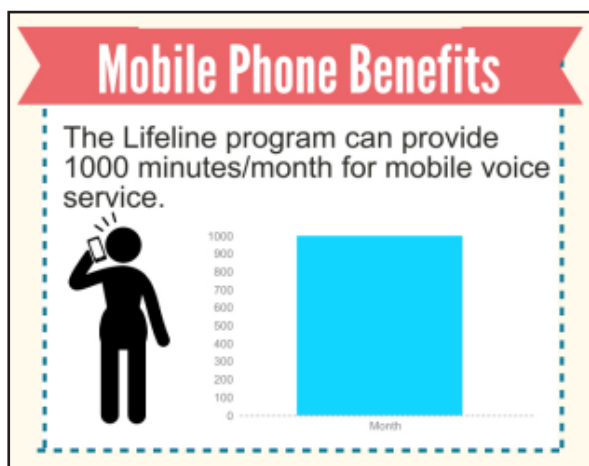
Lifeline Support

(800) 234-9473

press 1 for English or 2 for Spanish

lifelinesupport@usac.org

Prepared by



\$3.50 from the Nevada Lifeline fund), up to \$5.25 for voice-only service (and up to an additional \$3.50 from the Nevada Lifeline fund), and up to a total of \$34.25 per month



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Nevada Telecommunications

The PUCN rate-regulates basic telecommunications service for eight small-scale providers of last resort, which are providers in rural areas of Nevada that serve fewer than 60,000 access lines.

The PUCN certifies competitive suppliers of telecommunications and small-scale providers of last resort. While small-scale providers are rate-regulated, the PUCN does not rate-regulate competitive suppliers. Competitive suppliers include incumbent local exchange carriers such as CenturyLink, AT&T, and Frontier Communications of the Southwest.

Competitive suppliers can provide local service, long distance service, paging service, Internet service, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and other telecommunications competitive products and services. The PUCN issues licenses to wireless (cell) phone providers, also referred to as commercial mobile radio services, but does not regulate this service. Additionally, with the passage of Assembly Bill 518 (AB 518) in 2007, the PUCN no longer regulates the rates, pricing, terms and conditions of most local telecommunications services provided by competitive suppliers in Nevada. The PUCN still regulates the rates, pricing, terms and conditions of local telecommunications services provided by small-scale providers that serve rural areas.

There are approximately 330 telecommunications providers in Nevada.

The PUCN's telecommunication regulatory duties include: certifying competitive suppliers; licensing wireless providers; reviewing eligible telecommunication carriers' applications to apply discount rates for low-income consumers, schools, libraries, and rural health providers; ensuring telecommunication services available in rural areas at rates comparable to rates in urban areas; and reviewing and approving performance measurement and performance incentives plans.

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 assigned a number of specific responsibilities to state regulatory commissions, which were necessary to open local telecommunications markets to competition while advancing the longstanding public policy goal of universal service. The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) extensive November 2011 Transformation Order (FCC 11-161) continues to drive access rate and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) applications being submitted to the PUCN.

The PUCN continues to provide direction for the growing Nevada Universal Service Fund (NUSF), which supplements federal funding to provide reasonable and affordable rates for telephone service in high cost and rural areas and the Lifeline assistance program. NUSF funding is also available to public schools, public libraries, and health care providers in rural areas as a supplement to the Federal Universal Service Fund. On December 7, 2020, the FCC announced the winning bidders in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction to

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Most meetings are livestreamed between PUCN offices in Carson City & Las Vegas and on the PUCN website.

SEPT. 12 | REGULAR AGENDA | 10 AM

SEPT. 13 | CONSUMER SESSION | 1 PM & 6 PM

Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for authority to adjust its annual revenue requirement for general rates charged to all classes of electric customers and for relief properly related thereto. DOCKET 23-06007

SEPT. 19 | GENERAL CONSUMER SESSION | 6 PM

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada-sponsored Consumer Session to be held in Elko County, Nevada. (No live stream available.) DOCKET 23-06003

SEPT. 26 | REGULAR AGENDA | 10 AM

SEPT. 27 | CONTINUED HEARING | 10 AM

Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of fuel and purchased power expenses, to reset the Temporary Renewable Energy Development charge, reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rate, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Program Rates, reset the Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rates, reset the Energy Efficiency Program Amortization Rate, reset the Energy Efficiency Implementation Amortization Rate, reset the Expanded Solar Program Costs Rate, and refund the total amount of Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rate revenue received in 2022, including carrying charges. DOCKET 23-03005

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

provide voice and broadband service within designated census blocks. In order to receive RDOF funding, the five competitive suppliers, who were the winning bidders within Nevada, had to file applications for ETC status within the designated census blocks. Service provided by these carriers will have to meet the federal guidelines. The census blocks that received funding include parts of Carson City, Clark, Douglas, Lyon, Lincoln, Storey, Nye, Lander, Eureka, Elko, Mineral, White Pine, Esmerelda, Washoe, Pershing, and Humboldt counties.

The NUSF has grown overall in the past few years, seeing a significant increase in High Cost Support requests and applicants, but the fund has also been experiencing a decrease in Lifeline support requests. In 2020, a new carrier was granted a withdrawal from the NUSF for 2021, bringing the total to four carriers who receive High Cost Support from the Nevada fund. For calendar year 2022, the PUCN approved \$1,624,201 in High Cost Support to four small-scale providers of last resort and approved \$41,569 in Lifeline support to 13 total ETCs. The 2022 approved funding, including administrative costs, totaled \$2,616,641.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in August 2023

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

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
23-08001	8/1/2023	Notice by Telnix LLC of its intent to request numbering resources for various rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
23-08002	8/1/2023	Petition of Liberty Utilities LLC for an Advisory Opinion or Declaratory Order as to whether a renewable energy facility of less than 70 MW is considered a utility facility pursuant to NRS 704.860(1) when it shares a point of interconnection with an existing renewable energy facility that is less than 70 MW.
23-08003	8/3/2023	Notice by Vonage Holdings Corp. of its intent to request numbering resources for the Las Vegas rate center from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
23-08004	8/3/2023	Application of ExteNet LVS, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
23-08005	8/8/2023	Application of Light Source Communications, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
23-08006	8/8/2023	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("Nevada Power") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Nevada Power.
23-08007	8/14/2023	Notice by CallWorks Corporation of its intent to request numbering resources for the Las Vegas and Reno rate centers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.
23-08008	8/15/2023	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 23-03 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2023.
23-08009	8/15/2023	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 23-03(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2023.
23-08010	8/15/2023	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 23-03(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2023.
23-08011	8/17/2023	Report by Solix, Inc., as Administrator of the Nevada Universal Service Fund, regarding fiscal year 2024 assessment recommendation concerning the minimum annual contribution and assessment rate on the intrastate retail revenues of all obligated providers of telecommunication services in Nevada.
23-08012	8/16/2023	Notice by Invenergy Storage Development 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 to interconnect the proposed Sandlot Energy Storage Project with the Arden Substation to be located on federally-managed land in Clark County, Nevada.
23-08013	8/17/2023	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Rolling Rock LLC ("Rolling Rock") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Rolling Rock.
23-08014	8/18/2023	Southwest Gas Corporation filed Notice, under Advice Letter No. 536, to adjust Northern and Southern Nevada Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2023.
23-08015	8/22/2023	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 fifth amendment to its 2021 Joint Integrated Resource Plan.
23-08016	8/21/2023	Notice by Silver Star Solar I, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Silver Star Solar 1 Project consisting of a 625 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, an up to 500 MW battery energy storage system, a 230 kV generation-tie line, and associated facilities to be located on approximately 3,006 acres of federally-managed land in Nye County, Nevada.
23-08017	8/22/2023	Application of Escape Solar LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct the Escape Solar Project consisting of a 185 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, an up to 400 MW battery energy storage system, a 138 kV generation-tie line, a substation, and associated facilities to be located on approximately 1,700 acres of private land in Lincoln County, Nevada.
23-08018	8/22/2023	Rajan Kuruvilla vs. Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy. Complaint regarding missing MyAccount data and billing accuracy.
23-08019	8/22/2023	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of an Energy Supply Agreement with MSG Las Vegas, LLC.
23-08020	8/23/2023	Application of BullsEye Telecom, Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2751 Sub 2.
23-08021	8/23/2023	Request of BullsEye Telecom, Inc. to cancel its commercial mobile radio service registration.

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.