

PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Public Information & Outreach Offices

April 2019 Edition

April is National Safe Digging Month *Always call 811 before you dig!*

April marks the start of the spring digging season. With the ground ready for planting, eager homeowners like you are gearing up to start those outdoor digging projects. Before you reach for that shovel to start digging, remember to call 811 to ensure that your buried utility lines are marked.

National Safe Digging Month was designated to remind Americans that our land is made up of a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires, and cables. Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

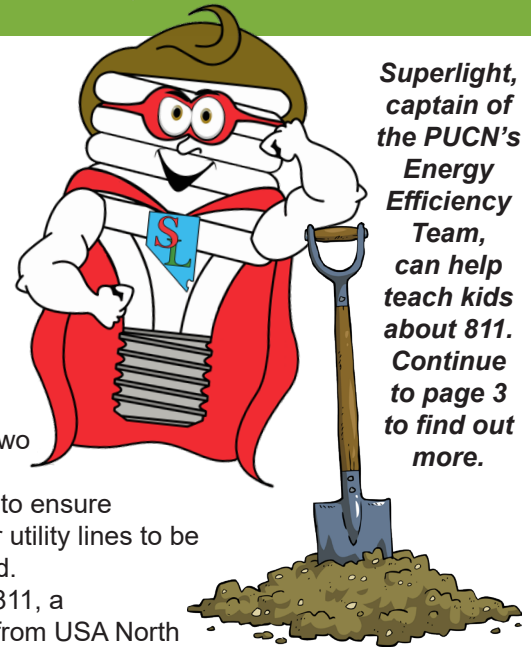
A call must be placed to 811 before every digging project, from simple landscaping projects like planting trees or shrubs, to building a deck or installing a rural mailbox. Every nine minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Don't become part of the statistic – make sure to call 811!

Here's how it works:

- One free, simple phone call to 811 makes it easy for USA North 811 (Nevada's 811 call center) to notify all appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig. You

may also notify USA North 811 of your digging plans online at usanorth811.org.

- Call or submit a "dig ticket" online at least two business days prior to digging to ensure enough time for utility lines to be properly marked.
- When you call 811, a representative from USA North 811 will ask for the location and description of your digging project. Or you will enter this information online if you chose to submit your dig ticket on usanorth811.org.
- USA North 811 will notify affected utility companies, who will then each send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines. (See page 2 for the line locating color code.)
- Once lines have been properly marked, roll up those sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.



Superlight, captain of the PUCN's Energy Efficiency Team, can help teach kids about 811. Continue to page 3 to find out more.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**Call 811 or Submit Online
USANORTH811.ORG**



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YouTube

Underground Damage Prevention (Nevada's 811 One-Call Program)

The PUCN's gas pipeline engineers monitor the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the gas systems under the PUCN's jurisdiction.

Gas pipeline engineers inspect local natural gas distribution companies (LDCs); natural gas master metered distribution systems found mainly in mobile home parks (MHPs); underground piping systems providing liquid petroleum gas (LPG) service to 10 or more customers, again mainly in MHPs; and direct sales lateral customers (such as gold mines) whose pipelines are fed directly from large interstate supply lines. Chlorine gas pipelines just under one mile long also fall into the PUCN's Pipeline Safety Program jurisdiction.

The purpose of Nevada's 811 One-Call Program is to promote safety and reduce excavation damage to all underground facilities, not just those owned and operated by utilities jurisdictional to the PUCN, by ensuring compliance with requirements in the One-Call law and regulation (NRS/NAC 455). This is achieved through field inspections at excavation sites and select audits by pipeline safety program (PSP) engineers, and training on safe excavation practices by the Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance (NRCGA).

Addressing violations found during a field inspection is conducted through a three-stage process: a first offense generally results in a verbal warning, and a strong encouragement for training on safe excavation practices; a repeat violation generally results in a written warning from Staff Counsel, and training on safe excavation practices is mandated; and, finally, if similar violations continue, staff files a complaint petition with the PUCN asking that civil penalty be assessed. If the first and/or second violation is deemed egregious or if the violating party appears to be unwilling to improve their practices, the process can be upgraded directly to a civil penalty complaint petition.

The NRCGA, a stakeholder-driven association dedicated to the reduction of damage to underground infrastructure, conducts monthly meetings that are routinely attended by 25 to 30 stakeholders including PUCN engineers. Since 2005, the PUCN's engineers have helped to galvanize what had been a loose-knit NRCGA into a formal, highly-structured stakeholder advisory group which now meets regularly, with formal agendas and minutes, and has its own website, <http://nrcga.org/>.

The NRCGA is also the main resource for damage prevention training that deals with safe excavation practices and requirements of the State's damage prevention law. PSP engineers will often suggest or even mandate attendance to One-Call law violators or new excavators.

Color Code for: Marking Excavation Sites & Underground Facilities	
PROPOSED EXCAVATION	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
ELECTRIC	GAS - OIL - STEAM CHEMICAL
COMMUNICATION CATV	WATER
RECLAIMED WATER IRRIGATION SLURRY	SEWER



The image at left depicts the colors used by utility line locators to mark the location of buried utility lines. The image at right shows a city intersection that has had its buried utility lines marked for a future excavation.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The Nevada Legislature enacted SB 396 in 2007 to revise Nevada's One-Call statute (NRS 455) to grant enforcement authority to the PUCN's Staff. Additionally, SB 86, passed during the 2015 Nevada Legislative Session, increased the maximum civil penalty amount associated with violations of NRS 455, including allowing penalties to be tripled for violations involving high-consequence facilities, such as natural gas pipelines operating above 100 pounds per square inch.

Improvements and growth in Nevada's economy have brought increased development in underground infrastructure, along with additional excavators and new excavation companies. Efforts made by PUCN engineers have managed to keep the damage trend going down despite the significant increase in construction activity.

The following table outlines the increase in enforcement trending along with the increase in 811 Call Before You Dig tickets. In 2017 Nevada experienced its lowest gas excavation damage rate in recorded history.

Description				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Verbal Warnings Issued	130	75	162	208
Number of Written Warnings Sent	16	7	13	21
Number of Civil Penalties Assessed	2	7	7	24
Number of Gas Damages	357	429	385	398
Number of Dig Tickets Issued	83,965	105,143	114,101	129,991
Ratio of Gas Damages per 1,000 tickets	4.30	4.08	3.37	3.06

PUCN Profile: Craig Rogers Gas Pipeline Engineer



PUCN Gas Pipeline Engineer Craig Rogers

Gas Pipeline Engineer Craig Rogers has more than a decade of service with the PUCN.

He was recruited by former Gas Pipeline Engineer Ken Jones to help the agency implement NRS 455 (Nevada's One Call regulations).

"One Call was in its infancy, and the PUCN didn't have a lot of expertise in that area and I did," says Craig. "Things fell into place nicely."

Before joining the PUCN, Craig worked for ELM Locators for about 10 years in various positions - first in Montana as a utility line locator, then as a manager in its Salt Lake City office, and finally in Las Vegas, where he was named state manager for Nevada and California.

Craig's first exposure to the utility industry came right after graduating from Montana State University in 1996 with a degree in marketing. He was hired by a company that safety tested power poles. Craig was a foreman and supervised crews that tested and treated poles.

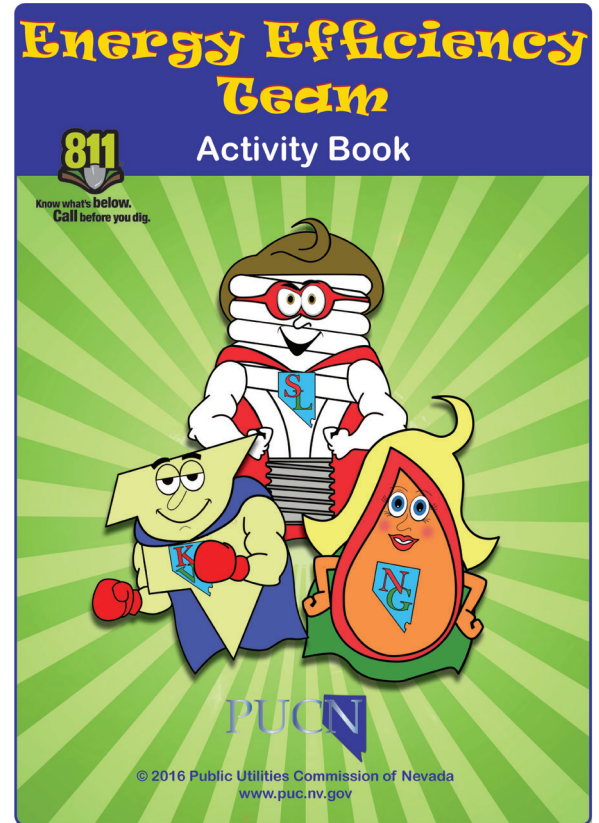
For two years, Craig traveled throughout the west and Rocky Mountain region, including locations stretching from Montana to Texas.

"I lived in a hotel. We moved somewhere different each month," Craig says. "I had zero (personal) expenses. I traveled so much, though, I couldn't buy anything."

The job allowed him to see and explore interesting sights, such as national parks, either when on a job or traveling to a new assignment. "It was a great time and a great job to have just out of college."

Craig eventually moved on to his stint with ELM Locators in the late 1990s, and later the PUCN.

Craig and his wife, Lori, have two sons, Kayden and Carson.



The PUCN's Energy Efficiency Team Activity Book teaches kids how electricity is made, kid-friendly ways to conserve, and how to avoid damaging buried utility lines. To receive a free copy or classroom set, download a PDF from the PUCN website, or email Consumer Outreach Director Dawn Rivard at drivard@puc.nv.gov for hard copies. These activity books are tabloid size, 11 x 17 inches.

Dockets Opened at the PUCN in March 2019

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

Docket #	Description
19-03001	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of fuel and purchased power expenses and to reset the Temporary Renewable Energy Development charge, reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rates, 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, and refund the total amount of Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rate revenue received in 2018, including carrying charges.
19-03002	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of fuel and purchased power expenses and to reset the Temporary Renewable Energy Development charge, reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rates, 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, and refund the total amount of Base Energy Efficiency Implementation Rate revenue received in 2018, including carrying charges.
19-03003	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for approval of natural gas expenses and to reset all components of the Renewable Energy Program Rate.
19-03004	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.
19-03005	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.

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March Dockets: *continued from page 3*

Docket #	Description
19-03006	Application of Avalon Geothermal, Inc. for approval of a revised commercial service contract.
19-03007	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Iovino Masonry, Inc. ("Iovino") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Iovino.
19-03008	Application of NewPath Networks, LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2868 Sub 1.
19-03009	Application of Crown Castle NG West LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2816 Sub 3.
19-03010	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and The Fishel Company ("Team Fishel") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Team Fishel.
19-03012	Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed under Advice Letter No. 494 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.
19-03013	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed under Advice Letter No. 617-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.
19-03014	Filing by the Regulatory Operations Staff of calendar year 2018 accounting report for each utility authorized to collect a rate surcharge pursuant to NAC 704.600(6).
19-03015	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Peek Brothers Construction Incorporated ("Peek") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Peek.
19-03016	Registration of CSC Wireless, LLC d/b/a Altice Mobile and Altice USA Wireless as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
19-03017	Application of Verdi Meadows Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 6, to revise Water Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
19-03018	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Alpha Landscapes, LLC ("Alpha Landscapes") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Alpha Landscapes.
19-03019	Notice by Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc. d/b/a Humboldt Telephone Company of its intent to file an application for adjustment in rates.
19-03020	Application of Spirit Mountain Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 4, to revise Water Tariff No. 2 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
19-03021	Application of CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, filed under Advice Letter No. 14, to revise Tariff No. 2A to standardize the Refusal and Discontinuance of Services language.
19-03022	Application of Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink, filed under Advice Letter No. 14, to revise Tariff No. 3C to standardize the Refusal and Discontinuance of Services language.
19-03023	Application of Dutchman Acres Water Company, filed under Advice Letter No. 8, to revise Water Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
19-03024	Application of Cox Nevada Telcom, LLC to voluntarily relinquish designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier in the State of Nevada.
19-03025	Notice by West Safety Communications Inc., West Telecom Services, LLC, West Corporation, Olympus Holdings II, LLC, and AP VIII Olympus VoteCo, LLC of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of telecommunication companies.
19-03026	Application of Birch Communications, LLC for approval of a change of name to Fusion Cloud Services, LLC for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 3047 Sub 1.
19-03027	Application of Access Point, Inc. d/b/a North Carolina Access Point, Inc. to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2292 Sub 1.
19-03028	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Southwest Gas Corporation ("SWG") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations by SWG.
19-03029	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Western States Contracting, Inc. ("Western States") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Western States.
19-03030	Application of Kietzke Manor Mobile Home Park to withdraw \$13,048.05 from the tenant service charge account for reimbursement of expenses incurred to repair and maintain the electrical system.
19-03031	Notice by Pilot Pipeline LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Pilot Pipeline Project consisting of a 54-mile natural gas transmission pipeline and ancillary facilities to be located in Elko County, Nevada.
19-03032	Petition of Regulatory Operations Staff for an Advisory Opinion or Declaratory Order as to whether Switch, Ltd. is operating as a public utility as defined in NRS 704.020.
19-03033	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Straight-Line, Inc. ("Straight-Line") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by Straight-Line.
19-03035	Application of ComApp Technologies LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
19-03036	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.

Prior editions of this newsletter are available on the CPUC's website at 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 or
Consumer Outreach Director Dawn Rivard at drivard@puc.nv.gov.