

# PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Public Information & Outreach Offices

March 2019 Edition



March 18–24, 2019

## Fix a Leak Week

Nearly 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted in U.S. homes each year from easy-to-fix leaks. That's why the PUCN is participating in Fix a Leak Week. We encourage you to join us!

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your home by finding and fixing leaks. In the average home, household leaks waste more than 10,000 gallons of water each year. That's the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry!

### Here's how to identify leaks around your home:

- Read 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.
- Winter months are the prime time to check water use and see if you may have a leak. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month in the winter, you probably have leaks!

### Here's how you can address leaks found at home:

- **Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers, and other fixtures. Also check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank and seeing if it appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots too.
- **Twist and tighten hose and pipe connections.** To save more water without a noticeable difference in flow in your bathroom faucet, twist on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator.

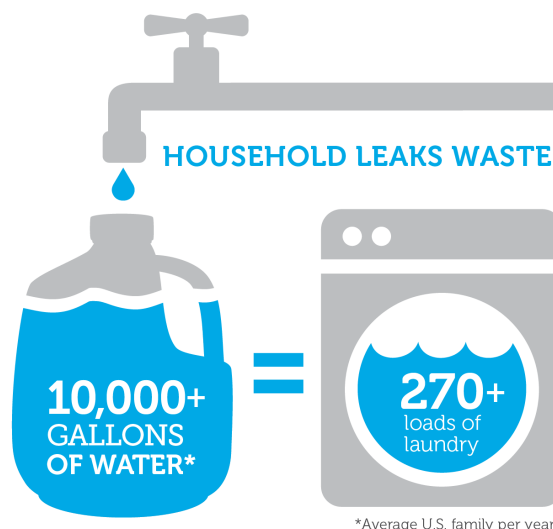
- **Replace the fixture if necessary.** Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

Mark your calendar: Fix a Leak Week is March 18 through March 24. Grab a wrench or contact your favorite handy person, plumber, or certified irrigation professional to address leaking toilets, faucets, showerheads, and irrigation systems around your home.

### More Info

Visit the PUCN website for more Fix A Leak Week information.

<http://puc.nv.gov>



\*Average U.S. family per year



t

f

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada | [puc.nv.gov](http://puc.nv.gov)

in

YouTube

# Nevada Water Service Providers

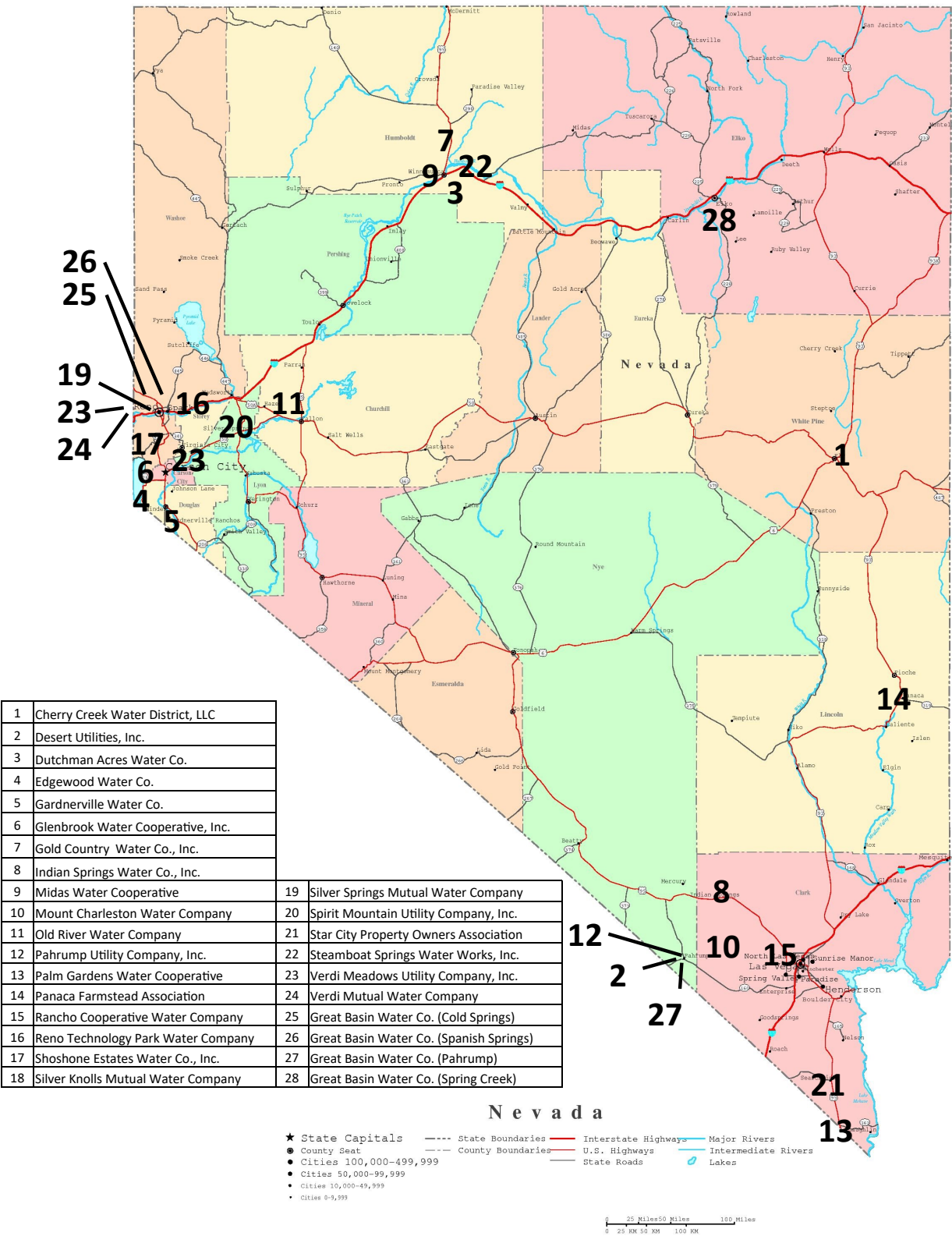
The PUCN's primary regulatory activities over investor-owned water and/or wastewater utilities include: ensuring the delivery of clean, safe and reliable water to customers at reasonable rates; ensuring reliable sewer service to customers at reasonable rates; and monitoring quality of service, environmental compliance and financial performance.

The PUCN fully regulates the rates, service quality, and service territories of 27 investor-owned water and wastewater utilities serving approximately 22,300 customers in Nevada. The PUCN regulates the service territories, but not the rates or service quality, of water and wastewater utilities under the control of a non-investor-owned governing body, such as a co-op or homeowner's association.

The PUCN does not have any regulatory oversight over utilities operated by governmental bodies, quasi-governmental bodies, or political subdivisions of the state, including the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

The PUCN also reviews Utility Environmental Protection Act (UEPA) permits for compliance with environmental requirements for new investor-owned water and/or wastewater facilities.

Water quality, supply, and wastewater discharge issues are governed by various federal and state agencies. The PUCN works collaboratively with these other agencies to ensure utility compliance.



# Electric Regulation in Nevada: Planning, Rates & Renewables

The PUCN has regulatory authority to implement the State's energy policies, including developing renewable energy resources within Nevada and promoting energy conservation, while promoting safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates.

The PUCN regulates the operations of two electric utilities, Nevada Power Company (NPC) in Southern Nevada, and Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC) in Northern Nevada, both of which conduct business as NV Energy.

The PUCN's primary electric utility regulatory activities include:

- **Evaluating utilities' short-term and long-term plans for generation and transmission to fulfill obligations to serve retail customers.** The evaluation encompasses both conservation and supply options, with consideration of Nevada's renewable portfolio standard requirements. The evaluation takes place through the integrated resource planning process. The resource planning process is the mechanism through which the PUCN promotes many of the State's energy policy objectives. For example, the PUCN has evaluated and approved numerous renewable energy projects that are responsible for Nevada's position as the top state in the country for both solar energy and geothermal energy generation per-capita, as highlighted in the chart below, prepared by the Solar Energy Industries Association in 2017. On December 21, 2018, the PUCN approved a proposal that nearly doubled the state's solar capacity, further establishing Nevada as the nation's leader in per-capita solar energy generation.
- **Establishing the rates charged by an electric utility for service.** The rates charged to customers consist of various components intended to recover a particular cost (e.g., fuel and purchased power, energy efficiency and conservation



programs). The two largest costs in rates are purchased power and general costs (general costs include all other costs of operating a utility not specifically collected by another rate). The PUCN only allows recovery of reasonably-incurred costs. Notably, utilities are not entitled to recover costs associated with political or charitable contributions. The PUCN does not allow electric utilities to earn a profit on fuel and purchased power costs (such as renewable energy power purchase agreements) or on operations and maintenance expenses (such as employee salaries). The PUCN's prudent oversight has contributed in Nevada having among the most stable electricity rates in the country over the past two decades. The rate chart below, prepared by the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power, reflects data from the United States Energy Information Administration and lists Nevada as the top state for the smallest-percentage increase in rates between 2002 and 2016.

- **Issuing permits for the construction of utility facilities in certain circumstances as provided by the Nevada Utility Environmental Protection Act (UEPA).**
  - **Evaluating utilities' plans for compliance with Nevada's distributed renewable energy incentive programs.** The PUCN implements rates based on Legislative programs and policies which incent renewable energy.
- Additionally, the PUCN performs the following activities:
- **Authorizing the issuance of security transactions.**
  - **Reviewing merger applications.**
  - **Investigating new technologies and developing plans for implementation of such technologies to the benefit of the state.**

## Dockets Opened at the PUCN in February 2019

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

DOCKET NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
19-02001	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, the Wind Energy Systems Demonstration Program, the Waterpower Energy Systems Demonstration Program, the Energy Storage and Low Income components of the Solar Program, and the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Program for Program Year 2019-2020.
19-02002	Application of Air Liquide Hydrogen Energy U.S. LLC to purchase energy, capacity, and/or ancillary services from a provider of new electric resources.
19-02003	Application of Pahrump Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 15, to revise Water Tariff No. 1A to establish a surcharge for meter reserve and replacements.
19-02004	Application of Gold Country Water Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 8, to revise Tariff No. 1 to adjust water rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
19-02005	Filing by Southwest Gas Corporation of tax adjustment pursuant to the Order issued in Docket No. 00-1028.

Continued on page 4



## FEBRUARY DOCKETS: *continued from page 3*

DOCKET NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
19-02006	Joint Application of Spirit Mountain Utility Company, Inc. ("Spirit Mountain") and American Wellness, Inc. ("American Wellness") for approval of the transfer of all issued and outstanding stock for Spirit Mountain from the stockholder of record to American Wellness.
19-02007	Notice by Platte River Insurance Company on behalf of Securus Technologies, Inc. of a bond cancellation.
19-02008	Application of Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority to purchase energy, capacity, and/or ancillary services from a provider of new electric resources.
19-02009	Joint Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("SPPC") requesting the Commission accept a stipulation regarding violations of Nevada's One Call Law by SPPC.
19-02010	Notice by EDF Renewables Development, Inc., under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct the Red House Solar project consisting of an up to 500 MW photovoltaic solar electric generating facility, a 345 kV generation-tie transmission line, and associated facilities to be located in Humboldt County, Nevada.
19-02011	Application of NextGI L.L.C. d/b/a NextGI Telecommunications and NextGI Voice for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
19-02012	Notice by the Regulatory Operations Staff of the 2019 range of reasonable returns on equity for water and sewer utilities.
19-02013	Application of ExteNet Asset Entity, LLC for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
19-02014	Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("SPPC") filed under Advice Letter No. 329-G to revise Gas Tariff No. 1 to define Primary Customer-Owned Yard Line ("Primary COYL"), prohibit installation of Primary COYL except in limited circumstances, and clarify SPPC's right to install service facilities required to serve a customer.
19-02015	Application of NGA 911, L.L.C. for authority to operate as a competitive supplier of telecommunication service within the State of Nevada.
19-02016	Application of Nevada Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Nevada and AT&T Wholesale, filed under Advice Letter No. 2063, to revise Special Access Service Tariff No. C7 to remove the DS3 High Capacity Service 5-year Payment Plan.
19-02017	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-01 to submit optional Electric Vehicle Commercial Charging Rider Time-of-Use Schedule No. EVCCR-TOU and to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2019.
19-02018	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-01(E) to submit optional Electric Vehicle Commercial Charging Rider Time-of-Use Schedule No. EVCCR-TOU and to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2019.
19-02019	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 19-01(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2019.
19-02020	Notice by Birch Communications, LLC and Birch Telecom of the West, LLC d/b/a Birch Communications of a transaction that will result in a transfer of control of a telecommunication company.
19-02021	Application of Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink"), filed under Advice Letter No. 19-04, for approval of the reissuance of CenturyLink's Guidebook in its entirety for consistency and standardization.
19-02022	Application of Nevada Property 1 LLC d/b/a The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas to purchase energy, capacity, and/or ancillary services from a provider of new electric resources.
19-02023	Notice by Platte River Insurance Company of a bond principle name change from tw telecom of nevada llc to Level 3 Telecom of Nevada, LLC.
19-02024	Investigation and Rulemaking to amend NAC 704.516 et seq. to establish additional procedures and guidelines necessary to ensure that a public utility's use of the schedule and contracts contemplated under NAC 704.518 is consistent with Nevada law and does not result in unjust or unreasonable rates.
19-02025	Application of Pahrump Utility Company, Inc., filed under Advice Letter No. 15, to revise Water Tariff No. 1A and Sewer Tariff No. 1A to adjust rates consistent with the most recent gross domestic product deflator.
19-02026	Southwest Gas Corporation filed Notice under Advice Letter No. 514 to adjust Northern and Southern Nevada Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective April 1, 2019.
19-02027	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.
19-02028	Notice by RLI Insurance Company on behalf of IDT America Corp. of a bond cancellation for telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 2943.

### Subscribe to a Service List & Stay Informed

The PUCN maintains three official service lists as a means of keeping interested persons informed of open proceedings, as well as PUCN agenda meetings. To subscribe to a service list, submit a service list request form online at <http://puc.nv.gov>.

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Public Information Officer Peter Kostas, [pkostas@puc.nv.gov](mailto:pkostas@puc.nv.gov) or Consumer Outreach Director Dawn Rivard, [drivard@puc.nv.gov](mailto:drivard@puc.nv.gov).