

# PUCN Connection

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

Produced by the PUCN's Outreach & Public Information Offices

September 2021 Edition

## Safe Digging Practices to be Honored at Annual November Dinner

There are miles upon miles of underground utilities buried across Nevada. Every day excavators dig into the ground for any number of residential or commercial construction projects and avoid hitting buried gas, electric, telecommunications, and water/wastewater pipes and cable.

These excavators follow safe digging practices outlined in [Nevada Revised Statute 455](#), including calling 811 or submitting a "dig ticket" online at least three days prior to an excavation to alert utilities of their intent to dig. Utilities in the area of the excavation send out line locators - for free - to mark with color-coordinated paint the location of their pipes and cable. These paint lines help the excavator avoid unintentionally hitting the utilities during the dig and ensuring there is no disruption of service to utility customers.

To thank excavators for using safe digging practices in their day-to-day work, the [Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance](#) (NRCGA) hosts an annual Excavator Appreciation Event in both the Reno and Las Vegas areas. The NRCGA is a statewide [membership organization](#) of utility operators, government agencies, locators, design engineers, etc., interested in promoting best practices in underground damage prevention in Nevada.

The NRCGA's excavator appreciation events typically feature a dinner or breakfast, short presentations from damage prevention experts, and an award ceremony to present one



**White marks the location of a planned excavation on this Las Vegas street. Yellow marks the location of a gas pipeline.**

excavator with the Silver Shovel Award.

The silver shovel is granted to an excavator meeting the criteria listed below.

- Number of dig tickets called in to 811 by the excavator during the previous 12 months.
- No at-fault damages to underground utilities during the previous 12 months.

The NRCGA Board of Directors selects the winning excavator through an in-person interview process. The winning excavator receives a life-size silver shovel to display and one paid trip to the [Common Ground Alliance's annual Excavation Safety Conference & Expo](#).

The NRCGA extends an open invitation to all excavators and locators in Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada through advertisements in trade publications, phone calls, emails, and word of mouth. To make sure your company is invited, [sign up to receive NRCGA email notifications](#).

The Southern Nevada event will feature a dinner at the Las Vegas Golden Knights Lifeguard Arena in Henderson on November 4. The Northern Nevada event will be held in the Reno area on a to-be-determined date.

For more information about the excavator appreciation or other NRCGA events, please visit [nrcga.org](#).



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## General Consumer Sessions Scheduled in Clark County

[Nevada Revised Statute \(NRS\) 704.069](#) requires the PUCN to, each calendar year, conduct at least one general consumer session in the county with the largest population (Clark) and in the county with the second largest population (Washoe). The PUCN also conducts a general consumer session annually in Elko County.

General consumer sessions allow the public to provide input about any topic concerning utilities regulated by the PUCN, including NV Energy and Southwest Gas, as well as some telecommunication, railroad and water companies. Visit [puc.nv.gov/FAQ/Who\\_Does\\_The\\_PUCN\\_Regulate/](http://puc.nv.gov/FAQ/Who_Does_The_PUCN_Regulate/) to learn which utilities are regulated by the PUCN. The record from the general consumer sessions is provided to the Legislature.

Public comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker. If, within 15 minutes after the start of the consumer session, no member of the public has appeared to participate or comment, the consumer session may be adjourned.

Interested persons may also file comments electronically through the [Electronic Filings System](#) on the PUCN website or at either of the PUCN's offices (1150 E. William Street, Carson City, NV 89701 and 9075 W. Diablo Drive, Suite 250, Las Vegas, NV 89148) on or before the date of the consumer sessions.

### GENERAL CONSUMER SESSION SCHEDULE

#### CLARK COUNTY

**THURSDAY | OCTOBER 7 | 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.**

Hearing Room A

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

9075 W. Diablo Drive, Suite 250

Las Vegas, NV 89148

Comments via Telephone: (775) 687-6014

*(The Washoe and Elko county general consumer sessions took place in August.)*

Learn more about PUCN consumer sessions at [puc.nv.gov/Consumers/Be\\_Heard/Consumer\\_Sessions/](http://puc.nv.gov/Consumers/Be_Heard/Consumer_Sessions/).

## Get to Know Us: *Communications & Outreach Directors*

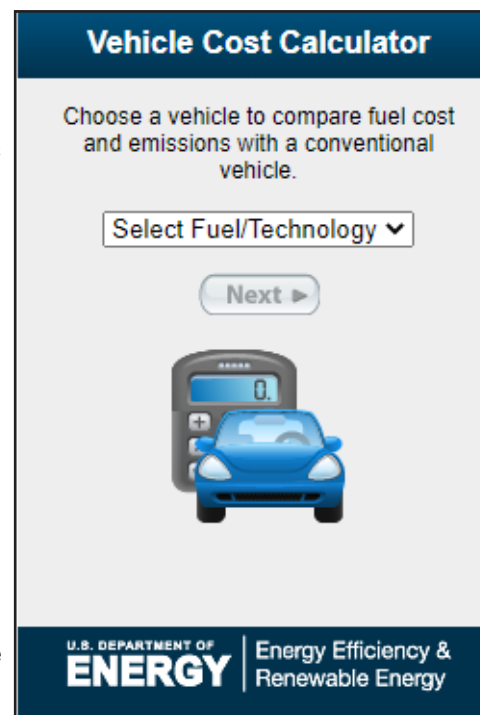
The Communications Director is responsible for coordinating all external communications with the public, media, financial community, trade organizations and other interested groups. The Communications Director monitors state legislative activities and produces reports as needed, and interacts with other state agencies and branches of local, state and federal government to increase understanding of PUCN activities.

## Find Out Vehicle Fuel & Emission Costs with Online Calculator

The U.S. Department of Energy's online Vehicle Cost Calculator uses basic information about your driving habits to calculate total cost of ownership and emissions for makes and models of most vehicles, including alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles.

The calculator allows you to select up to eight vehicles to compare. Use the calculator to compare your current vehicle against vehicles you may be interested in purchasing in the future.

Based on your driving habits, the calculator will tell you your estimated annual fuel or electricity use in gallons or kilowatt hours, your annual fuel or electric cost, your annual operating cost, cost per mile, and annual emissions.



Access the calculator online at <https://afdc.energy.gov/calc/>.

# Dockets Opened at the PUCN in August 2021

Visit [puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/](https://puc.nv.gov/Dockets/Dockets/) to view documents filed in the dockets listed below.

Docket No.	Date Filed	Description
21-08001	8/3/2021	Notice by Yahthumb Solar Project, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, of an application to a federal agency for approval to construct a 230 kV generation-tie line to connect the Yahthumb Solar Project to the Reid-Gardner Substation, and associated access roads to be located in Clark County, NV.
21-08002	8/9/2021	Application of Brookfield Renewable Energy Marketing US LLC d/b/a Brookfield Renewable for a license to operate as a provider of new electric resources.
21-08003	8/10/2021	Joint Petition of Southwest Gas Corporation ("SWG") and the Regulatory Operations Staff for approval of SWG's Customer Owned Yard Line Replacement Program and authorizing SWG to defer the program costs associated with capital expenditures.
21-08004	8/11/2021	Registration of NetZero Wireless, Inc. d/b/a magicJack Wireless as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
21-08005	8/13/2021	Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 21-03 to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2021.
21-08006	8/13/2021	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 21-03(E) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2021.
21-08007	8/13/2021	Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy filed Notice No. 21-03(G) to adjust the Base Tariff Energy Rates and Deferred Energy Account Adjustment Rates effective October 1, 2021.
21-08008	8/17/2021	Report by Solix, Inc., as Administrator of the Nevada Universal Service Fund, regarding fiscal year 2022 assessment recommendation concerning the minimum annual contribution and assessment rate on the intrastate retail revenues of all obligated providers of telecommunication services in Nevada.
21-08009	8/17/2021	Petition of the Regulatory Operations Staff for an order to show cause why Southwest Gas Corporation should not be administratively fined pursuant to NRS 703.380 for violation of a Commission Order, should not be assessed a civil penalty pursuant to NRS 704.595 for violations of the Pipeline Safety Regulations contained in 49 CFR 192, and should not be ordered to take corrective actions for violations associated with a federal reportable incident that occurred on June 24, 2020.
21-08011	8/20/2021	Notice by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nevada d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nevada of a promotional offering for the Elko and Tonopah Divisions for new fiber based Frontier OneVoice customers who purchase a qualifying broadband service.
21-08012	8/20/2021	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to introduce a promotional offering for new fiber based Frontier OneVoice customers who purchase a qualifying broadband service.
21-08013	8/20/2021	Joint Petition of Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink and Comcast Phone of Nevada, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone for approval of the FCC Modernizing Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
21-08014	8/23/2021	Application of Solar Partners XI, LLC, under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act, for a permit to construct the Gemini Solar Project Interconnection Facilities at the existing Crystal Substation consisting of a 230 kV breaker, a 230 kV disconnect switch, and associated facilities to be located in Clark County, Nevada.
21-08015	8/24/2021	Application of Mobilitie Management, LLC to voluntarily discontinue telecommunication service conducted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC") 3036.
21-08016	8/25/2021	Notice by Spark Energy Gas, LLC of a change of name of its parent company from Spark Energy, Inc. to VIA Renewables, Inc.
21-08017	8/30/2021	Registration of Marconi Wireless Holdings, LLC as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
21-08018	8/30/2021	Notice by Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. of Service Catalog updates to introduce Digital Billing.

Prior editions of PUCN Connection are available at [puc.nv.gov/About/Media\\_Outreach/PUCN\\_Connection/](https://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](mailto:drivard@puc.nv.gov) or Communications Director Peter Kostas at [pkostas@puc.nv.gov](mailto:pkostas@puc.nv.gov).