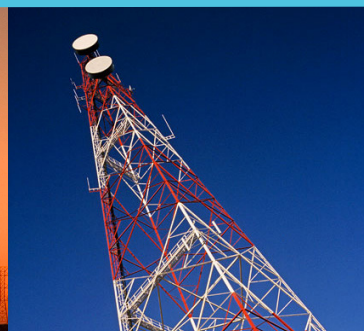


*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2015**



Photos provided by the South Dakota Department of Tourism

# CONTENT

- ABOUT THE PUC | 1**
- COMMISSIONERS | 2**
- STAFF | 5**
- FINANCIAL REPORT 2015 | 7**
- 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW | 8**
- TOP PRIORITIES | 13**
- REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES | 20**
- 2015 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER | 30**
  - ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS | 30**
  - CIVIL | 30**
  - COMPLAINT | 30**
  - ELECTRIC | 31**
  - GAS AND ELECTRIC | 35**
  - NATURAL GAS | 35**
  - PIPELINE SAFETY | 36**
  - RULEMAKING | 36**
  - TELECOMMUNICATIONS | 36**
  - REOPENED DOCKETS | 42**
- MISSION STATEMENT | 44**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**



# ABOUT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

South Dakotans elect their three Public Utilities Commissioners to staggered, six-year terms. A dedicated staff of analysts, attorneys, consumer representatives and other professionals work with the commissioners to carry out the duties of the PUC. The PUC's website, [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov), contains a wealth of information including audio webcasts and recordings of meetings and hearings.

## UTILITY REGULATION

The commission regulates investor-owned electric, natural gas and telephone utilities. The PUC ensures utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable service and that investor-owned companies do so with just and reasonable rates. It plays a more limited regulatory role with respect to wireless communication companies and cooperative, independent and municipal utilities.

## SITING AUTHORITY

The PUC has authority to issue permits for the construction of energy conversion, AC/DC conversion, wind energy and electric transmission facilities as well as certain pipelines, including those designed to transport coal, gas, liquid hydrocarbon products or carbon dioxide.

## OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

The PUC helps resolve disputes between customers and their utilities, operates the South Dakota Do Not Call registry and administers the state's One Call notification center (call before you dig). The commission also operates the natural gas pipeline safety program and licenses and inspects state public grain warehouses and grain buyers.

## ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

The commission advocates for smart energy and telecommunications policy at state and federal levels and works hard to educate consumers about ways to save energy and money ([www.SDEnergySmart.com](http://www.SDEnergySmart.com)). The PUC acts as a resource to landowners, communities and developers for both renewable energy development ([www.SDWind.com](http://www.SDWind.com)) and for the build-out of our state's wireless telecommunications networks.

## INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

The commission's main website, [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov), is chock-full of information ranging from utility company phone numbers to summaries of regulatory filings. The commission offers live audio webcasts of dozens of proceedings, including commission meetings and hearings. All audio files are archived for later reference and convenience. The website also contains a comprehensive docket system that encompasses thousands of pages frequently used by PUC commissioners, staff and the public. The website is a valuable resource to utilities, attorneys, consultants and citizens interested in the work of the PUC.

## PUC ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

[www.SDDoNotCall.com](http://www.SDDoNotCall.com) includes an overview of how consumers can add their personal phone numbers to the national registry to decrease the amount of telemarketing calls they receive. The site also describes how telemarketing companies doing business in South Dakota need to comply with applicable statutes and rules.

[www.SDEnergySmart.com](http://www.SDEnergySmart.com) is a guide for South Dakota consumers to become more energy efficient. The site includes links to the state's utility providers that are partners in the South Dakota Energy Smart initiative.

[www.SDWind.com](http://www.SDWind.com) has information about wind energy.

# SOUTH DAKOTA'S PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS

**Chris Nelson** is currently the chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Chris was appointed Jan. 8, 2011, by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to fill a vacancy on the commission and was elected by South Dakota voters in November 2012 to continue his service for the remaining four years of the term. Chris served as the PUC's chairman in 2012 and vice chairman in 2011, 2013 and 2014.

He is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, serving as chairman of the association's Committee on Telecommunications. Additionally, Chris has been appointed to the NARUC Task Force on Federalism and Telecommunications. He has been appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, representing the interests of NARUC.

Previously, Chris served as Secretary of State having been elected in the 2002 general election. Chris was unopposed for reelection in 2006 which was the first time the office was unopposed in the history of South Dakota.

Prior to becoming Secretary of State, Chris held the position of state election supervisor in the Secretary of State's office for 13 years and was uniform commercial code supervisor in the same office for two years.

As Secretary of State, Chris received the 2010 Excellent Service to South Dakota County Officials award from the South Dakota County Officials Association, the 2004 Hazeltine/Taylor award from South Dakota Kids Voting, and the 2003 Excellence in South Dakota Municipal Government award from the South Dakota Municipal League. In 2005, Chris was appointed as a National Governors Association representative on the United States Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

Under Chris' leadership, the Secretary of State's office was awarded the Election Center's 2009 Professional Practices Program State Award. This annual award is given as recognition for the most outstanding election administration professional practice in the nation. The award recognizes the 2008 development and implementation of a new central election reporting system for the state.

Following graduation from White Lake High School, Chris earned a bachelor's degree in animal science, with highest honors, from South Dakota State University in 1987.

Chris is actively involved in his church and counts agriculture and hunting as two areas of personal interest. He maintains a part-time cattle operation. Chris, his wife Penny and daughter Rebekah reside in Pierre.



**Chairman  
Chris Nelson**

**Appointed 2011, Elected 2012  
Term ends 2017**

**Kristie Fiegen** currently serves as the vice chairperson of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. She was appointed to the PUC by Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Aug. 9, 2011, to fill a vacancy on the commission. Kristie was then elected to the commission in November 2012, to serve a six-year term. She previously served as vice chairperson of the PUC in 2012. She is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Gas and Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety and a member of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee. Kristie also provides guidance related to the interests of the public and gas consumers to the Gas Technology Institute as a member of GTI's Public Interest Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining the PUC, Kristie was the president of Junior Achievement of South Dakota for 17 years and was recognized as the top Junior Achievement USA President in 2008. Under Kristie's leadership, participation in Junior Achievement increased from 2,400 to more than 44,000 students annually and her team was named among the top eight franchises in the country nine times. Kristie's career also includes serving as the South Dakota area manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for nine years and as a sales representative for Monsanto Company.

Kristie's public service career includes four terms in the South Dakota House of Representatives, from 1993 to 2001. While a legislator, she served as chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

She has been active in Rotary, the United Way and Toastmasters, and is an active member of Central Baptist Church.

Kristie earned a bachelor's degree in commercial economics and agricultural business from South Dakota State University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of South Dakota. She grew up on her family's farm near Chancellor, S.D., and is a graduate of Parker High School. Kristie and her husband, Tim, live in Sioux Falls with their sons, Alexander and Jackson.



## Vice Chairperson Kristie Fiegen

**Appointed 2011, Elected 2012  
Term ends 2019**



Public Utilities Commissioners Chris Nelson, Kristie Fiegen and Gary Hanson

**Gary Hanson** was elected to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in 2002 and re-elected in November 2008 and November 2014. He served as the commission's chairman in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013 and 2014. Gary represents South Dakota on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Electricity. He served on the executive committee and as treasurer of the Organization of MISO States, is a member of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference, represented the nation's NARUC commissioners on the steering committee of the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative and is a member of the Advisory Council for New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities.

Gary has served as chairman of the South Dakota Underground Pipeline Task Force, as member of Gov. Mike Rounds' Task Force on Wind Development, South Dakota's Energy Task Force, and Gov. George S. Mickelson's Cumulative Environmental Evaluation of Black Hills Mining Task Force. His service to the state also includes three terms in the South Dakota Senate where he was chairman of the committees of Bonding and of Government Audit and Operations, and vice chairman of the Taxation Committee.

A native of Sioux Falls, Gary was twice elected as mayor of that city and oversaw multiple departmental operations of more than 1,200 employees. Prior to serving as mayor, Gary was Sioux Falls' utilities commissioner for six years and was responsible for the development and day-to-day activities for three municipal utilities. He owned several businesses before elected office and is a licensed real estate auctioneer, appraiser, and broker.

As a regional and industry leader, Gary is co-founder, past president, chairman, and often referred to as the father of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System. He was chairman of the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance, and president of the Sioux Falls Board of Realtors. He has served on the boards of directors of Lutheran Social Services Credit Counseling Advisory Board, DAV Arthur H. Muchow Independent Living Center, Sioux Falls Jaycees, Northern State University Foundation, Minnehaha Metro Communications Systems, South Dakota Water Congress, and Sister Cities Association. Gary was instrumental in the founding of the Multicultural Center in Sioux Falls, the Great Plains Waicipi, Community Drug Concerns Task Force, as well as endowments for the Sioux Falls Pavilion and the Great Plains Zoo.

Awards and honors received by Gary include being named Distinguished Alumnus of Northern State University, Sioux Falls' City Father of the Year, YMCA Tri-State Hall of Fame, International Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellow, Outstanding Young Citizen of South Dakota, Habitat for Humanity's Hat's Off Award, Spirit of Downtown Sioux Falls Award, White Cane Safety Award, Multiple Sclerosis Society Chapter's Mayor of the Year, Children's Care Hospital Wings of Love Award, DAV's Outstanding Legislator Award, and Life Member of Lions Club Sight and Service Foundation.

He has regularly shared his passion for athletics as a volunteer coach for a variety of youth sports. Gary actively pursues a number of interests including astronomy, carpentry, car engines, birding, genealogy, hunting, fishing, skydiving, SCUBA diving, spelunking, camping, history and sports.

Gary and his wife, Sandy, make their home in Sioux Falls and Pierre. The couple has three children and seven grandchildren.



## Commissioner Gary Hanson

**Elected 2002, 2008, 2014**  
**Term ends 2021**



# PUC STAFF

The PUC's 28 staff members perform a variety of duties on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota and in support of the commission.

As **executive director, Patricia Van Gerpen** is responsible for the overall management of the PUC staff and day-to-day operation of the agency. She makes docket and project assignments and is the liaison between the commissioners and staff on all issues. Patty also works directly on a number of legislative, strategic planning and policy initiatives.

**Leah Mohr, deputy executive director**, schedules hearings and various meetings for the commission. She is also the chief writer and editor for the PUC's websites, outreach materials and news releases, handles media inquiries and coordinates logistics for informational and educational meetings. She supervises the commission's administrative support staff.

**Cindy Kemnitz, finance manager**, is responsible for the commission's fiscal activities including administrative functions related to the gross receipts tax, the regulatory assessment fee fund and the telephone solicitor registry. She prepares and monitors budgets and handles accounting, payroll and purchasing duties. She also prepares the commission's meeting agendas.

**Brittany Olson** serves as the **communications specialist**. She assists with the development of educational materials and news releases, meeting and event coordination and website maintenance.

Advising the commissioners are **commission attorneys Karen Cremer and Rolayne Ailts Wiest** and **commission advisor Greg Rislov**. The attorneys also serve as hearing examiners and represent the commission in state and federal courts and before federal regulatory agencies. Rolayne's additional specialties are advising about federal regulation and policies and state legislation and administrative rules. Greg provides policy and technical consultation and research support regarding major regulatory issues.

**Administrative staff** members perform a variety of support services including handling incoming phone calls and mail and greeting guests. Each staff member has specific duties that keep the PUC running smoothly. **Tina Douglas** is the web specialist with primary responsibility for maintaining the PUC's electronic dockets as well as each of the websites the commission operates. **Katlyn Gustafson** schedules and coordinates meeting logistics, travel and training. **Joy Lashley** assists with the preparation of legal documents, distributes meeting agendas and weekly filings, and coordinates mailings.

**Staff analysts** are responsible for investigating, analyzing, evaluating and presenting testimony regarding issues and policies related to the electric, natural gas and telecommunications industries as regulated by the commission. Their educational and professional backgrounds include expertise in accounting, economics, research and engineering. **Brittany Mehlhaff, Eric Paulson, Lorena Reichert, Joseph Rezac** and **Patrick Steffensen** use these skills to focus on quality of service, financial and rate matters as they work to understand and evaluate complex rate structures, earning requirements, and technical issues of various utility organizations. **Darren Kearney** and **Brian Rounds** primarily concentrate on emerging technologies such as renewable energy, wireless telecommunications and energy efficiency efforts. They also engage in outreach activities to consumers, industry representatives and students and provide docket analysis as assigned.

**Adam de Hueck** and **Kristen Edwards** are **staff attorneys** with practical experience in administrative law, trial procedure and business management principles. They review filings by utilities and represent the staff in proceedings before the commission. They work closely with staff analysts as they develop recommendations for policy, rate, siting and enforcement matters. They coordinate the presentation of the staff's case and cross-examine other parties who submit testimony. Adam also serves as the staff attorney assigned to South Dakota One Call matters for which legal support is requested.

The **Pipeline Safety Program** is staffed by engineers **Mary Zanter** and **Boice Hillmer** with Mary handling additional duties as program manager. The PUC administers the program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Mary and Boice inspect and investigate intrastate natural gas pipelines to ensure the public is provided safe and dependable gas service. The two also analyze utility dockets as assigned.

**James Mehlhaff** is the director of the **Grain Warehouse Division** that works to protect property rights of customers and safeguard payments to grain producers. **Judy Page** assists with the issuance of warehouse and grain dealer licenses. **Justin Blais** and **Paul Kenefick-Aschoff** conduct grain warehouse and grain dealer inspections and investigations. The warehouse staff also performs check-off audits for various grain commissions and councils.

The **Consumer Affairs Division** works with customers to answer questions and resolve complaints about the rates and services of regulated utilities. Manager **Deb Gregg** and representatives **Vicky Burns** and **Jason Schuchard** act as liaisons between consumers and utility companies in resolving these issues. This division also coordinates the PUC's presence at home shows and the State Fair and makes group presentations as requested.



Photo provided by the South Dakota Department of Tourism

# FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

## FINANCIAL REPORT

	BUDGET	GENERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	ENCUMBRANCE	BUDGET NOT EXPENDED
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Personal Services	\$1,133,826	\$328,432	\$27,224	\$714,851	\$0	\$63,319
Operating Expenses	\$168,284	\$0	\$0	\$115,851	\$3,212	\$49,221
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$1,302,110</b>	<b>\$328,432</b>	<b>\$27,224</b>	<b>\$830,702</b>	<b>\$3,212</b>	<b>\$112,540</b>
<b>WAREHOUSE</b>						
Personal Services	\$260,687	\$175,011	\$0	\$73,830	\$0	\$11,846
Operating Expenses	\$78,521	\$51,600	\$0	\$776	\$1,176	\$24,969
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$339,208</b>	<b>\$226,611</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$74,607</b>	<b>\$1,176</b>	<b>\$36,815</b>
<b>FIXED UTILITY (Informational Budget)</b>						
Personal Services	\$1,496,084	\$0	\$42,059	\$1,091,507	\$0	\$362,518
Operating Expenses	\$515,389	\$0	\$365,452	\$1,440	\$0	\$148,497
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$2,011,473</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$407,511</b>	<b>\$1,092,946</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$511,015</b>
<b>PIPELINE SAFETY (Informational Budget)</b>						
Personal Services	\$203,054	\$0	\$121,429	\$53,788	\$0	\$27,837
Operating Expenses	\$100,510	\$0	\$39,000	\$19,409	\$0	\$42,101
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$303,564</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$160,429</b>	<b>\$73,197</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$69,938</b>
<b>ONE CALL NOTIFICATION (Informational Budget)</b>						
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$823,769	\$0	\$10,442	\$635,498	\$0	\$177,829
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$823,769</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,442</b>	<b>\$635,498</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$177,829</b>
<b>DO NOT CALL REGISTRY</b>						
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$15,535	\$0	\$0	\$13,358	\$0	\$2,177
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$15,535</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,358</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,177</b>
<b>GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FUND REVENUES</b>						
Grain and Warehouse Licenses*	\$90,150			Gross Receipts Tax*		\$1,727,644
Check Off Audits	\$8,400			Application Fees		\$2,000
Interest Earned	\$1,390			Interest Earned		\$31,244
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$99,940</b>			<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$1,760,888</b>

\*Includes Fines/Penalties

# 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ELECTRIC

In March, the commission approved a settlement agreement allowing **Black Hills Power** to increase rates by 4.35 percent to generate an additional \$6.89 million in annual revenues, a significant reduction from the company's request of a 9.94 percent increase. The closure of three coal-fired power plants and the resulting construction of the natural-gas fired Cheyenne Prairie Generating Station as well as the repair and replacement of infrastructure damaged by winter storm Atlas were primary drivers of the rate increase request.

Accepted a settlement agreement in May between **Black Hills Power** and PUC staff to approve the company's environmental improvement adjustment. The company made environmental improvements at its jointly-owned Wyodak and Wygen III power plants to comply with EPA's Maximum Achievable Control Technology rule. The average bill impact for a typical residential customer using 650 kWh per month is \$0.08.

The commission accepted a settlement agreement from **Xcel Energy** and PUC staff in June that allowed Xcel to increase base rates and implement an infrastructure rider to raise approximately \$7.795 million in additional annual revenues. The average customer would experience a 4 percent increase in electric rates. Xcel's original request asked for an increase of 8 percent. Investments to the company's generation, transmission and distribution facilities and property taxes were among the reasons for the rate increase request.

In June, the PUC approved a rate change for **MidAmerican Energy Company's** customers via a two-step process. Effective July 13, 2015, rates were implemented resulting in an average increase of 5.66 percent. However, customers saw a reduction on their bills associated with the costs related to a generation project and a transmission project that were placed into service later in the year. This reduction was effective from July 13 until the time both projects are in service, which was Dec. 4, 2015. MidAmerican and PUC staff explained that such a plan serves the best interest of ratepayers by eliminating the need for the company to apply for another, immediate rate increase. The case was the company's first electric rate hike in two decades.

Began processing a request received in July from **Montana-Dakota Utilities Company's** to increase its electric rates by 19.2 percent.

Allowed **NorthWestern Energy** to raise its electric rates by 15.5 percent, the first such increase since 1981, by accepting a settlement agreement from the company, PUC staff and interveners Toshiba America Business Solutions, Trail King Industries, Redfield Energy and Wal-Mart Stores in October. The approved increase allowed \$20.9 million in additional annual revenues, \$5.6 million less than the company requested. A public hearing was held in Yankton in May, at the request of customers. NorthWestern cited the addition of the peaker plant in Aberdeen, federally-required environmental controls at three coal-fired generating plants, integration with the Southwest Power Pool Regional Transmission Organization, and distribution and transmission upgrades, including a transmission project near Yankton, as reasons for the increase.

In October, an update to **Otter Tail Power Company's** environmental cost recovery rider for the company's share of improvements at Big Stone and Hoot Lake power plants was approved. The rate impact of the update is approximately 2.5 percent on average.

The commission processed a number of transmission cost recovery (TCR) tariff requests with these results:

- In February, approved an update to **Otter Tail Power Company's** TCR rider rate to reflect the 2015 recovery period that included six previously-approved projects and one new transmission project. Otter Tail Power's request to include North American Electric Reliability Corporation Compliance project costs was denied. The revenue requirement approved for the company for this filing was \$1.43 million.
- In May, approved an update to **Black Hills Power's** Transmission Facilities Adjustment that resulted in a 0.09 percent bill decrease for a typical residential customer.
- In November, approved **Xcel Energy's** request to continue recovery of the South Dakota portion related to 15 previously-approved, one new transmission project, MISO Schedule 26 and 26A expenses, and the ADIT Pro-Rate. An average residential customer using 750 kWh per month saw a monthly increase on their bill of \$0.21.

Commissioner **Kristie Fiegen** was named to the **Southwest Power Pool** Regional State Committee where she provides input related to the development and operation of regional bulk electric transmission along with representatives from Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Texas. SPP expanded its grid management this year to include Basin Electric Power Cooperative, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Heartland Consumers Power District, Missouri River Energy Services, NorthWestern Energy and the Western Area Power Administration's Upper Great Plains Region.

In November, the **South Dakota Supreme Court unanimously affirmed** the commission's decision to grant a permit to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Co. to construct a 345kV transmission line between Big Stone City, S.D., and Ellendale, N.D. The PUC's decision had been appealed by Gerald Pesall of Lily, S.D.

Processed 20 electric service territory **boundary agreements** to verify electric territory mapping data for conversion to electronic format and use in a Geographic Information System database.

Following the enactment of legislation regarding **stray voltage rules**, began the formal rulemaking process in November. Requested and received comments from interested parties including electric providers and dairy producers.

Commissioner **Gary Hanson** offered a Midwest viewpoint in a panel discussion about regulatory compact at the Public Utilities Advisory Council's Current Issues Forum.

Approved an update to **Xcel Energy's** infrastructure rider factor in December. The change would add an approximate \$3.01 to an average residential customer's bill and allow Xcel Energy to recover the cost of a number of capital projects.

Reviewed the **Clean Power Plan** final rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency in August. Continued to analyze and evaluate the affect the CPP will have on the Big Stone coal-fired power plant, the Deer Creek natural gas combined cycle plant, and the impact to South Dakota ratepayers. Consulted with and monitored reactions by the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources and the South Dakota Attorney General's Office. Worked with regional organizations to assess regional impacts that may result from the CPP. AG Marty Jackley led South Dakota in joining 24 other states in a lawsuit challenging the CPP and requested a stay of the rules.

Commissioner **Kristie Fiegen** was a featured speaker at a joint meeting of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives and the South Dakota Co-op Managers Association where she discussed the EPA's Clean Power Plan and the major challenges presented to South Dakota as a result of the federal agency's final rule.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Approved updates to energy efficiency and conservation programs. In 2015, the estimated energy savings for all IOUs were 13,920 megawatt hours of electricity and 31,014 dekatherms of natural gas.

- In separate dockets, **MidAmerican Energy Co.** updated its 2015 and 2016 plan to include rebates for energy-efficient furnaces and ground source heat pumps and revised its 2016 plan to remove clothes washer rebates from the electric residential program.
- **NorthWestern Energy** will continue its Efficiency Plus program for the 2015-2016 plan year for electric and natural gas customers that includes residential energy audits and residential and commercial rebates for lighting, insulation and energy-efficient equipment.
- **Xcel Energy** added new construction LED lighting rebates for businesses to its 2016 Demand Side Management plan.
- **Otter Tail Power Co.** will continue its existing Energy Efficiency Plan in 2016. The company estimates the plan will save 2,808 megawatt hours of electricity in 2016.
- **Black Hills Power** made modifications to its Energy Efficiency Solutions Program for 2015-2016 including the addition of residential kits and other efficiencies recommended by PUC staff.
- **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** added an energy audit program to its Natural Gas Conservation Portfolio beginning in 2016.

## GRAIN WAREHOUSE

Issued licenses to 177 entities with 322 locations and performed 407 inspections at 269 licensed facilities.

## LEGISLATION

The legislature passed **HB 1037** to clarify the differences between a person who chooses to comment in a rate case and a person who chooses to intervene as a party.

Passing through each phase of the legislative process with unanimous support, **HB 1038** specified that all electric transmission lines sited by the PUC be subject to a 12-month siting period and clarified the \$8,000 minimum filing fee for siting cases is not subject to refund.

**HB 1039** made changes to grain buyer statutes to clarify voluntary credit sale contracts and allow a parent company to provide its financial statements in support of all subsidiaries seeking to be licensed.

## NATURAL GAS

Via the acceptance of a settlement agreement offered by company representatives and PUC staff, gave the go-ahead in June for **MidAmerican Energy Co.** to increase customers' distribution delivery rates by about 5.67 percent; the company's request was 10.7 percent. Improvements in pipe, including retiring all vintage cast iron gas pipe systems and replacing older steel and plastic pipes were key factors in the company's request for additional revenue. Other investment in facilities and equipment, and inflation also played a part.

Began processing a request received in July from **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** to increase its natural gas rates by 3.1 percent.

## PIPELINE SITING, SAFETY & INSPECTION

Continued processing TransCanada's certification regarding the company's ability to comply with the conditions of the original permit issued for the **TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline**, which was filed in September 2014. Held a public input session in Pierre in July attended by about 100 people; 52 individuals offered verbal comments. A nine-day formal evidentiary hearing was held in late July/early August in Pierre. The proposed pipeline route in South Dakota has an estimated length of 315 miles that will cross portions of Harding, Butte, Perkins, Meade, Pennington, Haakon, Jones, Lyman and Tripp counties. The project includes seven pump stations to be located in Harding, Meade, Haakon, Jones and Tripp counties. The plans specify two pump stations each in Harding and Tripp counties. The pipeline is proposed to transport crude oil starting in Hardisty, Alberta, Canada, to Steele City, Nebraska.

Promoted the **Call Before You Dig** program with a Governor's Proclamation and news release for National Safe Digging Month in April. Encouraged visitors to the PUC's booth at the Sioux Empire and Black Hills home shows and the South Dakota State Fair to take the One Call pledge to call 811 before any excavation activity.

Hosted the **South Dakota/North Dakota Pipeline Safety Operator Training** in Sioux Falls for nearly 150 representatives of the pipeline industry. Participants attended presentations by 19 experts discussing regulations, corrosion risk, distribution integrity management, incident command, emergency drills and accident investigation. The event also included an exhibitor showcase featuring products and services offered by 16 companies.

In November, the PUC approved a permit for a 272-mile portion of the **Dakota Access Pipeline** to be constructed across Campbell, McPherson, Edmunds, Faulk, Spink, Beadle, Kingsbury, Miner, Lake, McCook, Minnehaha, Turner and Lincoln counties and one pump station to be located in Spink County. The docket was filed in December 2014. In January, Commissioner Kristie Fiegen disqualified herself from the docket due to a familial relationship with a landowner along the proposed pipeline route. Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed State Treasurer Rich Sattgast to serve as acting commissioner for the docket. The PUC held public input hearings in January in Bowdle, Redfield, Iroquois and Sioux Falls collectively attended by more than 580 people. An eight-day evidentiary hearing was held in Pierre in late September/early October.

Completed 151 days of **pipeline safety** inspections.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH & CONSUMER ASSISTANCE

**Assisted consumers** on nearly 2,000 occasions with issues and complaints related to electric, natural gas, telecommunications (including wireless), pipeline siting, energy efficiency and other utility-related topics.

Helped to increase the total amount of South Dakota telephone numbers on **Do Not Call registry** to 644,154.

Commissioner Chris Nelson was a guest lecturer for **Mickelson Middle School** eighth grade science classes in Brookings. Nelson and the students discussed wind, hydro and solar applications in South Dakota.

Engaged more than 2,600 consumers in conversations about the purpose and services of the PUC at **spring home shows** in Sioux Falls and Rapid City and at the **South Dakota State Fair**.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

Approved the construction of the **Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility** in Butte County by accepting a settlement stipulation offered by the company and PUC staff in November. The 103-megawatt wind farm will include 45 turbines and will interconnect to a 115 kV transmission line owned by Western Area Power Administration. The PUC held a public input hearing in Newell in July at which the developer, Wind Quarry, presented its plans and answered questions from the commission and public.

Compiled the annual **South Dakota Renewable, Recycled and Conserved Energy Objective** report for calendar year 2014 and submitted it to the state legislature. Nearly all utilities are utilizing both renewables and energy efficiency in their resource mixes and expect to be in a position to meet the 10 percent goal for 2015.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Thirty-seven telecommunications carriers were deemed eligible to collectively receive millions of dollars in high cost support from the **federal Universal Service Fund** for maintaining, upgrading and building out their voice and broadband networks in South Dakota. The Universal Service Administration Co. estimates South Dakota carriers invested more than \$74 million in USF monies in South Dakota in 2014.

Encouraged CenturyLink's decision to partner with the Connect America Fund to expand **broadband availability** to more than 15,000 customer locations in their territory within the next six years.

Commissioner **Chris Nelson** delivered presentations about telecommunications regulation, opportunities and roadblocks at the Public Utilities Advisory Council's Current Issues Forum, Oregon Telecommunications Association-Washington Independent Telecommunications Association annual meeting, Critical Consumer Issues Forum, and NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association's fall conference.

## WIRELESS

Monitored the actions and results as **new wireless telecommunications sites** were launched by companies at several locations including in or near Arlington, Armour, Belle Fourche, Belvidere, Box Elder, Bridgewater, Brookings, Chamberlain, Colman, Custer, De Smet, Estelline, Fort Pierre, Hot Springs, Howard, Huron, Kadoka, Kennebec, Keystone, Kimball, Kyle, Madison, Marion, Milbank, Miller, Mission, Montrose, Murdo, Nunda, Oelrichs, Okreek, Parkston, Parmelee, Pierre, Plankinton, Platte, Rapid City, Reliance, Scotland, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Spencer, Strandburg, Sturgis, Summit, Viborg, Vienna, Vivian, Wall, Wallace, Wamblee, Watertown, Wessington Springs and White River. Companies also made a number of technology enhancements on existing towers throughout the year.



# 2016 TOP PRIORITIES

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission focuses on the state’s utility ratepayers and producers, managing its responsibility with the long-term public interest in mind. Accordingly, the priorities listed on the following pages are those that the commission examines to evaluate the fulfillment of its responsibility.

## ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS

The commission looks after the welfare of South Dakotans as related to electric and natural gas issues. Actions taken by the commission strive to ensure reliable service and reasonable rates from investor-owned utilities as well as fair service territory boundaries for all utilities. The commission follows guidelines prescribed by South Dakota law when siting energy conversion and transmission facilities and serves as an objective resource on renewable energy issues. The components of this priority affect South Dakotans in terms of reliability and cost of their electric and natural gas services.

The PUC uses a number of ways to measure the agency’s effectiveness at handling these issues.

### RATES

Reviewing electric and natural gas rates from around the state, region and nation offers perspective to evaluate the financial impact South Dakota ratepayers experience compared to residents of other states.

<b>Measurement per kWh, 2014 Average Residential Electric Rate</b>	
<b>10.47 cents</b>	South Dakota
<b>11.09 cents</b>	West North Central Region(Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota)
<b>12.52 cents</b>	United States

<b>Measurement per thousand cubic feet, 2014 Average Residential Natural Gas Rate</b>	
<b>\$9.27</b>	South Dakota
<b>\$10.10</b>	West North Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota)
<b>\$10.97</b>	United States

### COMPLETED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS DOCKETS

The number of electric and natural gas dockets filed and completed each year reveals the agency’s ability to manage its duties and workload. The measurement also assists agency officials in managing the process by which dockets are assigned, analyzed and acted upon by staff and commissioners. The commission seeks to completely process 90 percent of its electric and natural gas dockets within 12 months of a docket being filed.

<b>Measurement 2015 Electric and Natural Gas Dockets</b>	
<b>73</b>	- Dockets filed from Dec. 1, 2014 through Nov. 30, 2015
<b>5</b>	- Completed within approximately 1 month
<b>55</b>	- Completed in 2 to 4 months
<b>2</b>	- Completed in 5 to 6 months
<b>3</b>	- Completed in 7 to 12 months
<b>8</b>	- Dockets open as of Dec. 1, 2015
<b>89%</b>	- Percentage completed in 12 months

## AFFIRMED OR REVERSED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS DECISIONS

Parties that file requests or applications with the PUC and intervenors to those dockets have the right to challenge the commission's decision in circuit court. The number of decisions affirmed or reversed by judicial order is an assessment of the manner by which the commission perceives and uses its regulatory authority.

*Measurement, 2015*

Affirmed decisions: One

Reversed decisions: None

## ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

The electric utility industry uses indices to track and benchmark performance reliability. Companies use this data to evaluate and improve upon their response to outages, handling of customer complaints and system integrity. Though electric utilities in South Dakota are not required to report these scores to the PUC, the companies discuss the information with the commission and a comparison to national scores is ascertained.

### INDICES

- **System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI):** The average amount of time a customer's service is interrupted during the reporting period
- **System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI):** The average number of interruptions that a customer would experience
- **Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI):** The average outage duration that any given customer would experience. CAIDI can also be viewed as the average restoration time.

### *Measurement, 2015* South Dakota 2015 scores compared to National 2014 median score

Fifteen of the 18 scores provided to the PUC by South Dakota's six investor-owned utilities were better than the national median. Analyzing the scores with relation to customer base and other factors reveals that the utilities have a high degree of electric reliability performance.



Photo provided by the South Dakota Department of Tourism

# GRAIN WAREHOUSE

Monitoring the South Dakota grain industry is a significant responsibility of the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC Warehouse Division licenses and inspects:

- state-licensed grain storage warehouses,
- federally-licensed grain storage warehouses holding state grain-buyer licenses,
- grain buyers licensed as processors and non-storage facilities.

Grain brokers and truck-based grain buyers are also licensed but not inspected because they do not maintain grain handling facilities in South Dakota.

The warehouse staff works to reduce producer risk by reviewing the grain buyer and grain warehouse financial statements each year and by performing regular on-site inspections.

The PUC uses three main categories to measure its effectiveness in the grain industry.

## INSPECTIONS

The PUC conducts inspections to ensure compliance with statutes and rules related to the licensing and bonding requirements for grain warehouses and grain buyers. The number of inspections conducted describes the penetration of the agency's review process. The commission aims to inspect each licensed facility annually.

*Measurement, 2015*

Grain warehouse and grain buyer inspections: 407 inspections at 269 licensed facilities

## LICENSES

The PUC issues licenses for grain buyers/grain warehouses doing business in the state. Each licensed entity is required to apply for renewal annually. As part of the licensing and renewal process, the commission analyzes grain buyers' financial ability to pay grain producers and suppliers. The number of licenses handled by the PUC depicts the wide scope of the commission's monitoring of the industry.

*Measurement, 2015*

- Class A Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that use voluntary credit sale contracts or exceed \$10,000,000 in annual purchases): 127 entities with 271 locations
- Class B Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that do not use voluntary credit sale contracts and do not exceed \$10,000,000 in annual purchases): 50 entities with 51 locations
- State Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the state to store grain for hire): 56 entities with 79 locations
- Federal Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the USDA to store grain for hire): 40 entities with 143 locations; four locations are out-of-state but maintain a South Dakota grain buyer license.
- Processors (entities that purchase grain for the purpose of processing it into other products): 19 entities with 30 locations; three locations are out-of-state but maintain a South Dakota grain buyer license.
- Non-storage (entities that operate a grain handling facility but do not hold a state or federal warehouse license): 19 entities with 25 locations
- Truck (entities that are primarily trucking companies with no grain handling facility but purchase grain for the purpose of resale): 11 entities with 11 locations
- Brokers (entities that purchase grain but do not take physical possession of the grain): 32 entities with 34 locations

## LICENSE REVOCATIONS

When a licensed grain warehouse fails to perform its duties or carry out its obligations to its producers, the PUC follows prescribed laws and administrative rules to investigate, audit or take other necessary action to limit damage to the public. The number of license revocations, excluding circumstances beyond the commission's authority, can be an indicator of the commission's level of diligence in overseeing the industry.

*Measurement, 2015*

License Revocations: None



Photo provided by the South Dakota Department of Tourism

# PIPELINE SAFETY

The PUC has responsibility to regulate natural gas intrastate pipelines which includes ensuring the public is provided safe and dependable gas service. As part of its duties, commission staff inspects and investigates natural gas pipeline operators for compliance with statutes and administrative rules.

The commission uses the following measurement tools to establish that it is appropriately handling its role with regard to pipeline safety.

## INSPECTIONS

PUC pipeline safety inspectors regularly inspect natural gas pipeline operators to determine compliance with state and federal regulations. Inspections occur in the areas of records, field, construction, drug and alcohol, public awareness, incident investigation, operator qualification and integrity management. The number of inspection hours logged by the safety inspectors is an indicator of the agency's thoroughness in this area. The PUC's certification agreement to administer this program for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) specifies that a minimum of 136 inspection days are required annually.

*Measurement, 2015*

Inspections: 151 days (136 days required)

## FEDERAL AUDIT

South Dakota's pipeline safety program is field audited annually by PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety (Central Region). The agency reviews inspections conducted and citations issued by the PUC and evaluates the commission's adherence to its pipeline safety procedures plan. The result of the federal review indicates the PUC's ability to carry out its obligations related to pipeline safety. PHMSA also reviews and scores South Dakota's annual certification document submittals. The highest possible score is 100, the average score was 96.42, and the lowest score for any state reported in 2015 was 81.1.

*Measurement, 2015*

Audit score: 100 out of a possible 100

## FEDERAL CERTIFICATION

PUC staff members involved in pipeline safety inspection are required to complete seven training courses to become a certified pipeline safety instructor. Additional training is required for certification to conduct specialty inspections in the areas of control room management, distribution integrity management programs, public awareness and transmission integrity management. The courses are taught by the federal Pipeline Safety Office of Training and Qualifications and are designed to educate federal and state pipeline safety inspectors in the application of compliance requirements, inspection techniques and enforcement procedures.

*Measurement, training/certification to-date*

- Program Manager: All required courses plus 12 elective courses completed. Manager is certified to conduct all inspection types.
- Inspector: All required courses plus 10 elective courses completed. Inspector is certified to conduct all inspection types.
- Staff Attorney: Two courses have been completed.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The commission has varied regulatory authority over telecommunications providers and services in South Dakota. The PUC issues certificates of authority to certain providers; approves switched access rates for local exchange carriers; designates providers as eligible telecommunication carriers and certifies carriers as eligible to receive federal high-cost support; approves interconnection agreements between providers; and arbitrates disputes between providers. In addition, the commission serves as a resource on emerging issues.

The commission continually assesses its performance in dealing with telecommunications issues, with specific attention paid to these measurements:

### COMPLETED TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

As with the electric and natural gas category, the number of telecommunications dockets filed and completed each year reveals the agency's ability to manage its duties and workload. The measurement also assists agency officials in managing the process by which dockets are assigned, analyzed and acted upon by staff and commissioners. The number can also act as a meter of the amount of activity, within the commission's jurisdiction, by telecommunications providers in the state. The commission seeks to process 90 percent of its annual telecommunications dockets within 12 months of a docket being filed.

#### Measurement 2015 Telecommunications Dockets

**74** - Dockets filed from Dec. 1, 2014 through Nov. 30, 2015

**5** - Completed within approximately 1 month

**64** - Completed in 2 to 4 months

**4** - Completed in 5 to 6 months

**1** - Dockets open as of Dec. 1, 2015

**99%** - Percentage completed in 12 months

### AFFIRMED AND REVERSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS DECISIONS

Parties that file requests or applications with the PUC and intervenors to those dockets have the right to challenge the commission's decision in circuit court. The number of decisions that are affirmed or reversed by judicial order is an assessment of the manner in which the commission perceives and uses its regulatory authority.

*Measurement, 2015*

Affirmed Decisions: None

Reversed Decisions: None

### ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND, HIGH COST PROGRAM

A number of telecommunications carriers have been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) by the commission. Carriers that have been designated as ETCs receive high cost support from the federal Universal Service Fund for maintaining, upgrading, and building out their voice and broadband networks in South Dakota. Each year, the commission must certify to the Federal Communications Commission that the ETCs are using the funds for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Dollars invested are a reflection of the strengthening and expansion of telecommunications infrastructure, to enhance system reliability and enable more service options to more customers, particularly in rural areas.

*Measurement, 2014*

39 carriers invested \$74,633,000

# CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The PUC provides a number of services for consumers. The agency's consumer affairs staff is trained to assist consumers with issues related to their electric, natural gas or telecommunications service, including wireless. They provide educational information about energy efficiency, consumer protection and making wise utility choices. They offer guidance and referrals for consumers who may have difficulty paying their utility bills. The commission also administers the South Dakota Do Not Call Registry, registering telephone solicitors, helping to enroll consumers on the registry, and investigating violations against consumers who are on the registry.

The commission evaluates its performance related to consumer affairs by examining the following areas:

## COMPLAINTS COMPLETED WITHIN A MONTH

Consumer complaints are received by the commission via phone, mail, email and, occasionally, are delivered in-person by the complainant. The PUC strives to quickly and fully investigate each incident by analyzing both sides of the complaint and working with the affected parties to informally reach a resolution. The number of complaints completed within a month reveals the commission's effectiveness in responding to consumers. The goal is 90 percent completed within a month.

*Measurement, 2015*

Complaints completed within a month: 96 percent

## FORMAL CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

When a consumer and utility cannot reach a resolution through the informal process, one of the parties may file a formal complaint. A formal complaint is entered into a docket and, unless settled, may result in a hearing before the commission. The commission endeavors to affect complaint resolutions informally and therefore strives for a low number of formal complaints. This measurement is also an assessment of the commission staff's negotiation and mediation skills.

*Measurement, 2015*

Formal consumer complaints: 1

## DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

The commission continually uses outreach efforts to educate South Dakotans about enrolling their personal telephone number on the Do Not Call Registry to reduce the number of telemarketing calls they receive. In addition to advocacy, the PUC takes an active role and, at the request of a consumer, will enroll their number on the registry. The PUC tracks the number of South Dakota telephone numbers on the registry, noting the amount of growth each year which is an indication of the success of education efforts.

*Measurement, 2015*

South Dakota telephone numbers on Do Not Call Registry: 644,154 (1.9% increase)

# REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

The commission has territory, complaint, and quality of service authority over all natural gas, electric and telecommunications utilities operating within South Dakota. Certain utilities are exempt from the commission's rate regulation. They include municipal, rural electric cooperatives and small, independent and cooperative telephone companies. The commission retains its switched access rate making authority for all telecommunications companies providing local service, including small, independent and cooperative companies.

## GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ASSESSMENT PAID BY REGULATED UTILITY COMPANY

*The sum of these figures does not correspond with the Gross Receipts Tax Revenues reported on page 7 due to timing issues. Revenues are based on calendar year.*

Electric and Natural Gas Companies	\$1,107,977
Telecommunications Companies	\$672,229

### INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS COMPANIES

*Investor-owned electric and natural gas companies provide service to specific geographic areas in South Dakota and are regulated by the PUC. These companies are owned by their investors and are managed as private enterprises.*

Black Hills Power Inc.  
 MidAmerican Energy Co.  
 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.  
 Northern States Power Co. dba Xcel Energy  
 NorthWestern Energy  
 Otter Tail Power Co.  
 South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Co.

### LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES

*These long distance telephone providers are certified by the PUC to do business in South Dakota. These companies carry traffic between telephone exchanges.*

#### #

1 800 Collect Inc.  
 365 Wireless LLC  
 800 Response Information Services LLC

#### A

Access One Inc.  
 Access Point Inc.  
 AccessLine Communications Corp. dba Voice  
 Telco Services  
 ACN Communication Services Inc.  
 Affinity Network Inc.  
 dba QuantumLink Communications and  
 HorizonOne Communications  
 Airespring Inc.  
 Airus Inc. fka Intelepeer Inc.  
 Alliance Global Networks LLC  
 Alliance Group Services Inc.  
 dba U.S. Republic Communications Inc.  
 American Telecommunications Systems Inc.  
 AmeriVision Communications Inc. dba LifeLine  
 Communications dba Affinity 4



## Long Distance Telephone Companies (cont.)

ANPI Business LLC  
Associated Network Partners Inc.  
AT&T Corp.  
Avera Communication LLC

### B

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Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC  
BCN Telecom Inc.  
BEK Communications Cooperative  
BellSouth Long Distance Inc. dba AT&T Long  
Distance Service (Withdrew COA 6/15)  
Broadband Dynamics LLC  
Broadview Networks Inc.  
Broadvox-CLEC LLC  
Broadwing Communications LLC  
BT Communications Sales LLC  
Budget PrePay Inc. dba Budget Phone  
BullsEye Telecom Inc.  
Business Discount Plan Inc.  
Business Network Long Distance Inc.  
Business Telecom Inc. dba EarthLink Business

### C

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Central Telecom Long Distance Inc.  
CenturyLink Communications LLC  
CenturyLink Public Communications Inc.  
Cincinnati Bell Any Distance Inc.  
Clarity Telecom LLC  
Comcast Phone of South Dakota LLC  
dba Comcast Digital Phone  
Communications Network Billing Inc.  
COMTECH 21 LLC  
Conectado Inc.  
Consolidated Communications Networks Inc.  
Consumer Telcom Inc.  
Convergia Inc.  
Correct Solutions LLC  
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.  
Crystal Communications Inc. dba Consolidated  
Communications  
CSDVRS LLC  
CTC Communication Corp. dba EarthLink Business  
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

### D

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DeltaCom LLC dba EarthLink Business  
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
dishNet Wireline LLC

### E

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EarthLink Business LLC  
Easton Telecom Services LLC  
Encompass Communications LLC  
Enhanced Communications Group LLC  
dba ECG LLC and Boom Mobile  
EnTelegent Solutions Inc.  
Eventis Telecom Inc. dba Consolidated  
Communications  
Express Communications Inc.

### F

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FiberComm LC  
First Choice Technology Inc.  
First Communications LLC  
France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC  
Frontier Communications of America Inc.

### G

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GC Pivotal LLC  
Global Crossing Telecommunications Inc.  
Global Tel\*Link Corp.  
Globalinx Enterprises Inc. (Withdrew COA 5/15)  
Gold Line Telemanagement Inc.  
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative  
dba Golden West Telecommunications  
Granite Telecommunications LLC  
Greenfly Networks Inc. dba Clearly  
Communications

### I

---

IDT America Corp.  
inContact Inc. dba UCN Inc.  
iNetworks Group Inc.  
Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions  
Integrated Services Inc.  
Intrado Communications Inc.  
Ionex Communications North Inc.  
dba Birch Communications

## Long Distance Telephone Companies (cont.)

### K

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KDDI America Inc.

### L

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Lattice Inc.

LCR Telecommunications LLC

Legacy Long Distance International Inc.

Level 3 Communications LLC

Long Lines Metro

### M

---

Matrix Telecom Inc.

dba Matrix Business Technologies

MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC

MCI Communications Services Inc.

dba Verizon Business Services

MCIMetro Access Transmission Services LLC

dba Verizon Access Transmission Services

McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services LLC

dba PAETEC Business Services

Metropolitan Telecommunications of South Dakota

Inc. dba MetTel

Midcontinent Communications Inc.

Midstate Communications Inc.

Mitel Cloud Services Inc. fka Mitel NetSolutions Inc.

Mobilitie LLC

Momentum Telecom Inc.

Multiline Long Distance Inc.

### N

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National Access Long Distance Inc.

National Directory Assistance LLC

Nationwide Long Distance Services Inc.

Native American Telecom LLC

NECC Telecom Inc.

Net One International Inc.

Netwolves Network Services

Network Billing Systems LLC

Network Communications International Corp.

aka 1800Call4Less

Network Innovations Inc.

Network Service Billing Inc.

NetworkIP LLC dba Elite Telecom

Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC

New Horizons Communications Corp.

NobelTel LLC

North Dakota Long Distance LLC

Northern Valley Communications LLC

NOS Communications Inc.

NOSVA Limited Partnership

dba CierraCom Systems

NovaTel Ltd. Inc.

### O

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ONLINE SAVINGS INC.

Onvoy LLC dba Onvoy Voice Services

OPCOM Inc. dba WCS Telecom

Operator Service Co. LLC dba Excell Services

Opex Communications Inc. dba TCI Long Distance

OrbitCom Inc. (transferred assets to Ionex

Communications North in 7/15)

### P

---

PaeTec Communications Inc.

Pay Tel Communications Inc.

PNG Telecommunications Inc.

dba PowerNet Global Communications

Primus Telecommunications Inc.

Public Communications Services Inc.

### Q

---

QuantumShift Communications Inc. dba vCom

Solutions

### R

---

Reduced Rate Long Distance LLC

Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.

Reliant Communications Inc.

Residential Long Distance Inc.

### S

---

Sage Telecom Communications LLC

Sancom Inc. dba Mitchell Telecom

Santel Communications Cooperative

SBC Long Distance LLC dba AT&T Long Distance

## Long Distance Telephone Companies (cont.)

Spectrotel Inc. dba OneTouch Communications  
dba Touch Base Communications  
Sprint Communications Co. LP  
Stratus Networks Inc.

### T

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Talk America Services LLC  
TDS Long Distance Corp.  
Telecom Management Inc.  
dba Pioneer Telephone  
Telecom North America Inc.  
Televergence Solutions Inc.  
Telrite Corp. dba Life Wireless  
Three River Telco  
dba Three River Long Distance  
TNCI Operating Co. LLC  
Toly Digital Networks Inc.  
TOTAL ACCESS TELECOM INC.  
Total Call International Inc.  
Total Holdings Inc. dba GTC Communications  
Touchtone Communications Inc.  
TTI National Inc.  
tw telecom data services LLC

### U

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U.S. Telecom Long Distance Inc.  
USA Digital Communications Inc.

### V

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Valley Telecommunications Cooperative  
Association Inc.  
Value-Added Communications Inc.  
Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever Inc.  
Verizon Long Distance LLC  
Verizon Select Services Inc.  
Voicecom Telecommunications LLC  
dba Intelliverse

### W

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WDT World Discount Telecommunications Co.  
(Withdrew COA 10/15)  
West Telecom Services LLC fka Hypercube  
Telecom LLC  
WilTel Communications LLC  
WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services

Windstream Communications Inc.  
Windstream KDL Inc.  
Windstream Norlight Inc.  
Windstream NTI Inc.  
Working Assets Funding Service Inc.  
dba Credo Long Distance

### X

---

X2Comm Inc. dba DC Communications  
X5 OpCo LLC  
XO Communications Services LLC

### Z

---

Zayo Group LLC

## OPERATOR SERVICE COMPANIES

*An operator service provider is a telecommunications company that provides, by contract, a connection to long distance or local services from such places as hotels, motels, hospitals, correctional facilities and campuses. The following operator service providers are authorized to do business in South Dakota.*

### #

---

1 800 Collect Inc.

### C

---

Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured  
Technologies Inc.

### G

---

Global Tel\*Link Corp.

### I

---

Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions

### L

---

Lattice Inc.

### N

---

Network Operator Services (Withdrew COA 6/15)

### R

---

Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.

### S

---

Securus Technologies Inc.

### V

---

Value-Added Communications Inc.

### W

---

WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services

## COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANIES

*A CLEC is a local exchange carrier providing local telephone service in competition with the incumbent local exchange carriers (ILEC). Some companies can be both a CLEC and an ILEC (see page 28) in different service areas. The following CLECs are certified by the PUC to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota.*

### #

---

321 Communications Inc.  
365 Wireless LLC

### A

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Access Point Inc.  
ACN Communication Services LLC  
Airus Inc.  
ANPI Business LLC  
AT&T Corp.  
Avera Communication LLC

### B

---

Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC  
BCN Telecom Inc.  
BEK Communications Cooperative  
BellSouth Long Distance dba AT&T Long Distance  
Service (Withdrew COA 6/15)  
Broadview Networks Inc.  
Broadvox-CLEC LLC  
BT Communications Sales LLC  
Budget PrePay Inc. dba Budget Phone  
BullsEye Telecom Inc.

### C

---

CenturyLink Communications LLC  
Clarity Telecom LLC  
Common Point LLC  
COMTECH21 LLC  
Consolidated Communications  
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.

### D

---

dishNet Wireline LLC

**E**

EarthLink Business LLC  
 EnTelegent Solutions Inc.  
 Enventis Telecom Inc. dba Consolidated  
 Communications

**F**

FiberComm LC  
 France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC

**G**

GC Pivotal LLC  
 Granite Telecommunications LLC  
 Greenfly Networks Inc. dba Clearly  
 Communications

**I**

IDT America Corp.  
 InContact Inc. dba UCN Inc.  
 iNetworks Group Inc.  
 Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC)  
 Intrado Communications Inc.  
 Ionex Communications North Inc.  
 dba Birch Communications

**L**

Level 3 Communications LLC  
 Long Lines Metro

**M**

Matrix Telecom Inc. dba Matrix Business  
 Technologies  
 MCC Telephony of the Midwest  
 MCIMetro Access Transmission Services LLC  
 dba Verizon Access Transmission Services  
 McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services LLC  
 dba PAETEC Business Services  
 Metropolitan Telecommunications of South Dakota  
 Inc. dba MetTel  
 Midcontinent Communications Inc.  
 Midstate Communications Inc.  
 Mitel Cloud Services Inc. fka Mitel NetSolutions Inc.  
 Mobilite LLC  
 Momentum Telecom Inc.

**N**

Native American Telecom LLC  
 NetFortis Acquisition Co. Inc.

Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC  
 New Horizons Communication Corp.  
 NOS Communications Inc.

**O**

Onvoy LLC dba Onvoy Voice Services  
 OrbitCom Inc. (transferred assets to Ionex  
 Communications North in 7/15)

**Q**

QuantumShift Communications Inc.  
 dba vCom Solutions

**R**

RC Technologies fka Roberts County Telephone  
 Cooperative Association

**S**

Sage Telecom Communications LLC  
 Sancom Inc. dba Mitchell Telecom  
 South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN  
 Communications  
 Spectrotel Inc. dba One Touch Communications  
 dba Touch Base Communications  
 Sprint Communications Co. LP

**T**

Talk America Services LLC  
 Teleport Communications America LLC (TCAL)  
 TNCI Operating Co. LLC  
 tw telecom data services LLC

**V**

Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever Inc.

**W**

West Telecom Services LLC  
 fka Hypercube Telecom LLC  
 Windstream KDL Inc.  
 Windstream NTI Inc.

**X**

XO Communications Services LLC

**Y**

YMax Communications Corp.

**Z**

Zayo Group LLC

## WIRELESS COMPANIES

*Known by the Public Utilities Commission to be doing business in South Dakota.*

### #

365 Wireless LLC

### A

Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.  
American Messaging Services LLC

### B

BCN Telecom Inc.  
Blue Jay Wireless LLC  
Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless  
Budget PrePay Inc. dba Budget Phone  
BYO Wireless LLC

### C

Cellular Inc. Network Corp. dba Verizon Wireless  
City of Brookings dba Swiftel Communications  
Consumer Cellular Inc.  
Cricket Communications LLC  
(withdrew registration 11/15)  
Cricket Wireless LLC

### D

Defense Mobile Corp.

### E

Enhanced Communications Group LLC  
dba ECG LLC and Boom Mobile  
Eos Mobile Holdings LLC

### F

Flash Wireless LLC

### G

Golden West Technologies Inc.  
Google North America Inc. dba Project  
Fi by Google  
Granite Telecommunications LLC

### I

IM Telecom LLC dba Infiniti Mobile  
Ionex Communications North Inc.  
dba Birch Communications

Iowa Wireless Services LLC dba iWireless  
i-wireless LLC

### J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co.  
dba James Valley Telecommunications

### K

Kajeet Inc.  
KDDI America Inc.  
Konatel Inc. dba Telecon.mobi

### L

Long Lines Wireless LLC  
Lycamobile USA Inc.

### M

MCIMetro Access Transmission Services LLC  
dba Verizon Access Transmission Services  
Mitel Cloud Services Inc. fka Mitel NetSolutions

### N

NetZero Wireless Inc.  
New Cingular Wireless dba AT&T Mobility  
Nextel West Corp. dba Nextel  
Nextiva  
NPCR Inc. dba Nextel Partners

### O

OnStar LLC

### P

PNG Telecommunications Inc. dba PowerNet  
Global Communications  
Puretalk Holdings LLC

### R

Ready Wireless LLC  
Rural Cellular Corp. dba Unicel

### S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC  
SelecTel Inc. dba SelecTel Wireless

Soehl Electronics Inc. dba Vantek Communications  
Sprint Spectrum LP dba Sprint PCS  
Stream Communications LLC

## T

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TDS Long Distance Corp.  
Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone  
Telrite Corp. dba Life Wireless  
Tempo Telecom LLC  
The People's Operator USA LLC  
Ting Inc.  
T-Mobile Central LLC dba T-Mobile USA Inc.  
Total Call Mobile Inc.  
Touchtone Communications Inc.  
Tracfone Wireless Inc.  
Truphone  
tw telecom data services LLC

## V

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Valley Telecommunications Cooperative  
Association Inc.  
Verizon Long Distance LLC  
Virgin Mobile USA LP  
Vodafone US Inc. dba Vodafone Americas

## W

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WaveNation LLC  
Western Communications Inc.  
Working Assets Funding Services Inc. dba Credo  
Long Distance  
WWC License LLC

## Z

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Ztar Mobile Inc.

## VOICE OVER IP COMPANIES

*Known by the Public Utilities Commission to provide  
VoIP services in South Dakota.*

## A

---

Airus Inc.  
AltaWorx LLC

## C

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COMM-CORE LLC

## G

---

Garmin USA Inc.

## I

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iNET Communications LLC

## M

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Mitel Cloud Services Inc. fka Mitel  
NetSolutions Inc.

## N

---

NetFortris Acquisition Co. Inc.

## S

---

S-Net Communications Inc.  
Stratus Networks Inc.

## V

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Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever Inc.

## W

---

WaveNation LLC

## X

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X5 OpCo LLC

## LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES

*Also known as Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, the following companies were providing local services when the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted. Some companies can be both an ILEC and a CLEC (See page 24) in different service areas.*

### Independents

#### C

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority

#### F

Fort Randall Telephone Co.

#### J

Jefferson Telephone LLC dba Long Lines Ltd.

#### K

Kennebec Telephone Co.

#### Q

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

### Municipals

#### B

City of Beresford dba Beresford Municipal Telephone Co.

City of Brookings dba Swiftel Communications

#### F

City of Faith Telephone Co. dba Faith Municipal Telephone Co.

## Cooperatives

#### A

Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.

#### G

Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative dba Golden West Telecommunications

#### I

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC)

#### J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co.  
dba James Valley Telecommunications

#### M

Midstate Communications Inc.

#### R

RC Technologies fka Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association

#### S

Santel Communications Cooperative

#### T

TrioTel Communications Inc.

#### V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association Inc.

Venture Communications Cooperative

#### W

West River Cooperative Telephone Co.



## Foreign Exchange Carriers

### C

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Citizens Telecommunications Co. of Minnesota Inc.  
Consolidated Telcom, Inc.

### D

---

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative

### F

---

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.

### G

---

Great Plains Communications Inc.

### H

---

Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa  
dba Consolidated Communications

### N

---

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co.  
(NebCom Inc.)

### Q

---

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

### R

---

Red River Rural Telephone Association  
RT Communications Inc.

### T

---

Three River Telco dba Three River Long Distance

### V

---

Valley Telephone Co.

### W

---

West River Telecommunications Cooperative

## MISCELLANEOUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

*Certified to provide telecommunications services in  
South Dakota by the South Dakota Public Utilities  
Commission.*

### C

---

Communications Service for the Deaf  
(Withdrew COA 5/15)

### S

---

South Dakota Network LLC  
dba SDN Communications

### T

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TTUSA Acquisition Inc.

# 2015 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

Dockets closed between Jan. 1, 2016, and the publication date of this report (Spring 2016) are noted in parentheses.

Type	Filed	Completed	Pending as of 12/31/15
<b>Administrative Items</b>	1	1	0
<b>Civil</b>	2	1	1
<b>Complaint</b>	1	0	1
<b>Electric</b>	51	41	10
<b>Gas and Electric</b>	4	4	0
<b>Natural Gas</b>	8	6	2
<b>Pipeline Safety</b>	1	0	1
<b>Rulemaking</b>	1	0	1
<b>Telecommunications</b>	70	65	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	139	118	21

Visit [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov) to check the current status of pending dockets.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

**AA15-001** - Establishment of the Gross Receipts Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2016  
Date Filed: 04/15/15 • Completed: 05/04/15

## CIVIL DOCKETS

**Supreme Court #27324** - Gerald Pesall vs Montana Dakota Utilities, Otter Tail Power, Schuring Farms Inc., Bradley Morehouse, SDPUC  
Date Filed: 01/19/15 • Completed: 11/09/15

**32Civ15-146** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 • Pending

## COMPLAINT DOCKET

**CE15-001** - In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc., Milbank, South Dakota, against Otter Tail Power Company Regarding an Electric Service Dispute  
Date Filed: 05/20/15 • Pending

## ELECTRIC DOCKETS

- EL15-001** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Revised Customer Information Booklet  
Date Filed: 01/07/15 ● Completed: 03/04/15
- EL15-002** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Elk Point Municipal Electric and Union County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 01/14/15 ● Completed: 05/13/15
- EL15-003** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Parker Public Utilities and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 01/14/15 ● Completed: 03/19/15
- EL15-004** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Sioux Valley Energy fka Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. and Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy  
Date Filed: 01/14/15 ● Completed: 12/28/15
- EL15-005** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Otter Tail Power Company and Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 01/14/15 ● Completed: 05/29/15
- EL15-006** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Petition of Tariff Revisions to its Rates for Small Power Production and Cogeneration  
Date Filed: 01/16/15 ● Completed: 02/18/15
- EL15-007** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of 2015 Transmission Facility Adjustment  
Date Filed: 02/12/15 ● Completed: 06/05/15
- EL15-008** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of its 2015 Environmental Improvement Adjustment  
Date Filed: 02/13/15 ● Completed: 05/29/15
- EL15-009** - In the Matter of NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy's Request for Approval to Revise Its Fuel Adjustment Clause Rider to Include Reagent and Treated Water Costs  
Date Filed: 03/03/15 ● Completed: 04/06/15
- EL15-010** - In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2014 Economic Development Activities and 2015 Budget  
Date Filed: 03/16/15 ● Completed: 05/18/15
- EL15-011** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Plankinton Municipal Electric  
Date Filed: 03/27/15 ● Completed: 05/13/15
- EL15-012** - In the Matter of the Filing of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of its 2015 Economic Development Plan  
Date Filed: 04/01/15 ● Completed: 06/05/15

- EL15-013** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of Tariff Revisions  
Date Filed: 04/15/15 ● Completed: 07/22/15
- EL15-014** - In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Petition of Energy Rate Savings Tariff Waiver  
Date Filed: 04/16/15 ● Completed: 08/12/15
- EL15-015** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2014 Demand Side Management Report and 2016 Proposed Demand Side Management Plan  
Date Filed: 04/30/15 ● Completed: 12/16/15
- EL15-016** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company Regarding Its 2014 Report and 2015 Energy Efficiency Plan Update and Proposed Energy Efficiency Plan for 2016  
Date Filed: 05/01/15 ● Completed: 07/14/15
- EL15-017** - In the Matter of the Petition for Electrical Service by Dakota Access, LLC to have NorthWestern Energy Assigned as its Electric Provider in the Service Area of Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 05/07/15 ● Completed: 07/09/15
- EL15-018** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 05/15/15 ● Completed: 06/12/15
- EL15-019** - In the Matter of the Request by The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society for an Exception to Individual Metering Requirements  
Date Filed: 05/26/15 ● Completed: 07/09/15
- EL15-020** - In the Matter of the Application by Wind Quarry Operations, LLC, for a Wind Energy Facility Permit for the Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility and Associated Facilities  
Date Filed: 05/27/15 ● Completed: 11/17/15
- EL15-021** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Territory Boundary Change between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Sioux Valley Energy fka Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc.  
Date Filed: 06/03/15 ● Completed: 07/09/15
- EL15-022** - In the Matter of the Filing by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Revised Welcome Brochures  
Date Filed: 06/08/15 ● Completed: 08/12/15
- EL15-023** - In the Matter of the Petition for Electrical Service by Dakota Access, LLC to have NorthWestern Energy Assigned as its Electric Provider in the Service Area of Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 06/16/15 ● (Completed: 03/16/16)
- EL15-024** - In the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Pending
- EL15-025** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Tariff Revisions  
Date Filed: 07/07/15 ● Completed: 08/10/15

- EL15-026** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Rates for Cogeneration and Small Power Production Facilities  
Date Filed: 07/14/15 ● Completed: 09/04/15
- EL15-027** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. and NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy  
Date Filed: 07/20/15 ● Pending
- EL15-028** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 08/24/15 ● Completed: 10/26/15
- EL15-029** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Environmental Cost Recovery Rider Charge  
Date Filed: 08/31/15 ● Completed: 10/15/15
- EL15-030** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2016 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment  
Date Filed: 09/01/15 ● Completed: 11/16/15
- EL15-031** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Charles Mix Electric Cooperative, Inc. and NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy  
Date Filed: 09/02/15 ● Completed: 12/10/15
- EL15-032** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Otter Tail Power Company  
Date Filed: 09/09/15 ● Completed: 12/10/15
- EL15-033** - In the Matter of the Application of NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions  
Date Filed: 09/18/15 ● Completed: 10/16/15
- EL15-034** - In the Matter of the Filing by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Rates for Small Power Production and Cogeneration  
Date Filed: 09/23/15 ● Completed: 11/13/15
- EL15-035** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Estelline Municipal Utility  
Date Filed: 09/28/15 ● Completed: 11/03/15
- EL15-036** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of Tariff Revisions Related to its Cost of Service Gas Agreement with Black Hills Utility Holdings, Inc.  
Date Filed: 09/30/15 ● Pending
- EL15-037** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Watertown Municipal Utilities and Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 10/01/15 ● Completed: 12/28/15

- EL15-038** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2016 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update  
Date Filed: 10/01/15 ● Completed: 12/11/15
- EL15-039** - In the Matter of the Request by Trinity Point, LLC for a Variance to the Separate Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03(4) for a 48 Unit Multi-Family Housing Structure in Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
Date Filed: 10/01/15 ● Completed: 12/04/15
- EL15-040** - In the Matter of the Request by Aberdeen Housing Authority for a Variance to the Separate Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03(4) for a 40 Unit Multi-Family Housing Structure in Aberdeen, South Dakota  
Date Filed: 10/01/15 ● *(Completed: 03/16/16)*
- EL15-041** - In the Matter of the Request by SF Housing Ministry, LLC for a Variance to the Separate Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03(4) for a 39 Unit Multi-Family Housing Structure in Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
Date Filed: 10/01/15 ● *(Completed: 03/16/16)*
- EL15-042** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval to Extend the Filing Date of Its Energy Efficiency Solutions Plan Status Reports and Updated EESA Cost Recovery Factors  
Date Filed: 10/08/15 ● Completed: 11/02/15
- EL15-043** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its Petition of Changes to the Street Lighting Energy Service Tariff to Provide a Customer-Owned Light Emitting Diode (LED) Street Lighting Rate  
Date Filed: 10/15/15 ● Completed: 12/03/15
- EL15-044** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of Energy Efficiency Programs, Tariffs, and Cost Recovery Mechanism  
Date Filed: 10/29/15 ● Completed: 12/14/15
- EL15-045** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of its 2016 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment  
Date Filed: 10/30/15 ● *(Completed: 03/16/16)*
- EL15-046** - In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Petition of Tariff Revisions to its Customer Data Privacy Tariff  
Date Filed: 11/20/15 ● *(Completed: 01/27/16)*
- EL15-047** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Energy Cost Adjustment Factor Tariff  
Date Filed: 11/20/15 ● Completed: 12/10/15
- EL15-048** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions and Revised Customer Information Booklet  
Date Filed: 12/01/15 ● Completed: 12/29/15

**EL15-049** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Line Extension Policy and Secondary Service Voltage Options  
Date Filed: 12/04/15 ● (Completed: 03/21/16)

**EL15-050** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval to Extend the Filing Date of Its 2015 Vegetation Management Report Pertaining to the 2016-2018 Budget  
Date Filed: 12/10/15 ● Completed: 12/29/15

**EL15-051** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of the 2015 Vegetation Management Report  
Date Filed: 12/31/15 ● Pending

## **GAS AND ELECTRIC DOCKETS**

**GE15-001** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its Reconciliation for 2014 and its Proposed Energy Efficiency Plan for 2015  
Date Filed: 02/20/15 ● Completed: 04/08/15

**GE15-002** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of South Dakota Demand Side Management Plan  
Date Filed: 07/06/15 ● Completed: 09/21/15

**GE15-003** - In the Matter of the Request by RMB Associates, LLC for a Variance to the Separate Metering Requirement in 20:10:26:03(1) for Graystone Heights Apartments - a 331 Unit Apartment in Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
Date Filed: 11/04/15 ● Completed: 12/18/15

**GE15-004** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its Proposed Energy Efficiency Plan for 2016  
Date Filed: 11/20/15 ● Completed: 12/29/15

## **NATURAL GAS DOCKETS**

**NG15-001** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of its Revised Conservation Tracking Adjustment  
Date Filed: 01/30/15 ● Completed: 03/04/15

**NG15-002** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2015 Economic Development Proposed Budget and 2014 Economic Development Expenses  
Date Filed: 03/31/15 ● Completed: 05/29/15

**NG15-003** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Its 2014 Economic Development Activities and 2015 Proposed Budget  
Date Filed: 04/16/15 ● Completed: 06/12/15

**NG15-004** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with South Dakota State University and Correction of Prairie Ethanol Plant Contract Date  
Date Filed: 05/20/15 ● Completed: 07/09/15

**NG15-005** - In the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. for Authority to Increase its Natural Gas Rates  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Pending

**NG15-006** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its Tariff Revisions  
Date Filed: 08/28/15 ● Completed: 09/30/15

**NG15-007** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Modifications to its Conservation Portfolio Plan for 2016 and 2017  
Date Filed: 12/07/15 ● Completed: 12/24/15

**NG15-008** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its Tariff Revisions  
Date Filed: 12/17/15 ● (Completed: 01/06/16)

## PIPELINE SAFETY DOCKET

**PS15-001** - In the Matter of the Filing by Commission Pipeline Safety Staff for Approval of a Penalty for a Pipeline Safety Violation by Humboldt Municipal Gas Utilities  
Date Filed: 08/13/15 ● Pending

## RULEMAKING DOCKET

**RM15-001** - In the Matter of the Consideration of Rules Regarding Stray Electrical Current and Voltage Remediation  
Date Filed: 11/04/15 ● (Completed: 01/28/16)

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

**TC15-001** - In the Matter of the Application of NetFortris Acquisition Co., Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 01/12/15 ● Completed: 03/04/15

**TC15-002** - In the Matter of the Application of Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Exchanges within the State of South Dakota  
Date Filed: 01/22/15 ● Pending

**TC15-003** - In the Matter of the Application of inContact, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 03/10/15 ● Completed: 04/02/15

**TC15-004** - In the Matter of the Filing by CenturyLink Communications Company, LLC for Approval of Revisions to its Access Service Tariff  
Date Filed: 04/01/15 ● Completed: 05/06/15



- TC15-005** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between CenturyLink Communications Company, LLC fka Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Airus, Inc.  
Date Filed: 04/13/15 ● Completed: 05/14/15
- TC15-006** - In the Matter of the Application of ViaSat, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 04/21/15 ● Completed: 08/24/15
- TC15-007** - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Approval of its Access Service Tariff No. 1  
Date Filed: 05/08/15 ● Completed: 06/12/15
- TC15-008** - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband, Rapid City, South Dakota, for Approval of its Access Service Tariff No. 2  
Date Filed: 05/08/15 ● Completed: 06/12/15
- TC15-009** - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Approval of its Access Service Tariff No. 3  
Date Filed: 05/08/15 ● Completed: 06/12/15
- TC15-010** - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to its Access Service Tariff  
Date Filed: 05/22/15 ● Completed: 07/09/15
- TC15-011** - In the Matter of the Filing by Teleport Communications America, LLC for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services Tariff  
Date Filed: 05/27/15 ● Completed: 06/25/15
- TC15-012** - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to its Exchange and Network Tariff No. 1  
Date Filed: 06/01/15 ● Completed: 07/09/15
- TC15-013** - In the Matter of the Request of Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/09/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-014** - In the Matter of the Application of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for an Amended Certificate of Authority  
Date Filed: 06/17/15 ● Completed: 07/21/15
- TC15-015** - In the Matter of the Filing by dishNET Wireline L.L.C. for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services Tariff No. 2  
Date Filed: 06/18/15 ● Completed: 08/12/15
- TC15-016** - In the Matter of the Request of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/22/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15

- TC15-017** - In the Matter of the Filing by Airus, Inc. for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services  
Tariff No. 1  
Date Filed: 06/23/15 ● Completed: 08/12/15
- TC15-018** - In the Matter of the Filing by Sancom, Inc. dba Mitchell Telecom for Approval of Revisions to its  
Access Services Tariff No. 1  
Date Filed: 06/24/15 ● Completed: 07/22/15
- TC15-019** - In the Matter of the Filing by Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (operating in  
Milbank, South Dakota) for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services Tariff No. 1  
Date Filed: 06/24/15 ● Completed: 07/21/15
- TC15-020** - In the Matter of the Filing by Midcontinent Communications for Approval of Revisions to its  
Access Services Tariff  
Date Filed: 06/24/15 ● Completed: 07/22/15
- TC15-021** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification  
Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/25/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-022** - In the Matter of the Request of Northern Valley Communications, L.L.C. for Certification  
Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/25/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-023** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Wireless, LLC for Certification Regarding its Use of  
Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/25/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-024** - In the Matter of the Request of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Certification  
Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/25/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-025** - In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. for  
Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/25/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-026** - In the Matter of the Request of TrioTel Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use  
of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/26/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-027** - In the Matter of the Request of City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company for Certification  
Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/26/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-028** - In the Matter of the Request of Knology of the Black Hills, LLC for Certification Regarding its Use  
of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/26/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15

- TC15-029** - In the Matter of the Request of Knology Community Telephone, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/26/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-030** - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/26/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-031** - In the Matter of the Request of Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/26/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-032** - In the Matter of the Request of Venture Communications Cooperative for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-033** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-034** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. fka SSTELECOM, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-035** - In the Matter of the Request of City of Brookings Municipal Telephone for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-036** - In the Matter of the Request of RT Communications Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-037** - In the Matter of the Request of Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-038** - In the Matter of the Request of West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-039** - In the Matter of the Request of Beresford Municipal Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-040** - In the Matter of the Request of Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel Communications for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15

- TC15-041** - In the Matter of the Request of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., Study Area Codes: 391640, 391659, 391667, 391677, 391684 and 391686 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/29/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-042** - In the Matter of the Request of RC Technologies for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-043** - In the Matter of the Request of West River Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-044** - In the Matter of the Request of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-045** - In the Matter of the Request of Red River Rural Telephone Association dba Red River Communications for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-046** - In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-047** - In the Matter of the Request of Fort Randall Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-048** - In the Matter of the Request of Midstate Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-049** - In the Matter of the Request of CenturyLink QC for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-050** - In the Matter of the Request of Clarity Telecom dba Vast Broadband LLC for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 06/30/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-051** - In the Matter of the Filing by Teleport Communications America, LLC for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services Tariff  
Date Filed: 07/01/15 ● Completed: 08/12/15
- TC15-052** - In the Matter of the Request of Jefferson Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 07/01/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15

- TC15-053** - In the Matter of the Request of Long Lines Wireless, LLC for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 07/07/15 ● Completed: 09/21/15
- TC15-054** - In the Matter of the Approval of a DC Power Measurement Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Level 3 Communications, LLC  
Date Filed: 07/10/15 ● Completed: 08/12/15
- TC15-055** - In the Matter of the Request of Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Date Filed: 07/17/15 ● Completed: 09/25/15
- TC15-056** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Resale Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and InT'ec, Inc.  
Date Filed: 07/21/15 ● Completed: 10/26/15
- TC15-057** - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband, Rapid City, South Dakota, for Approval of Revisions to its Access Service Tariff No. 2  
Date Filed: 07/28/15 ● Completed: 09/11/15
- TC15-058** - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Approval of Revision to its Access Service Tariff No. 3  
Date Filed: 07/28/15 ● Completed: 09/11/15
- TC15-059** - In the Matter of the Filing by Native American Telecom, LLC for Approval of Revisions to its Access Service Tariff No. 2  
Date Filed: 07/30/15 ● Completed: 12/16/15
- TC15-060** - In the Matter of the Filing by MCC Telephony of the Midwest, LLC for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services Tariff No. 1  
Date Filed: 07/31/15 ● Completed: 11/16/15
- TC15-061** - In the Matter of the Approval of an Amendment to Resale Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and InT'ec, Inc.  
Date Filed: 08/14/15 ● Completed: 11/09/15
- TC15-062** - In the Matter of the Application of NextGen Communications, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 08/17/15 ● Completed: 12/23/15
- TC15-063** - In the Matter of the Application of Midcontinent Communications for an Amended Certificate of Authority and for a Waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:15  
Date Filed: 08/18/15 ● Completed: 12/15/15
- TC15-064** - In the Matter of the Application of Vitcom, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 09/02/15 ● (Completed: 01/06/16)

**TC15-065** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Vitcom LLC  
Date Filed: 09/18/15 ● Completed: 12/11/15

**TC15-066** - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Approval of Revision to its Access Service Tariff No. 3  
Date Filed: 09/21/15 ● Completed: 11/09/15

**TC15-067** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Power Reduction Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and CenturyLink Communications, LLC  
Date Filed: 10/02/15 ● Completed: 11/09/15

**TC15-068** - In the Matter of the Application of Stratus Networks, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 10/15/15 ● (Completed: 01/06/16)

**TC15-069** - In the Matter of the Petition for a Declaratory Ruling by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Dex Media, Inc. regarding Directory Publication  
Date Filed: 11/13/15 ● (Completed: 01/27/16)

**TC15-070** - In the Matter of the Application of X5 OpCo LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 11/20/15 ● (Completed: 01/20/16)

## REOPENED DOCKETS

**EL12-062** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for the Phase in of Rates Regarding Construction Financing Costs of Cheyenne Prairie Generating Station  
Date Filed: 12/17/12 ● Closed: 09/24/13  
Date Reopened: 04/10/15 ● Reclosed: 06/05/15

**EL14-013** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Approval of Transmission Facilities Adjustment  
Date Filed: 02/14/14 ● Closed: 05/16/14  
Reopened: 05/06/15 ● Reclosed: 05/29/15

**EL14-058** - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase its Electric Rates  
Date Filed: 06/23/14 ● Closed: 06/16/15  
Date Reopened: 07/01/15 ● Reclosed: 07/22/15

**EL14-061** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for a Permit to Construct a 230 kV Transmission Line from Northeastern Wyoming to the Rapid City Area in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 06/30/14 ● Closed: 01/30/15  
Date Reopened: 10/14/15 ● Reclosed: 11/09/15

**EL14-090** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of its 2015 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment

Date Filed: 10/31/14 ● Closed: 02/25/15

Docket Reopened: 05/15/15 ● Reclosed: 08/26/15

**TC13-026** - In the Matter of Study Area Boundaries for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Date Filed: 03/27/13 ● Closed: 06/25/13

Reopened: 03/07/14 ● Reclosed: 03/21/14

Reopened: 04/29/15 ● Reclosed: 12/29/15

**TC13-027** - In the Matter of the Consideration of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Requirements

Date Filed: 03/28/13 ● Closed: 07/08/13

Reopened: 03/26/14 ● Reclosed: 04/17/14

Reopened: 03/23/15 ● Reclosed: 05/21/15

# MISSION STATEMENT

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The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will serve and protect South Dakota's consumers by ensuring safe, reliable and high quality utility services. The commission will exercise its authority and influence to ensure that residential and business consumers have access to utility services at fair and reasonable rates. The commission will be proactive and solutions-oriented in striving to maximize consumer utility value and education while working to enhance the economic and environmental well-being for citizens of the state of South Dakota.



*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**