

South Dakota
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT
2016



Photo by South Dakota Department of Tourism



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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 PUC. The PUC's website, 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 telecommunications 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, solar 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. 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). The PUC acts as a resource to landowners, communities and developers for both renewable energy development and for the build-out of our state's wireless telecommunications networks.

INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

The commission's main website, 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 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 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 has information about wind energy.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS

Chris Nelson has served as the PUC's chairman in 2012, 2015 and 2016 and as vice chairman in 2011, 2013 and 2014. 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. He was re-elected to a full term in November 2016, garnering the highest electoral percentage ever for a contested statewide race.

He is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners serving on the association's Board of Directors and as chairman of its Committee on Telecommunications from 2014 to 2016. He has been appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, representing the interests of NARUC.

Chris previously served as South Dakota's secretary of state, having been elected in the 2002 general election. Chris was unopposed for re-election in 2006, which was the first time the office was unopposed in 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 involved in his church and counts agriculture and hunting as two areas of personal interest. He maintains a part-time cattle operation. Chris and his wife, Penny, reside in Pierre. Their daughter, Rebekah, is a nurse in Sioux Falls.



**Chairman
Chris Nelson**

**Appointed 2011
Elected 2012, 2016
Term ends 2023**

Vice Chairperson Kristie Fiegen 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 and 2015. She is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Gas and Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety. She is also a member of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee. Kristie 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.



PUC Commissioners Chris Nelson, Kristie Fiegen and Gary Hanson



Vice Chairperson Kristie Fiegen

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

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 chairperson 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 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.

Gary Hanson was elected to the PUC 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 Center for Public Utilities.

Gary has served as chairman of the South Dakota Underground Pipeline Task Force, as a 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 being elected to 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 operations of the agency. She makes docket and project assignments and is the liaison between the commissioners and staff on all issues. Patricia 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 Adam de Hueck** 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. 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 orders, handles meeting minutes, 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 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 **Jon Thurber** 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.

Kristen Edwards and **Amanda Reiss** 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. Amanda also serves as the staff attorney assigned to South Dakota One Call matters for which legal support is required.

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's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Mary and Boice inspect and investigate intrastate natural gas pipelines to ensure the public is provided safe and dependable gas service. They 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 homes shows and the State Fair and makes group presentations as requested.



Photo by South Dakota Department of Tourism

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

FINANCIAL REPORT

	BUDGET	GENERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	ENCUMBRANCE	BUDGET NOT EXPENDED
ADMINISTRATION						
Personal Service	\$1,124,090	\$329,650	\$42,318	\$706,865	\$0	\$45,258
Operating Expenses	\$170,784	\$0	\$0	\$139,906	\$1,085	\$29,793
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,294,874	\$329,650	\$42,318	\$846,771	\$1,085	\$75,051
WAREHOUSE						
Personal Service	\$257,793	\$170,838	\$0	\$74,910	\$0	\$12,045
Operating Expenses	\$79,685	\$52,640	\$0	\$4,033	\$0	\$23,012
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$337,478	\$223,478	\$0	\$78,943	\$0	\$35,057
FIXED UTILITY (Informational Budget)						
Personal Service	\$1,314,869	\$0	\$2,766	\$1,207,486	\$0	\$104,617
Operating Expenses	\$767,937	\$0	\$0	\$636,557	\$444	\$130,936
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$2,082,806	\$0	\$2,766	\$1,844,043	\$444	\$235,552
PIPELINE SAFETY (Informational Budget)						
Personal Service	\$203,505	\$0	\$143,698	\$42,519	\$0	\$17,288
Operating Expenses	\$101,340	\$0	\$18,184	\$21,290	\$0	\$61,866
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$304,845	\$0	\$161,882	\$63,809	\$0	\$79,154
ONE CALL NOTIFICATION (Informational Budget)						
Personal Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$716,450	\$0	\$8,707	\$680,460	\$0	\$27,283
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$716,450	\$0	\$8,707	\$680,460	\$0	\$27,283
DO NOT CALL REGISTRY						
Personal Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$55,403	\$0	\$0	\$5,011	\$0	\$50,392
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$55,403	\$0	\$0	\$5,011	\$0	\$50,392
GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FUND REVENUES						
Grain and Warehouse licenses*	\$92,400			Gross Receipts Tax*		\$1,730,675
Check Off Audits	\$8,200			Application Fees		\$1,500
Interest Earned	\$1,635			Interest Earned		\$39,756
TOTAL REVENUE	\$102,235			TOTAL REVENUE		\$1,771,931

2016

YEAR IN REVIEW

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Approved updates to energy efficiency and conservation programs. In 2016, the estimated energy savings for all investor-owned utilities were 17,217 megawatt hours of electricity and 45,675 dekatherms of natural gas.

- **Xcel Energy** will continue offering a Demand Side Management plan in 2017. Ground source heat pump rebates are excluded from the 2017 plan, which was removed at the commission's request due to those rebates not proving to be cost effective.
- **Otter Tail Power Co.** will update its plan with the addition of a pilot program to distribute LED light bulbs to students that participate in energy conservation education programs. The company estimates its overall plan will save 3,804 megawatt hours of electricity in 2017.
- **MidAmerican Energy Co.** will continue offering its existing energy efficiency plan in 2017.

NATURAL GAS

The commission accepted a joint settlement agreement in June from **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.**, the PUC staff and the Federal Executive Agencies, an intervenor representing the interests of Ellsworth Air Force Base, which enabled Montana-Dakota to increase its natural gas rates. The rate increase request was made to raise additional annual revenue of \$1.5 million; the PUC agreed to allow \$1.2 million in additional annual revenue. Typical residential natural gas customers using 72 dekatherms on an annual basis would see an average monthly increase of approximately \$1.49.

The commission accepted a settlement agreement in November offered by **Montana-Dakota Utilities, South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Co.**, and the PUC staff regarding Montana-Dakota's complaint against SDIP's rates for pipeline transportation service. In part, the settlement outlines SDIP's agreement to file a rate case with the PUC at a later date.

In November, PUC staff requested the commission issue a declaratory ruling to determine several issues related to **farm taps** owned and operated by Northern Natural Gas with billing and emergency services provided by NorthWestern Energy and to determine the state's jurisdiction over farm taps for the purpose of pipeline safety. A ruling is expected in 2017.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE

Issued licenses to 173 entities with 329 locations and performed 413 inspections at 274 licensed facilities.

ELECTRIC

The PUC received affirmation in January from the **South Dakota 6th Circuit Court** of the commission's decision in 2015 to allow Black Hills Power to increase electric rates. The appeal had been brought by the Black Hills Industrial Intervenors, a group that included GCC Dakotah, Pete Lien & Sons, Rushmore Forest Products, Spearfish Forest Products, Rapid City Regional Hospital and Wharf Resources.

In December, the **South Dakota Supreme Court unanimously upheld** the commission's 2015 decision to allow Black Hills Power to raise electric rates. The Black Hills Industrial Intervenors sought the appeal before the high court after the 6th Circuit Court upheld the commission's decision in January. (See previous entry).

In February, the **U.S. Supreme Court stayed implementation of the Clean Power Plan** pending judicial review. (In 2015, the South Dakota Attorney General joined 24 states in the request of a stay of the rules.)

In May, the commission adopted final rules (ARSD 20:10:39:01 to 20:10:39:60, inclusive) that set forth specific measurement, testing and remediation procedures that an electric utility must follow when the utility tests a dairy for **stray voltage** or current.

Approved an update to **Black Hills Energy's** environmental improvement adjustment in May to allow costs associated with two previously approved projects plus four new projects: a compressed air system upgrade at the Gillette Energy Complex; an electrostatic precipitator upgrade at Neil Simpson II; and amended silicates silos at the Neil Simpson II and Wygen III power plants. The average bill impact for a typical residential customer using 650 kWh per month is \$0.05.

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

- In February, an update to **Otter Tail Power Company's** TCR rider rate was approved. The updated rate reflects the 2016 recovery period that included seven previously-approved projects, transmission service costs for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator and the Southwest Power Pool and revenue from the use of the company's facilities in the MISO market. The revenue requirement approved for the company for this filing was \$1.9 million.
- In April, the commission approved an update to **MidAmerican Energy Company's** TCR rider rate that covers allowed costs related to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Transmission Rate Schedules 10, 26, and 26-A. The \$305,000 approved revenue requirement translates roughly to a \$0.53 monthly increase on an average residential customer's bill.
- In December, approved **Xcel Energy's** request for an update to its TCR rate to allow recovery in 2017 of \$7.65 million related to 16 previously approved transmission projects, transmission service costs for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, and revenue from the use of the company's facilities in the MISO market. An average residential customer using 750 kWh per month will see a monthly increase on their bill of \$0.70.
- In May, approved an update to **Black Hills Energy's** Transmission Facilities Adjustment, which included one previously approved project. A typical residential customer using 650 kWh per month saw a \$0.03 monthly increase on their bill.

ELECTRIC (cont.)

In June, the commission approved a settlement agreement allowing **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** to raise rates to generate an additional \$1.4 million in annual revenues, nearly half of what the company requested. The rate increase would result in a typical residential electric customer seeing an average monthly increase of approximately \$8.40. The request was the first base electric rate increase to be implemented by Montana-Dakota since 1986. The company cited investments related to federal regulations, additional generation resources and transmission as the need to raise rates.

Commissioners and staff attended an **implosive connector demonstration** performed by Xcel Energy along the CapX2020 Big Stone South-Brookings County transmission line project near Clear Lake in July.

Commissioner Chris Nelson spoke at the construction kickoff event for the **Big Stone South-Ellendale 345-kilovolt transmission line** project near Webster in September. Project owners Otter Tail Power Co. and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. expect construction of the 163-mile line to be completed in late 2018.

In November, the commission approved a reduction 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. The reduction was primarily due to bonus federal tax depreciation. The bill decrease for a typical residential customer averaging 955 kWh per month will be approximately \$1.02.

Approved an update to **Xcel Energy's** infrastructure rider factor in December. The change would add an approximate \$0.40 to an average residential customer's monthly bill and allow Xcel Energy to recover the cost of 44 previously approved projects plus seven new ones.

Commissioner **Gary Hanson** shared his expertise as a speaker and panelist at events including the **Public Utilities Advisory Council's Current Issues Forum**, where he focused on compliance with the EPA's Clean Air Act, and at Macquarie's annual **Utilities, Power and Energy Infrastructure Dialogue**, where emerging trends, regulation and industry structure were discussed.

Commissioner **Kristie Fiegen** was named secretary of the **Southwest Power Pool Regional State Committee**. As a committee member, Fiegen participated in numerous meetings to provide 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. PUC staff members participated in the Cost Allocation Working Group that reports to the RSC. SPP held its summer board meeting in Rapid City.

Commissioners and staff participated in discussions with stakeholders about the newly formed **Mountain West Transmission Group**, an informal collaborative of electric service providers from Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The group is exploring the benefits of implementing a common transmission tariff across multiple states and developing an organized market.

PIPELINE SITING, SAFETY & INSPECTION

In January, the commission determined that the certification by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline to construct the Keystone XL Pipeline in South Dakota was valid. The decision came after a year-long process regarding TransCanada's ability to comply with the conditions of the original permit issued for the **TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline**. The 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.

In February, the commission received notice that seven parties filed separately in the **South Dakota 6th Circuit Court** to appeal the commission's decision to accept as valid the certification by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline to construct the **Keystone XL Pipeline** in South Dakota. Appeals filed by the Yankton Sioux Tribe, Intertribal Council on Utility Policy, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Cindy Meyers, and a group of 11 people collectively referred to as Landowners were merged into the appeal filed by Dakota Rural Action. The appeal filed by Rosebud Sioux Tribe did not progress. A decision by the circuit court is expected in 2017.

The commission received notice in January that its decision to approve, with conditions, a siting permit for the **Dakota Access Pipeline** project was being appealed to the **South Dakota 6th Circuit Court** by the Yankton Sioux Tribe. The PUC joined Dakota Access' motion to dismiss the appeal. In April, Judge Mark Barnett granted the motion to dismiss.

Monitored **Dakota Access' compliance** with the permit issued by the commission in 2015 to construct the Dakota Access Pipeline in South Dakota. Commission staff had regular communication with the third-party compliance monitor, including weekly reports during the construction as well as on-site visits. The majority of pipeline construction in South Dakota was completed during 2016. Restoration activities will be completed and monitored in 2017.

Promoted the **Call Before You Dig** program with a 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.

Completed 147 days of **pipeline safety** inspections.

WIRELESS

Monitored the actions and results as **new wireless telecommunications sites** were launched by companies at several locations including in or near Aberdeen, Artesian, Batesland, Black Hawk, Custer, Deadwood, Hermosa, Hill City, Lake Andes, Lake Preston, Lead, Mitchell, New Underwood, Piedmont, Pine Ridge, Rapid City and Reville. Wireless companies also made numerous network enhancements throughout the state.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The commission received a permit application in June for **Prevailing Winds**, a proposed 201-megawatt wind energy facility in Bon Homme and Charles Mix counties. A four-hour public input hearing was held in Avon in August, attended by more than 300 people. Prevailing Winds withdrew their application the same month.

Commissioners attended a dedication ceremony in September for the **Pierre Solar Project**, a one-megawatt solar photovoltaic facility – the largest in South Dakota – operated jointly by the City of Pierre, Geronimo Energy and Missouri River Energy Services.

Compiled the annual **South Dakota Renewable, Recycled and Conserved Energy Objective** report for calendar year 2015 and submitted it to the state legislature. Seven of the 12 utilities required to report are utilizing both renewables and energy efficiency in their resource mixes and met the 10 percent goal for 2015.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Thirty-four 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 nearly \$88 million in USF monies in South Dakota in 2015.

As chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners' Telecommunications Committee, Commissioner **Chris Nelson** was invited to address national audiences at several trade industry events, including the **Internet & Television Expo** and the **summer and annual NARUC meetings**.

Commissioners and staff joined members of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association for the **biannual SDTA-PUC Forum** in December. Among the educational sessions offered were presentations about internet protocol transition, rural carriers, public safety broadband network and competitive overlap.

PUBLIC OUTREACH & CONSUMER ASSISTANCE

Engaged more than 3,380 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**.

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 energy applications in South Dakota.

In November, **Commissioner Chris Nelson** was elected statewide to serve a second term on the PUC.

Assisted consumers on nearly 1,600 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 654,058.

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.

<i>Measurement per kWh, 2016</i>		<i>Measurement per thousand cubic feet, 2015</i>	
Average Residential Electric Rate		Average Residential Natural Gas Rate	
11.43 cents	South Dakota	\$8.30	South Dakota
11.73 cents	West North Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota)	\$9.61	West North Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota)
12.55 cents	United States	\$10.38	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.

<i>Measurement, 2016</i>
Electric and Natural Gas Dockets
62 - Dockets filed from Dec. 1, 2015, through Nov. 30, 2016
16 - Completed within approximately 1 month
35 - Completed in 2 to 4 months
3 - Completed in 5 to 6 months
3 - Completed in 7 to 12 months
5 - Dockets open as of Dec. 1, 2016
92% - 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, 2016

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

South Dakota 2016 scores compared to National 2015 median score

Thirteen of the 18 scores provided to the PUC by South Dakota's six investor-owned utilities were better than the 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 by 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, 2016

Grain warehouse and grain buyer inspections: 413 inspections at 274 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, 2016

- Class A Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that use voluntary credit sale contracts or exceed \$10,000,000 in annual purchases): 124 entities with 277 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): 51 entities with 52 locations
- State Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the state to store grain for hire): 52 entities with 72 locations
- Federal Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the USDA to store grain for hire): 40 entities with 151 locations; five 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): 23 entities with 36 locations; five 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 26 locations. One location is out-of-state but maintains a South Dakota grain buyer license.
- Truck (entities that are primarily trucking companies with no grain handling facility but purchase grain for the purpose of resale): Nine entities with nine locations
- Brokers (entities that purchase grain but do not take physical possession of the grain): 32 entities with 35 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, 2016

License Revocations: None

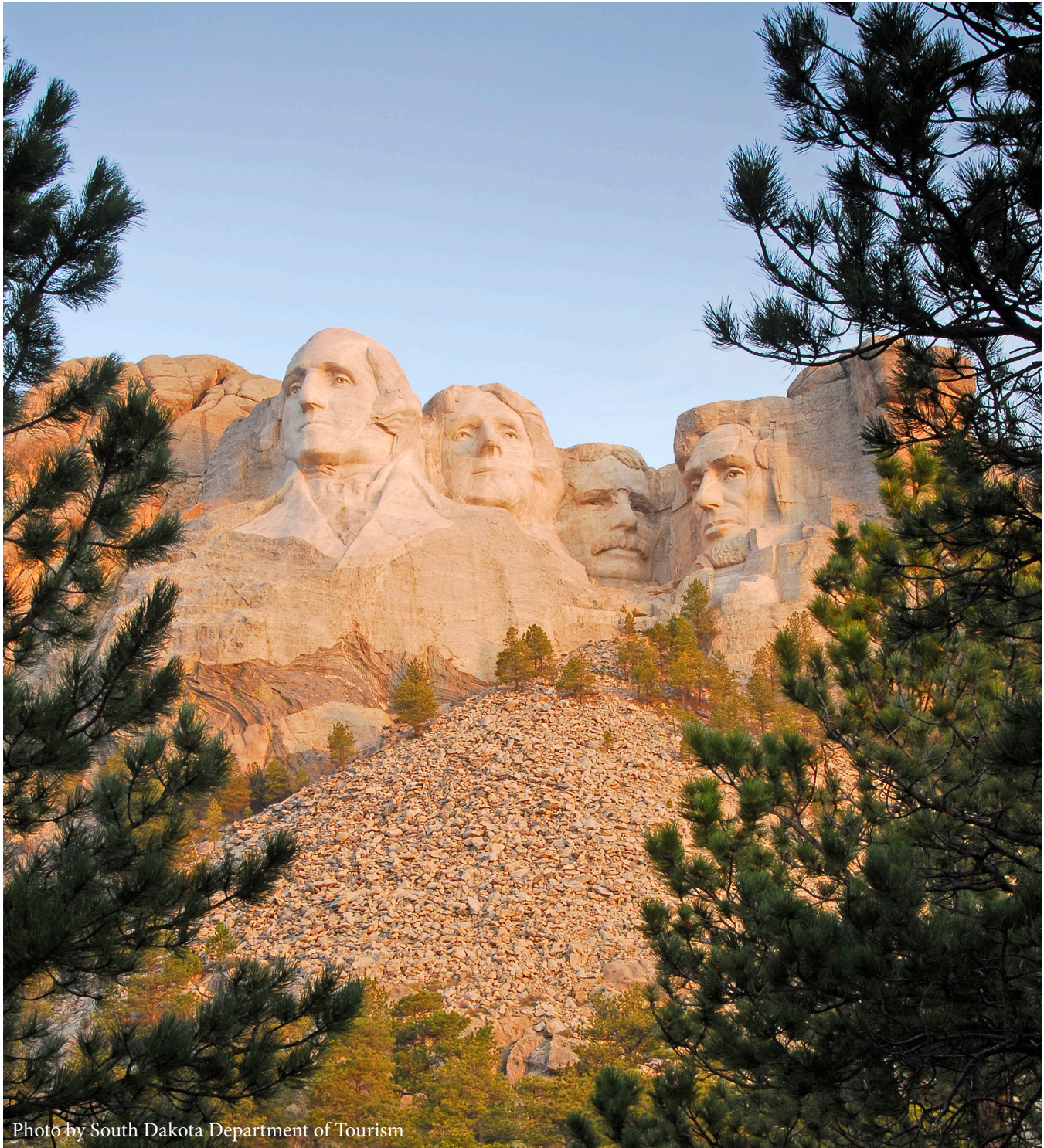


Photo by South Dakota Department of Tourism

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 specifies that a minimum of 127 inspection days are required annually.

Measurement, 2016

Inspections: 147 days (127 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 97 percent, and the lowest score for any state reported in 2016 was 86 percent.

Measurement, 2016

Audit score: 100 percent

FEDERAL CERTIFICATION

PUC staff members involved in pipeline safety inspection are required to complete seven training courses to become a certified pipeline safety inspector. 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, 2016

Telecommunications Dockets

66 - Dockets filed from Dec. 1, 2015, through Nov. 30, 2016

17 - Completed within approximately 1 month

46 - Completed in 2 to 4 months

1 - Completed in 7 to 12 months

2 - Dockets open as of Dec. 1, 2016

97% - Percentage completed in 12 months

AFFIRMED OR 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, 2016

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 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, 2015

37 carriers invested \$87,722,000

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 RESOLVED 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, 2016

Complaints resolved within a month: 99 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, 2016

Formal consumer complaints: None

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, 2016

South Dakota telephone numbers on Do Not Call Registry: 654,058 (1.5% increase)

2016

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 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 COMPANIES

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	\$1,006,700
Telecommunications Companies	\$ 638, 531

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. dba Simple Billing Solutions
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.
Alliance Global Networks LLC

Long Distance Telephone Companies (cont.)

Alliance Group Services Inc. dba U.S. Republic
Communications Inc. (withdrew COA 8/16)
American Telecommunications Systems Inc.
AmeriVision Communications Inc. dba LifeLine
Communications dba Affinity 4

ANPI Business LLC
ANPI LLC
AT&T Corp.
Avera Communication LLC

B

Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC
BCN Telecom Inc.
BEK Communications Cooperative
Blackfoot Communications Inc.
Broadband Dynamics LLC
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC
Broadwing Communications LLC
BT Communications Sales LLC (withdrew
COA 9/16)
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

CallCatchers Inc. dba Freedom Voice Systems
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 Enterprise Services
Inc.
Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured
Technologies Inc.
Consumer Telcom Inc.
Convergia Inc.
Correct Solutions LLC
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
Crystal Communications Inc. dba Consolidated
Communications (withdrew COA 12/16)

CSDVRS LLC
CTC Communication Corp. dba EarthLink Business
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

D

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

E

EarthLink Business LLC
Easton Telecom Services LLC
Encompass Communications LLC (withdrew COA
10/16)
Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba ECG
LLC and Boom Mobile
EnTelegent Solutions Inc.
Eventis Telecom Inc. dba Consolidated
Communications (withdrew COA 12/16)
Express Communications Inc.

F

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

G

GC Pivotal LLC
Global Crossing Telecommunications Inc.
Global Tel*Link Corp.
GoDaddy.com LLC
Gold Line Telemanagement Inc. (Revoked 12/16)
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative dba
Golden West Telecommunications
Granite Telecommunications LLC
Greenfly Networks Inc. dba Clearfly
Communications

I

IDT America Corp.
inContact Inc. dba UCN Inc.
iNetworks Group Inc.
Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions
Integrated Services Inc.
Intellicall Operator Services Inc. dba ILD
Ionex Communications North Inc. dba Birch
Communications dba Primus Birch Telecom

Long Distance Telephone Companies (cont.)

J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co. dba James Valley Telecommunications

K

KDDI America Inc.

L

Lattice Inc.

LCR Telecommunications LLC

Legacy Long Distance International Inc.

Level 3 Communications LLC

Level 3 Telecom Data Services LLC fka tw telecom data services llc

Long Lines Metro

M

Magna5 LLC fka Magna LLC fka X5 OpCo LLC

Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business Technologies, Trinsic Communications, VarTec Telecom, Excel Telecommunications, Impact Telecom, Americatel

MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC

MCI Communications Services Inc. dba Verizon Business Services

MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp. 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.

Mobilitie LLC

Momentum Telecom Inc.

Multiline Long Distance Inc.

N

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. (Revoked 12/16)

Netwolves Network Services

Network Billing Systems LLC

Network Communications International Corp. aka 1800Call4Less

Network Innovations Inc.

Network Services Billing Inc.

NetworkIP LLC dba Elite Telecom

Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC

New Horizons Communications Corp.

Next Gen Communications

NobelTel LLC

North Dakota Long Distance LLC

Northern Valley Communications LLC

NOS Communications Inc. Blueridge Telecom Systems dba International Plus and 011 Communications and The Internet Business Association (Inetba) and dba iVantage Network Solutions

NOSVA Limited Partnership dba CierraCom Systems

NovaTel Ltd. Inc. (withdrew COA 9/16)

O

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

P

PaeTec Communications Inc.

Pay Tel Communications Inc.

PNG Telecommunications Inc. dba PowerNet Global Communications dba Crossconnect, and dba Thr!ve

Premier Communications Inc. dba Premier Communications

Primus Telecommunications Inc. (customers transferred to Ionex 5/16)

Public Communications Services Inc.

Q

QuantumShift Communications Inc. dba Vcom Solutions

R

RC Technologies fka Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association

Reduced Rate Long Distance LLC

Long Distance Telephone Companies (cont.)

Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.
 Reliant Communications Inc.
 Residential Long Distance Inc.

S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba
 TruConnect
 Sancom dba Mitchell Telecom
 Santel Communications Cooperative
 SBC Long Distance LLC dba AT&T Long Distance
 Securus Technologies Inc.
 Spectrotel Inc. dba OneTouch Communications dba
 Touch Base Communications
 Stratus Networks Inc.

T

Talk America Services LLC
 TDS Long Distance Corp.
 Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
 Telecom North America Inc. (withdrew COA 9/16)
 Televergence Solutions Inc.
 Telrite Corp. dba Life Wireless
 Three River Teleco dba Three River Long Distance
 TNCI Operating Co. LLC (withdrew COA 9/16)
 Toly Digital Networks Inc.
 TOTAL ACCESS TELECOM INC.
 Total Call International Inc. (withdrew COA 10/16)
 Total Holdings Inc. dba GTC Communications
 Touchtone Communications Inc.
 TTI National Inc.

U

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

V

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

West Safety Communications Inc. fka Intrado
 Communications Inc.

West Telecom Services 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
 XO Communications Services LLC

Z

Zayo Group LLC

OPERATOR SERVICE COMPANIES

An operator service provider is a telecommunications company that provides, by contrast, 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. dba Simple Billing Solutions

C

Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured
Technologies Inc.
Correct Solutions LLC

G

Global Tel*Link Corp.

I

Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions

L

Lattice Inc.
Legacy Long Distance International Inc.

P

Pay Tel Communications Inc.

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

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

B

Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC
BCN Telecom Inc.
BEK Communications Cooperative
Blackfoot Communications Inc.
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC
BT Communications Sales LLC (withdrew COA
3/16)
Budget PrePay Inc. dba Budget Phone
BullsEye Telecom Inc.

C

CenturyLink Communications LLC
Cincinnati Bell Any Distance Inc.
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband
Common Point LLC
COMTECH21 LLC
Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services
Inc.
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
Crown Castle NG Central LLC
Crystal Communications Inc. dba Consolidated
Communications

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 dba Global Capacity
 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)
 Ionex Communications North Inc. dba Birch
 Communications dba Primus Birch Telecom

L

Level 3 Communications LLC
 Level 3 Telecom Data Services, LLC fka tw telecom
 data services llc
 Long Lines Metro

M

Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business
 Technologies, Trinsic Communications,
 VarTec Telecom, Excel Telecommunications,
 Impact Telecom, Americatel
 MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC
 MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp 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.
 Mobilitie LLC
 Mobilitie Management LLC
 Momentum Telecom Inc.

N

Native American Telecom LLC
 NetFortris Acquisition Co. Inc.
 Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC
 New Horizons Communications Corp.
 NextGen Communications, Inc.
 Northern Valley Communications LLC
 NOS Communications Inc.

O

Onvoy LLC dba Onvoy Voice Services

Q

QuantumShift Communications Inc. dba Vcom
 Solutions

R

RC Technologies dba RC Communications

S

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

T

Talk America Services LLC
 Teleport Communications America LLC (TCAL)
 TNCI Operating Co. LLC (withdrew COA 9/16)

V

Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever Inc.

W

West Safety Communications Inc. fka Intrado
 Communications Inc.
 West Telecom Services 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.

Alltel Communications LLC

American Messaging Services LLC

B

BCN Telecom Inc.

Blue Jay Wireless LLC

Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless

Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel
Communications

Budget PrePay Inc. dba Budget Phone

BYO Wireless LLC (registration withdrawn 9/16)

C

Cellular Inc. Network Corp. dba Verizon Wireless

Consumer Cellular Inc.

Cricket Wireless LLC

E

Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba ECG
LLC and Boom Mobile

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 dba Primus Birch Telecom

Iowa Wireless Services LLC dba I wireless

i-wireless LLC

J

James Valley Wireless

K

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

L

Long Lines Wireless LLC (registration withdrawn
 6/16)
 Lycamobile USA Inc.

M

MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp. dba
 Verizon Access Transmission Services
 Mitel Cloud Services Inc.

N

NetZero Wireless Inc. (registration withdrawn 9/16)
 New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC
 Nextel West Corp. dba Nextel
 Nextiva
 NPCR Inc. dba Nextel Partners

O

OnStar LLC
 Onvoy Spectrum LLC

P

Patriot Mobile LLC fka EOS Mobile Holdings LLC
 PNG Telecommunications Inc. dba PowerNet
 Global Communications dba CrossConnect
 Puretalk Holdings LLC

R

Ready Wireless LLC
 Republic Wireless Inc.
 Rural Cellular Corp. dba Unicel

S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba
 TruConnect
 SelecTel Inc. dba SelecTel Wireless
 Soehl Electronics Inc. dba Vantek Communications
 Sprint Spectrum LP dba Sprint PCS
 Stream Communications LLC
 STS Media Inc. dba FreedomPop

T

T C Telephone LLC dba Horizon Cellular

Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
 Telrite Corp. dba Life Wireless
 Tempo Telecom LLC
 The Peoples 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, Inc.

U

UVNV Inc.

V

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

W

WaveNation LLC
 Western Communications Inc.
 Working Assets Funding Service Inc. dba Credo
 Long Distance

VOICE OVER IP COMPANIES

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

A

Airus Inc.

B

Bandwidth.com Inc.

C

COMM-CORE LLC

G

Garmin USA Inc.

I

iCore Networks Inc.
NET Communications LLC

M

Magna5 LLC fka X5 OpCo LLC
Mitel Cloud Services Inc.

N

NetFortris Acquisition Co. Inc.

S

S-Net Communications Inc.

T

Telnyx

V

Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever Inc.

W

WaveNation 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
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband

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 Municipal Telephone

F

City of Faith Municipal 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 dba RC Communications

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

Citizens Telecommunications Company of
Minnesota Inc.

Consolidated Telecom Inc.

D

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative

F

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.

G

Great Plains Communications Inc.

H

Heartland Telecommunications of Iowa Company

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 Public Utilities Commission.*

S

South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN
Communications

2016

DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

Type	Filed	Completed	Pending as of 12/31/16
Administration Items	2	2	0
Civil	9*	3	2
Electric	42	32	10
Gas and Electric	7	3	4
Natural Gas	15	12	3
Rulemaking	1	1	0
Telecommunications	67	59	8
TOTALS	143	112	26

*4 civil dockets merged with Civ16-033. Visit www.puc.sd.gov for more information on these dockets.

Dockets Closed between Jan. 1, 2017, and the publication date of this report (Spring 2017) are noted in parentheses.

Visit www.puc.sd.gov to check the current status of pending dockets.

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

AA16-001 - Establishment of the Gross Receipts Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2017
Date Filed: 04/08/16 • Completed: 04/29/16

AA16-002 - In the Matter of Clarification of the Commission's ETC Certification Process
Date Filed: 05/12/16 • Completed: 05/26/16

CIVIL DOCKETS

Civ16-020 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket No. HP14-002, Dakota Access Pipeline LLC
Date Filed: 01/25/16 • Completed: 06/16/16

Civ16-033 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket HP14-001, Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline (Dakota Rural Action)
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Pending

Civ16-034 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket No. HP14-001 TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP (Yankton Sioux Tribe)
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Merged with Civ16-033

Civ16-035 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket No. HP14-001, Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline (Rosebud Sioux Tribe)
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Completed: 07/19/16

Civ16-036 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket No. HP14-001, Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline (COUP)
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Merged with Civ16-033

Civ16-037 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket No. HP14-001, Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline (Landowners)
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Pending

Civ16-038 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket No. HP14-001, Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe)
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Merged with Civ16-033

Civ16-039 - In the Matter of Public Utilities Commission Docket No. HP14-001, Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline (Cindy Myers)
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Merged with Civ16-033

Supreme Court #27751 - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates
Date Filed: 02/08/16 • Completed: 12/15/16

ELECTRIC DOCKETS

EL16-001 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of a Credit Mechanism for a Department of Energy Settlement Payment
Date Filed: 01/08/16 • Completed: 02/17/16

EL16-002 - 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: 01/15/16 • Completed: 03/21/16

EL16-003 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations
Date Filed: 02/11/16 • Completed: 04/05/16

EL16-004 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Transmission Cost Recovery 2015 Reconciliation and New Factor Calculation
Date Filed: 02/12/16 • Completed: 04/12/16

- EL16-005** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of 2016 Transmission Facility Adjustment
Date Filed: 02/16/16 • Completed: 05/16/16
- EL16-006** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of its 2016 Environmental Improvement Adjustment
Date Filed: 02/16/16 • Completed: 05/16/16
- EL16-007** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy's Application for Approval of its 2015 Economic Development Report and 2016 Economic Development Plan
Date Filed: 03/01/16 • Completed: 05/02/16
- EL16-008** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy & Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 03/07/16 • Pending
- EL16-009** - In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2015 Economic Development Activities and 2016 Budget
Date Filed: 03/09/16 • Completed: 04/12/16
- EL16-010** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between West River Electric Association, Inc. and Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 03/09/16 • Completed: 04/04/16
- EL16-011** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy's Application for Approval of its 2016 Economic Development Plan
Date Filed: 03/29/16 • Completed: 05/03/16
- EL16-012** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of its 2016-2018 Vegetation Management Budget
Date Filed: 03/30/16 • Completed: 08/11/16
- EL16-013** - In the Matter of the Petition for Electrical Service by Dakota Plains Ag Center, LLC to have NorthWestern Energy Assigned as its Electric Provider in the Service Area of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc.
Date Filed: 04/01/16 • Completed: 08/11/16
- EL16-014** - In the Matter of the Petition for Temporary Electrical Service by Dakota Plains Ag Center, LLC to have NorthWestern Energy Assigned as its Electric Provider in the Service Area of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc.
Date Filed: 04/01/16 • Completed: 05/02/16
- EL16-015** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations
Date Filed: 04/15/16 • Completed: 08/11/16
- EL16-016** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Bill Format and Sample Forms
Date Filed: 04/20/16 • Completed: 07/08/16

- EL16-017** - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 04/28/16 • Completed: 07/08/16
- EL16-018** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2015 Demand Side Management Report and 2017 Proposed Demand Side Management Plan
Date Filed: 04/29/16 • Completed: 12/13/16
- EL16-019** - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's 2015 South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report and 2016 Annual Filing to Update the Energy Efficiency Adjustment Rider
Date Filed: 04/29/16 • Completed: 06/24/16
- EL16-020** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company Regarding its Proposed South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan for 2017-2019
Date Filed: 04/29/16 • Completed: 11/28/16
- EL16-021** - In the Matter of the Complaint by Consolidated Edison Development, Inc. against NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Establishing a Purchase Power Agreement
Date Filed: 06/23/16 • Pending
- EL16-022** - In the Matter of the Application by Prevailing Winds, LLC for a Wind Energy Facility Permit for the Prevailing Winds Wind Energy Facility
Date Filed: 06/28/16 • Completed: 09/19/16
- EL16-023** - 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: 07/01/16 • Completed: 08/04/16
- EL16-024** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 07/11/16 • Completed: 08/05/16
- EL16-025** - In the Matter of the Request by Dow Rummel Village for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for the Village North Apartment Complexes in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/14/16 • Completed: 09/06/16
- EL16-026** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Rates for Rate 95, Rate 96, and Rate 97
Date Filed: 07/27/16 • Completed: 09/07/16
- EL16-027** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Sample Forms
Date Filed: 07/28/16 • Completed: 09/06/16
- EL16-028** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 08/01/16 • Completed: 09/06/16

- EL16-029** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Update Its Communities Served
Date Filed: 08/19/16 • Completed: 09/19/16
- EL16-030** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Environmental Cost Recovery Rider Charge
Date Filed: 08/31/16 • Completed: 11/02/16
- EL16-031** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2017 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment
Date Filed: 09/01/16 • Completed: 12/12/16
- EL16-032** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2017 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update
Date Filed: 09/30/16 • *(Completed: 01/04/17)*
- EL16-033** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding its Customer Data Privacy Policy
Date Filed: 10/05/16 • Completed: 12/13/16
- EL16-034** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of a Revision to the Energy Efficiency Solutions Adjustment (EESA) Rates
Date Filed: 10/17/16 • Completed: 11/28/16
- EL16-035** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate
Date Filed: 11/01/16 • *(Completed: 02/21/17)*
- EL16-036** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. and Otter Tail Power Company
Date Filed: 11/08/16 • Completed: 12/12/16
- EL16-037** - In the Matter of Commission Staff's Request to Investigate Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy's Proposed Fuel Clause Rider
Date Filed: 11/30/16 • Pending
- EL16-038** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Revocation of a Service Rights Exception between West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/07/16 • *(Completed: 01/19/17)*
- EL16-039** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval to Extend the Filing Date of its Vegetation Management Annual Report
Date Filed: 12/12/16 • *(Completed: 01/03/17)*
- EL16-040** - In the Matter of the Request by Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for Three Multi-Family Facilities in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/22/16 • *(Completed: 01/20/17)*

EL16-041 - In the Matter of the Request by Trinity Point Limited Partnership for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for a 48-Unit Multi-Family Housing Structure in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/22/16 • *(Completed: 01/20/17)*

EL16-042 - In the Matter of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy's Application for Adjustment in its Cogeneration and Small Power Production Service Simultaneous Net Billing Generation Credit Rate(s)
Date Filed: 12/30/16 • Pending

GAS AND ELECTRIC DOCKETS

GE16-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its Reconciliation and Annual Report for 2015 and Revisions to its Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Rate
Date Filed: 02/19/16 • Completed: 04/04/16

GE16-002 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Revised Energy Efficiency Adjustment Rates and Demand Side Management Plan Extension
Date Filed: 05/20/16 • Completed: 06/23/16

GE16-003 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Revised Welcome Brochure
Date Filed: 07/21/16 • Completed: 09/06/16

GE16-004 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its Proposed Energy Efficiency Plan for 2017
Date Filed: 11/14/16 • *(Completed: 01/03/17)*

GE16-005 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of 2017 South Dakota Demand Side Management Plan
Date Filed: 11/18/16 • Pending

GE16-006 - In the Matter of the Request by Inter-States Community Action Partnership for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for Three Multi-Family Facilities in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/22/16 • *(Completed: 03/21/17)*

GE16-007 - In the Matter of the Request by Trinity Point Limited Partnership for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for a 48-Unit Multi-Family Housing Structure in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/22/16 • *(Completed: 03/09/17)*

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS

NG16-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of its Revised Conservation Tracking Adjustment
Date Filed: 01/28/16 • Completed: 03/16/16

NG16-002 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of its 2015 Economic Development Activities and 2016 Proposed Budget
Date Filed: 03/23/16 • Completed: 05/02/16

NG16-003 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Novita Aurora, LLC
Date Filed: 03/23/16 • Completed: 05/02/16

NG16-004 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its 2016 Economic Development Proposed Budget and 2015 Economic Development Expenses
Date Filed: 03/29/16 • Completed: 05/03/16

NG16-005 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Bill Format and Sample Forms
Date Filed: 04/20/16 • Completed: 07/08/16

NG16-006 - In the Matter of the Complaint of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., regarding South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company's Rates for Pipeline Transportation Service
Date Filed: 06/10/16 • Completed: 10/03/16

NG16-007 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Sample Forms
Date Filed: 07/29/16 • Completed: 09/06/16

NG16-008 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Update Its Communities Served
Date Filed: 07/29/16 • Completed: 09/19/16

NG16-009 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its Gas Transportation Tariff Revisions Regarding Fuel Retention Percentage
Date Filed: 08/24/16 • Completed: 09/19/16

NG16-010 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its Refund Plan regarding its Recovery of Manufactured Gas Plant Site Remediation Costs
Date Filed: 09/01/16 • *(Completed: 01/30/17)*

NG16-011 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions Regarding the Addition of a Producers of Renewable Gas Transportation Service
Date Filed: 09/26/16 • Completed: 11/15/16

NG16-012 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions Regarding its Customers Data Privacy Policy
Date Filed: 10/05/16 • Completed: 12/13/16

NG16-013 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Continuation of the Incentive Gas Supply Procurement Plan
Date Filed: 11/07/16 • Completed: 12/12/16

NG16-014 - In the Matter of Commission Staff's Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Farm Tap Customers

Date Filed: 11/09/16 • Pending

NG16-015 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Prairie Ethanol, LLC and Removal of South Dakota Wheat Growers Contract with Deviations

Date Filed: 12/16/16 • *(Completed: 01/04/17)*

RULEMAKING DOCKET

RM16-001 - In the Matter of the Adoption of Rules Regarding Stray Electrical Current and Voltage Remediation

Date Filed: 01/28/16 • Completed: 06/14/16

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

TC16-001 - In the Matter of the Petition of IM Telecom, LLC dba Infiniti Mobile for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Waiver

Date Filed: 01/19/16 • Pending

TC16-002 - In the Matter of the Petition of Long Lines Wireless, LLC to Relinquish its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

Date Filed: 02/10/16 • Completed: 03/21/16

TC16-003 - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, LLC; Windstream KDL, LLC; and Windstream NTI, LLC for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 03/01/16 • Completed: 04/05/16

TC16-004 - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Midcontinent Communications and Venture Communications

Date Filed: 03/08/16 • Completed: 04/05/16

TC16-005 - In the Matter of the Application of Mobilitie Management, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services in South Dakota

Date Filed: 04/07/16 • Completed: 11/03/16

TC16-006 - In the Matter of the Request of Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, Study Area: 371576 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support

Date Filed: 05/10/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-007 - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to its Access Service Tariff

Date Filed: 05/23/16 • Completed: 06/23/16

TC16-008 - In the Matter of the Filing by dishNET Wireless L.L.C. for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services Tariff No. 2

Date Filed: 06/16/16 • Completed: 07/20/16

- TC16-009** - In the Matter of the Application of Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for an Amended Certificate of Authority
Date Filed: 06/20/16 • Completed: 11/17/16
- TC16-010** - In the Matter of the Request of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., Study Area Codes: Armour-391640, Golden West Telecom-391659, Kadoka-391667, Sioux Valley-391677, Union-391684 and Vivian-391686 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/21/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-011** - In the Matter of the Application of CallCatchers Inc. dba FreedomVoice Systems for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 06/22/16 • Completed: 10/03/16
- TC16-012** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., Study Area Codes: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative-391654 and Stockholm Standburg-391679, for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/24/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-013** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., Study Area: SSTELECOM, Inc., Study Area: 399013 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/24/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-014** - In the Matter of the Request of Fort Randall Telephone Company and Mount Rushmore Study Area: 391660 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/27/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-015** - In the Matter of the Request of Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc., Study Areas: Splitrock-391657, Baltic-391642, Hills-391405 for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/28/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-016** - In the Matter of the Request of West River Telecommunications Cooperative Study Area: Mobridge-391671 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/28/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-017** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company Study Area: 391664 for Certification Regarding it Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/28/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-018** - In the Matter of the Request of Northern Valley Communications, L.L.C. Study Area: 399017 and 396340 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/28/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
Reopened: 10/03/16 • Completed: 10/06/16
- TC16-019** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Wireless, LLC Study Area: 399014 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/28/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

- TC16-020** - In the Matter of the Request of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC
Study Area: 361123 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-021** - In the Matter of the Request of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company Study Area: 361389 for
Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-022** - In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telephone Company Study Area: 361495 for Certification
Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-023** - In the Matter of the Request of Red River Rural Telephone Association dba Red River
Communications Study Area: 381631 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal
Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-024** - In the Matter of the Request of Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. Study Area: 391668 for
Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-025** - In the Matter of the Request of Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband Study Area: ILEC-
391652 and CLEC-399006 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-026** - In the Matter of the Request of RC Technologies Study Area: 391674 for Certification
Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-027** - In the Matter of the Request of Venture Communications Cooperative Study Area: Venture
Communications Cooperative-391680 and Western Telephone Co.-391688 for Certification
Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-028** - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications Study Area: 399005 for
Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-029** - In the Matter of the Request of Valley Communications Cooperative Association, Inc. Study
Area: 391685 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-030** - In the Matter of the Request of Midstate Communications Inc. Study Area: 391670 for
Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/29/16 • Completed: 09/23/16
- TC16-031** - In the Matter of the Request of Jefferson Telephone Company Study Area: 391666 for
Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-032 - In the Matter of the Request of City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company Study Area: 391653 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-033 - In the Matter of the Request of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority Study Area: 391647 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-034 - In the Matter of the Request of Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. Study Area: 391676 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-035 - In the Matter of the Request of City of Brookings Municipal Telephone Study Area: 391650 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-036 - In the Matter of the Request of Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel Communications Study Area: 399009 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-037 - In the Matter of the Request of TrioTel Communications Inc. Study Area: McCook-391669 and Tri-County Telecom-391682 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-038 - In the Matter of the Request of RT Communications, Inc. Study Area: 512251 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 06/30/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-039 - In the Matter of the Request of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC Study Area: 395145 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 07/01/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-040 - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications for Approval of Revisions to its Access Service Tariff
Date Filed: 07/01/16 • Completed: 08/05/16

TC16-041 - In the Matter of the Application of Premier Communications, Inc., dba Premier Communications for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/05/16 • Completed: 08/11/16

TC16-042 - In the Matter of the Request of West River Cooperative Telephone Company Study Area 391689 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 07/05/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

TC16-043 - In the Matter of the Request of Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Study Area: 391649 for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 07/01/16 • Completed: 09/23/16

- TC16-044** - In the Matter of the Application by Midcontinent Communications for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation within Certain Rural Service Areas
Date Filed: 07/06/16 • Completed: 08/05/16
- TC16-045** - In the Matter of the Filing by Zayo Group, LLC to Withdraw its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 07/07/16 • Completed: 08/11/16
- TC16-046** - In the Matter of the Application of ATV Holdings, LLC dba Mitchell Telecom for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/12/16 • Completed: 08/19/16
- TC16-047** - 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: 07/12/16 • Completed: 08/05/16
- TC16-048** - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Approval of its Access Service Tariff No. 3
Date Filed: 07/12/16 • Completed: 08/05/16
- TC16-049** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Microduct Language and Rate Update Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and CenturyLink Communications, LLC
Date Filed: 07/14/16 • Completed: 08/19/16
- TC16-050** - In the Matter of the Application of eNetworks, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/22/16 • (Completed: 03/10/17)
- TC16-051** - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink for Approval of Waiver of the Utilization Threshold Requirements in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/25/16 • Completed: 08/11/16
- TC16-052** - In the Matter of the Application of GoDaddy.com, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 08/15/16 • Completed: 10/28/16
- TC16-053** - In the Matter of the Application of Blackfoot Communications, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 08/29/16 • Completed: 11/15/16
- TC16-054** - In the Matter of the Filing by ATV Holdings dba Mitchell Telecom for Approval of its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 09/07/16 • Completed: 09/29/16
- TC16-055** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Lifeline/Link Up and Tribal Lifeline Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Midcontinent Communications
Date Filed: 09/16/16 • Completed: 10/12/16

- TC16-056** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between CenturyLink Communications Company, LLC and New Horizons Communications Corp.
Date Filed: 09/19/16 • Completed: 10/12/16
- TC16-057** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Lifeline/Link Up and Tribal Lifeline Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Enventis Telecom, Inc. dba Consolidated Communications
Date Filed: 09/30/16 • Completed: 11/01/16
- TC16-058** - In the Matter of the Filing by MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. dba Verizon Access Transmission Services for Approval of its Access Service Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 10/05/16 • Completed: 11/02/16
- TC16-059** - In the Matter of the Petition of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for an Amended Certificate of Authority
Date Filed: 10/07/16 • Completed: 12/07/16
- TC16-060** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Level 3 Communications, LLC
Date Filed: 10/28/16 • Completed: 11/28/16
- TC16-061** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireless Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Onvoy Spectrum, LLC
Date Filed: 11/01/16 • Completed: 11/28/16
- TC16-062** - In the Matter of the Gold Line Telemanagement Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/16/16 • (Completed: 01/04/17)
- TC16-063** - In the Matter of the Net One International Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/16/16 • (Completed: 01/04/17)
- TC16-064** - In the Matter of the TTUSA Acquisition Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/16/16 • (Completed: 01/04/17)
- TC16-065** - In the Matter of the Defense Mobile Corporation's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/16/16 • (Completed: 01/04/17)
- TC16-066** - In the Matter of the Ztar Mobile Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/16/16 • (Completed: 01/04/17)
- TC16-067** - In the Matter of the Application of Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota and the Transfer of Crystal Communications, Inc. and Enventis Telecom, Inc.'s Certificates of Authority to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/08/16 • (Completed: 01/20/17)

REOPENED DOCKETS

- EL10-016** - In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for a Permit to Construct a 10.6 Mile, 345 kV Transmission Line (CapX2020) in Brookings County Near White, South Dakota
Date Filed: 01/23/10 • Completed: 07/07/11
Date Reopened: 02/05/16 • Completed 03/16/16
- 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 • Completed: 01/30/15
Date Reopened: 10/14/15 • Completed: 11/09/15
Date Reopened: 06/17/16 • Completed: 07/08/16
- 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
Date Reopened: 05/18/16 • Completed: 07/20/16
- 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 • Completed: 06/15/16
Date Reopened: 06/27/16 • Completed: 07/07/16

MISSION STATEMENT

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