



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

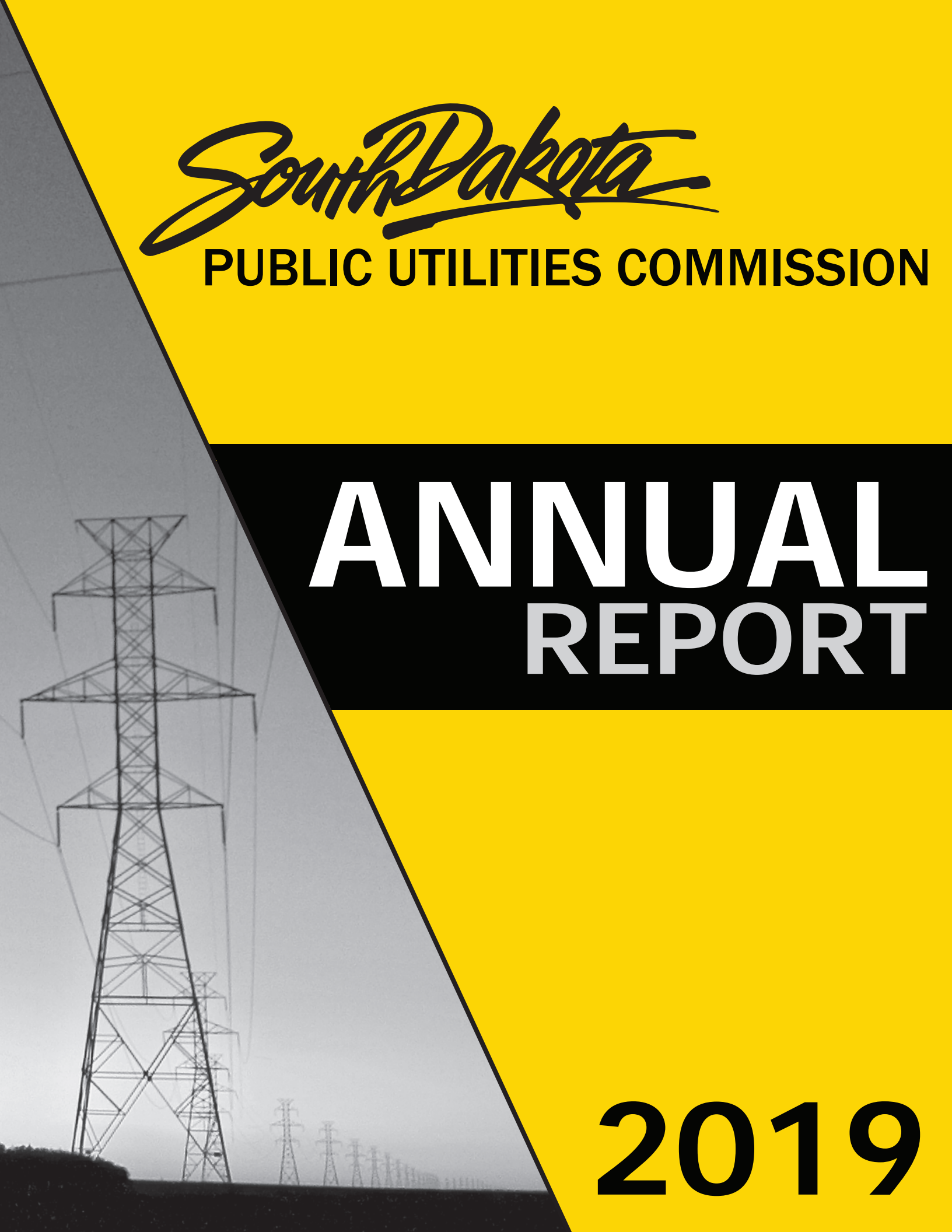
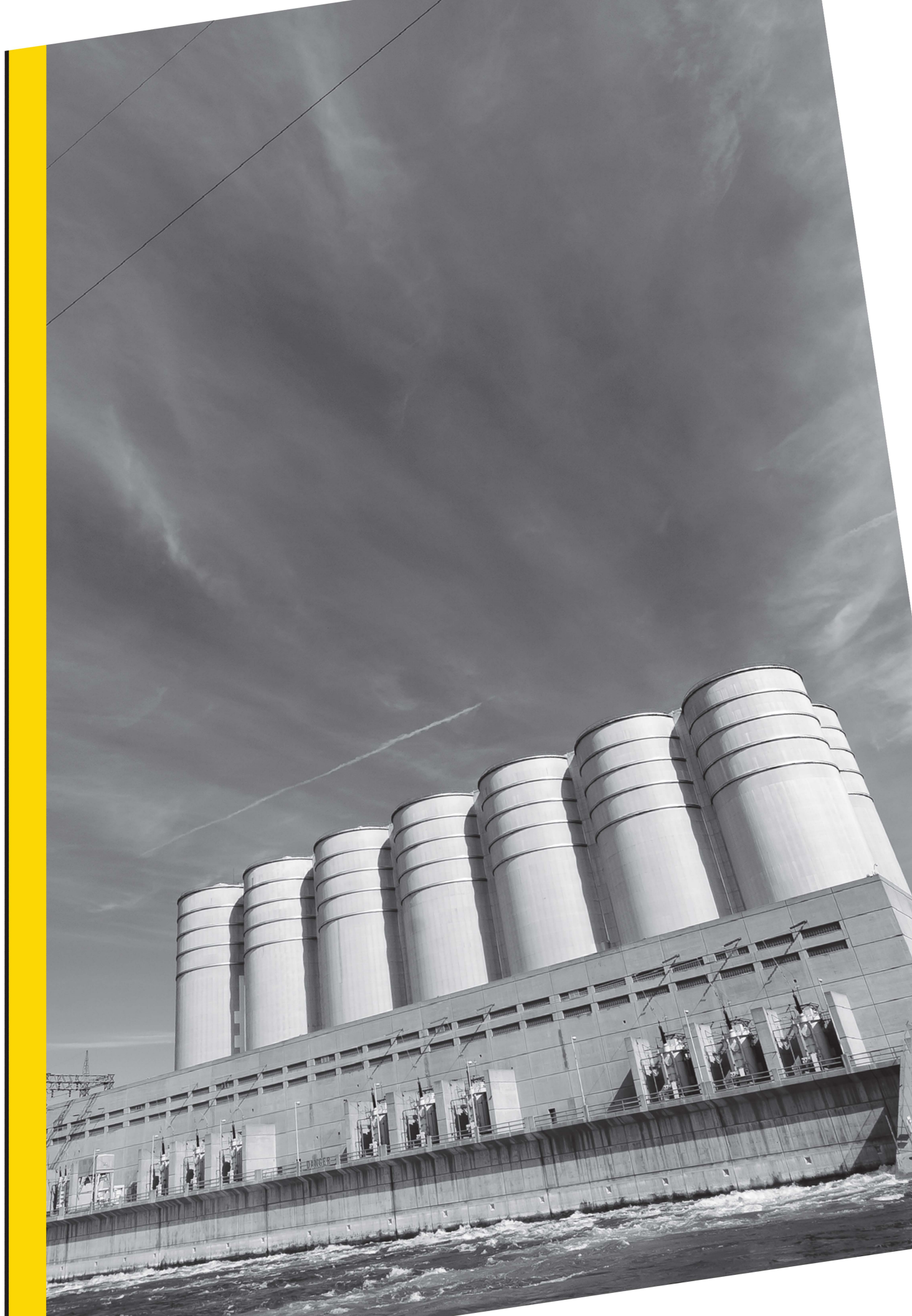


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About the Public Utilities Commission

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 the PUC. The PUC's website, www.puc.sd.gov, contains a wealth of information including audio webcasts and recordings of meetings and hearings.



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

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.



Outreach

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.



Other Duties

The PUC helps resolve disputes between customers and their utilities and operates the South Dakota Do Not Call registry. The commission also administers the natural gas pipeline safety program and licenses and inspects grain warehouses and grain buyers.

PUC INFORMATION ONLINE

In addition to regulatory information, the PUC website carries content specifically designed to inform and assist consumers.

Don't Know? Don't Answer! Right from the PUC's homepage, folks can access a plethora of tips and hints about how to avoid falling victim to a phone scam. The best defense? If you don't know the number that's calling you, don't answer the phone! Check it out at www.puc.sd.gov/scamcalls.

Life. Uninterrupted. The site, www.SDDoNotCall.com, dispenses advice about how consumers can add their personal phone numbers to the national Do Not Call Registry to reduce 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.



Chairman Gary Hanson

Joined the Commission

Gary was first elected to the PUC in 2002.

Elections

South Dakota voters re-elected Gary to continue serving on the PUC in 2008 and 2014.

Commission Leadership

Gary served as the commission's chairman in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2019 and as vice chairman in 2003, 2004, 2007, 2011, 2017 and 2018.

Experience

Gary was twice elected mayor of Sioux Falls 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 day-to-day activities for three municipal utilities. He owned several businesses before being elected to office. Gary served three terms in the South Dakota Senate, was chair of the committees of Bonding and of Government Audit and Operations, and vice chair of the Taxation Committee.

National & Regional Roles

Gary's current roles include:

- member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Electricity
- member of the NARUC's Electric Vehicle Working Group
- vice president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference
- member of the Advisory Council for New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities
- member of Organization of MISO States' Board of Directors and Committee on Conflict of Interest
- member of national Low-Income Energy Forum

Past roles include:

- served on the executive committee and as treasurer of the Organization of MISO States
- represented NARUC on the steering committee of the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative
- chairman of the South Dakota Underground Pipeline Task Force
- chairman of the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance
- member of Gov. Mike Rounds' Task Force on Wind Development
- member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Electricity
- member of South Dakota's Energy Task Force
- member of Gov. George S. Mickelson Cumulative Environmental Evaluation of Black Hills Mining Task Force
- president and chairman of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System
- president of the Sioux Falls Board of Realtors

Notable Accomplishments

Gary is co-founder of the \$650 million Lewis and Clark Regional Water System. He was also instrumental in the founding of the Multicultural Center, transformation and revitalization of Falls Park, Community Drug Concerns Task Force, Great Plains Waicipi, and endowments for the Sioux Falls Pavillion and Great Plains Zoo. While Gary was mayor of Sioux Falls, the violent crime rate was decreased every year except one.

Awards and honors received by Gary include: 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.

Learn More

For additional information about Gary Hanson, view his full biography at www.puc.sd.gov/garysbio



Vice Chairman Chris Nelson

Joined the Commission

Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed Chris to the commission on Jan. 8, 2011, to fill a vacancy.

Elections

In November 2012, South Dakota voters elected Chris to continue his service for the remaining four years of the term to which he was appointed. He was re-elected to a full term in November 2016.

Commission Leadership

Chris served as the PUC's chairman in 2012, 2015 and 2016 and as vice chairman in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2019.

Experience

Prior to joining the PUC, Chris was elected South Dakota's secretary of state in the 2002 general election. He was unopposed for re-election in 2006, which was the first time the office was unopposed in the history of South Dakota.

Before serving as 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.

National & Regional Roles

Chris' current roles include:

- member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' board of directors
- chairman of NARUC's Broadband Expansion Task Force
- co-chair of NARUC's Washington Action Program
- member of NARUC's Investment Committee
- chairman of the board of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
- member of the National Regulatory Research Institute's board of directors

Past roles include:

- chairman of NARUC's Committee on Telecommunications

Notable Accomplishments

Chris' re-election in 2016 earned him the honor of garnering the highest electoral percentage ever for a contested statewide race.

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.

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.

Education

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.

Learn More

For additional information about Chris Nelson, view his full biography at www.puc.sd.gov/chrisnelsonbio



Commissioner Kristie Fiegen

Joined the Commission

Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed Kristie Fiegen to the commission on Aug. 9, 2011, to fill a vacancy.

Elections

Kristie was elected to the commission in November 2012 and re-elected in November 2018.

Commission Leadership

Kristie served as the commission's chairperson in 2017 and 2018 and as vice chairperson in 2012, 2015 and 2016.

Experience

Prior to joining the PUC, Kristie was the president of Junior Achievement of South Dakota for 17 years. 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 the Monsanto Company.

Kristie's public service career also 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.

National & Regional Roles

Kristie's current roles include:

- member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Gas and Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety
- vice president of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee
- member of the Gas Technology Institute's Public Interest Advisory Committee
- member of the SPP RSC and OMS Seams Liaison Committee

Notable Accomplishments

Kristie was recognized as the top Junior Achievement USA President in 2008. Under her 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.

Education

Following her graduation from Parker High School, Kristie attended South Dakota State University and earned a bachelor's degree in commercial economics and agricultural business. She then went on to earn a master's degree in business administration from the University of South Dakota.

Learn More

For additional information about Kristie Fiegen, view her full biography at www.puc.sd.gov/kristiefiegen



Commissioners Kristie Fiegen, Chris Nelson and Gary Hanson host Nick Wagner, President of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, at the South Dakota State Capitol.

ABOUT OUR 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.

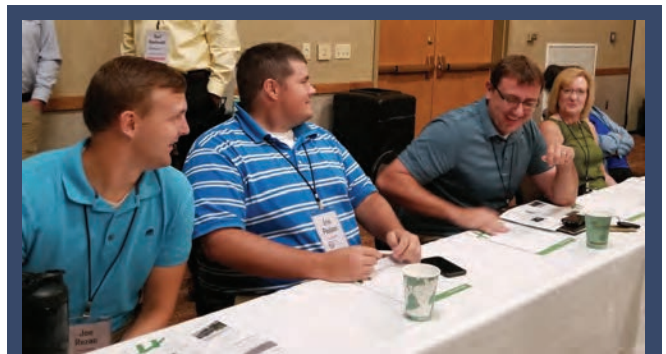
Brittany Olson serves as the **communications specialist**. She assists with the development of educational materials and news releases, meeting and event coordination, and website management.

Advising the commissioners are **Karen Cremer** and **Adam de Hueck** as **commission attorneys** and **Greg Rislov** as **commission advisor**. The attorneys also serve as hearing examiners and represent the commission in 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. **Joy Lashley** has primary responsibility for maintaining the PUC electronic docket system as well as each of the websites the commission operates. **Kaitlyn Baucom** schedules and coordinates meeting logistics, travel and training. **Macy Jo Murren** 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 math, accounting, economics, and research as well as intensive training in regulatory issues.

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 siting dockets, emerging technologies, and energy efficiency efforts. They also engage in outreach activities to consumers, industry representatives and students, and provide other docket analysis as assigned.



PUC staff members Joe Rezac, Eric Paulson, Patrick Steffensen and Karen Cremer attend the South Dakota Telecommunications Association's annual meeting. Sessions provided staff members with valuable insights on topics like upcoming broadband policies, the future demand of bandwidth and the importance of reliable telecommunications infrastructure in the development of precision ag technologies.

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 to 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.

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.

Cody Chambliss is the manager of the **Grain Warehouse Program** that works to protect property of and safeguard payments to grain producers. **Justin Blais**, **Paul Kenefick-Aschoff** and **Sarah McIntosh** conduct grain warehouse and grain buyer inspections and investigations, and review financial documents. Paul also assists with issuance of warehouse and grain buyer licenses. The warehouse staff also performs check-off audits for various grain commissions and councils.

The **Consumer Affairs Program** works with consumers 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 program's staff also coordinates the PUC's presence at home shows and the State Fair and makes group presentations as requested.



PUC commissioners and staff traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend MARC's 2019 Annual Conference in August. Conference attendees had the opportunity to take part in sessions covering a wide range of energy-related topics including energy infrastructure development, the impact of emerging technologies on electricity demands, cybersecurity and planning for the transmission requirements of tomorrow's grid.



For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

	Budget	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Encumbrance	Budget Not Expended
Administration						
Personal Services	\$1,192,445	\$346,585	\$28,836	\$778,310	\$0	\$38,714
Operating Expenses	\$188,967	\$0	\$0	\$125,320	\$2,670	\$60,977
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,381,412	\$346,585	\$28,836	\$903,630	\$2,670	\$99,691
Grain Warehouse						
Personal Services	\$273,686	\$183,824	\$0	\$82,953	\$0	\$6,909
Operating Expenses	\$83,159	\$55,811	\$0	\$1,374	\$300	\$25,674
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$356,845	\$239,635	\$0	\$84,327	\$300	\$32,583
Fixed Utility (Informational Budget)						
Personal Services	\$1,486,830	\$0	\$779	\$1,224,641	\$0	\$261,410
Operating Expenses	\$470,081	\$0	\$0	\$360,335	\$1,603	\$108,144
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,956,911	\$0	\$779	\$1,584,976	\$1,603	\$369,554
Pipeline Safety (Informational Budget)						
Personal Services	\$214,013	\$0	\$131,137	\$69,122	\$0	\$13,753
Operating Expenses	\$75,884	\$0	\$16,556	\$18,219	\$1,313	\$39,796
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$289,897	\$0	\$147,693	\$87,341	\$1,313	\$53,550
One Call Notification (Informational Budget)						
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$928,940	\$0	\$1,674	\$813,901	\$0	\$113,366
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$928,940	\$0	\$1,674	\$813,901	\$0	\$113,366
Do Not Call Registry						
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$32,977	\$0	\$0	\$15,652	\$0	\$17,325
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$32,977	\$0	\$0	\$15,652	\$0	\$17,325
Gross Receipts Tax Fund Revenues & Fees						
Gross Receipts Tax*	\$1,788,824			Grain and Warehouse Licenses*		\$100,450
Application Fees	\$1,750			Check Off Audits		\$11,900
Interest Earned	\$36,859			Interest Earned		\$2,172
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,827,433			TOTAL GRAIN WAREHOUSE REVENUE		\$114,522

* Includes Fines/Penalties




ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission looks after the interests of South Dakotans as related to electric and natural gas issues. Actions taken and decisions made 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 electric transmission facilities. The components of this priority affect South Dakotans in terms of reliability and cost of their electric and natural gas services.

The PUC uses several measures to gauge the agency's effectiveness at handling these issues. Here is a look at the PUC's electric and natural gas work in 2019.

Electric and Natural Gas Rate Changes and Adjustments

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

AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY RATES		Electric Measurement per kWh, 2019
 SD South Dakota		11.58 cents
 West North Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota)		11.87 cents
 USA United States		13.04 cents

In May, the PUC approved an 8.75% rate of return on equity allowing **Otter Tail Power Co.** to increase customer base rates and generate approximately \$2.21 million in additional annual revenues. This action was the culmination of a year-long analysis of Otter Tail Power's rate increase request. The commission had previously approved a settlement stipulation resolving most issues in March. On March 26, an evidentiary hearing was held in Pierre to address the remaining issue of rate of return on equity. Otter Tail argued for a 10.3% rate of return on equity while PUC staff recommended a rate of 8.25%. The company's last general rate increase was approved by the commission in April of 2011. The company cited significant system investments and increased operations and maintenance costs as the need to raise rates.

In early May, the commission approved an annual update to **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s** infrastructure rider rate. The update approved a 2019 revenue requirement of \$787,715, authorized the inclusion of the Thunder Spirit Wind Expansion in North Dakota and approved Montana-Dakota's request to increase the tariff rate to \$0.00583 per kWh. On May 22, MDU filed for approval to again revise its infrastructure rider rate to include recovery of the Bowdle Substation project. The PUC authorized Montana-Dakota to charge a revised infrastructure rider rate of \$0.00774 per kWh in June.

In August, the PUC approved **Otter Tail Power Co.'s** initial phase-in rider rate with a "percent-of-bill" phase-in rider factor of 3.345% and an annual revenue requirement of \$863,665. This decision allowed Otter Tail to recover costs for its Merricourt Wind and Astoria Station projects and forecasted net benefits associated with additional load in the Lake Norden area. As a result, a typical residential electric customer using 1,000 kWh per month would see a monthly bill increase of \$2.43.

Electric and Natural Gas Rate Changes and Adjustments continued...

The commission approved an update to **Xcel Energy's** infrastructure rider factor in December. The change would add an approximate \$1.51 to an average residential customer's monthly bill and allow Xcel Energy to recover the cost of 69 previously approved projects plus three new projects.

The commission processed several transmission cost recovery tariff requests with these results:

In February, **Otter Tail Power Co.'s** TCR rider rate was approved by the commission. In September, the commission approved an updated TCR rider rate due to a company oversight in the calculation of its transmission rate base in its recently completed rate case. The updated rate allows a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month a cumulative monthly bill increase of approximately \$2.85.

In March, an updated TCR rider rate for **MidAmerican Energy** was approved. The updated rate covers allowed costs related to the MISO's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Transmission Rate Schedules 10, 10-FERC, 26, and 26-A. The \$395,144 approved revenue requirement translates roughly to a \$0.05 monthly bill decrease for a typical residential customer's bill averaging 700 kWh per month.

In May, **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s** updated TCR rider rate was approved by the commission. The updated rate reflects the 2019 recovery period that includes the Ellendale to Leola Transmission Project, transmission service costs for the MISO and Southwest Power Pool and revenue from the use of company facilities in MISO and SPP markets. The \$779,203 approved revenue requirement translates roughly to a \$0.26 monthly bill decrease for a typical residential customer's bill averaging 853 kWh per month.

In December, the commission approved **Xcel Energy's** request to update its TCR rate to allow recovery of over \$6.5 million related to 19 transmission projects and costs associated with MISO's Schedule 26 expenses. An average residential customer using 750 kWh per month saw a monthly decrease on their bill of approximately \$0.01.

Energy Efficiency

The commission approved updates to energy efficiency and conservation programs. In 2019, the estimated energy savings for all investor-owned utilities were 26,849 megawatt hours of electricity and 22,862 dekatherms of natural gas.

Black Hills Energy eliminated the heat pump component of the Residential High Efficiency HVAC program in its Energy Efficiency Solutions plan.

Otter Tail Power Co. continued its Energy Efficiency Plan in 2019. The commission approved the 2018 financial incentive, 2018 Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report, and the revised Energy Efficiency Adjustment factor.

Xcel Energy's 2020 Demand Side Management plan included adjustments to LED-related rebates for residential and business lighting programs. Additionally, the Residential Saver's Switch program was renamed Residential Demand Response and two new residential programs were added. The AC Rewards program, which customers may opt out of, is a new load management program that allows Xcel to control AC usage at peak times. The new heat pump water heater program will offer customers a rebate for upgrading to a more efficient water heater.

Complaints

The commission continued processing a complaint received from **Energy of Utah, LLC** against **Black Hills Energy** for a determination of avoided cost pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978. The complaint, relating to a planned 80-megawatt solar facility in Fall River County, was filed with the PUC in September of 2018.

Federal Tax Cuts & Jobs Act Refunds

In February, the commission approved **Black Hills Energy's** proposal for a second, one-time credit of \$849,631. Customers received the credit on their February 2019 bills. This second refund was made to true up the company's 2018 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act customer benefit.

In May, **MidAmerican Energy Co.** agreed to refund \$3,308,988 to its South Dakota natural gas customers and \$921,476 to its electric customers. Additionally, the company agreed to base rate reductions that will reduce natural gas rates by \$1,205,376 and electric rates by \$359,811. The settlement negotiated by PUC staff also included a revision to the energy cost adjustment related to the company's production tax credits in consideration of the reduced federal income tax rate. This action was the latest in the commission's ongoing **Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** investigation.

Since July 2018, the commission has approved **\$28.8 million** in refunds to electric and natural gas customers served by Black Hills Energy, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., MidAmerican Energy, NorthWestern Energy and Xcel Energy, along with an additional **\$10.5 million** in ongoing annual base rate reductions for electric and natural gas customers served by Black Hills Energy, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and MidAmerican Energy.

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 2019 scores compared to National 2018 median score

Sixteen 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.



Commissioner Kristie Fiegen visits about Southwest Power Pool topics with Mark Gabriel, Western Area Power Administration's Chief Executive Officer.

Siting

In February, the PUC approved a settlement agreement from **Crowned Ridge Wind II** and PUC staff for a permit to construct a 5-mile, 230-kV **transmission line** and associated facilities in Codington County. The purpose of the project is to connect the Crowned Ridge Wind II wind farm to a second transmission line at the Crowned Ridge Wind I collector substation. Crowned Ridge filed its application in April of 2018. A public input hearing was held in Waverly in May 2018. Construction of the transmission line was completed in 2019.

In April, the **South Dakota 1st Circuit Court affirmed** the commission's decision to grant a permit to construct Prevailing Wind Park, a 219.6-megawatt wind energy facility to be built in Bon Homme, Charles Mix and Hutchinson counties. The PUC's decision had been appealed by Gregg and Marsha Hubner of Avon, South Dakota. Construction on the wind farm began on April 22, 2019, and is ongoing. On May 15, 2019, the commission accepted a settlement for a civil penalty due to the company commencing construction earlier than provided by the permit.

In February, the PUC approved a settlement agreement from **Dakota Range III** and PUC staff for a permit to construct an 8-mile, 345-kV transmission line and up to 151.2-megawatt wind energy facility in Grant and Roberts counties. The project will include up to 32 wind turbines spread across 18,717 acres and is expected to be in service by the end of 2020. Dakota Range filed its application with the PUC on Oct. 26, 2018, and a public input hearing was held in Summit in December 2018.

In May, the commission granted a permit, with more than 40 conditions, to construct the **Deuel Harvest North Wind Farm**, a 310.1-megawatt wind energy facility and associated facilities in Deuel County. The wind farm will include up to 112 wind turbines, a 345-kV transmission line and a 345-kV interconnection substation in Glenwood Township. Deuel Harvest filed its application with the PUC on Nov. 30, 2018. A public input hearing was held in Clear Lake in January and a four-day evidentiary hearing was held in Pierre in April. Seven intervenors were active participants in the proceeding and evidentiary hearing. In October 2019, Deuel Harvest filed notice that construction of the wind farm would commence on or after Nov. 4, 2019. As of the end of 2019, construction on this project remained underway.

Continued processing **Lookout Solar Park's** application for a permit to construct a 110-megawatt solar energy conversion facility with up to 500,000 solar panels in Oglala Lakota County. Lookout Solar filed its application with the commission in December 2018. A public input hearing was held in Hermosa in February. The company, along with PUC staff, filed a settlement stipulation for consideration by the commission in December.

A permit to construct **Crowned Ridge Wind Farm**, an up to 300-megawatt wind energy facility in Grant and Codington counties, was granted by the PUC in July. The project will include up to 130 wind turbines and associated facilities spread across a 53,186-acre project area. The company, who has entered into a power purchase agreement with Northern States Power Co. to sell the full output of the project, plans to utilize the Crowned Ridge 34-mile 230-kV generation tie line to interconnect at the Big Stone South 230-kV substation. The commission received Crowned Ridge's application in January, held a public input hearing in Waverly in March and held a two-day evidentiary hearing in Pierre in June. Five intervenors participated in this docket. In August, the commission's decision was appealed to the **South Dakota 3rd Circuit Court** by intervenors Amber Christenson, Allen Robish, Kristi Mogen, Patrick Lynch and Melissa Lynch. A civil suit related to the project was also filed by Timothy and Linda Lindgren in the same circuit court. A hearing was held in Watertown in December regarding the PUC's motion to dismiss the Lindgren appeal, at which time the circuit court granted the motion to dismiss the case. A decision on the intervenor appeal is expected in 2020. Construction of the project occurred in 2019 and it became operational in January 2020.

The PUC approved a settlement stipulation between **Black Hills Energy** and PUC staff and granted a permit to construct a 0.7-mile 230 kV **transmission line** and associated facilities in Pennington County. In addition to the 230-kV transmission line, the project will include a substation at the location of the former Ben French Power Plant on the northeast side of Rapid City. Black Hills Energy filed its application with the PUC in February. A public input hearing was held in Rapid City in March. The project was completed and placed into service in the fall of 2019.

Siting continued...

In July, the PUC granted a permit to construct with 41 conditions to **Triple H Wind Project**, a wind energy facility capable of generating up to 250.54 megawatts of energy in Hyde County. The project will include up to 92 wind turbines and associated facilities located on 27,247.5 acres approximately 3.2 miles southwest of Highmore. The company filed its application with the commission in February and a public input hearing was held in Highmore in March. In May, the commission approved a settlement agreement presented by Triple H and PUC staff addressing all issues except for funding for decommissioning, risk associated with ice throw and risk to whooping cranes. Parties presented the remaining issues for commission ruling at an evidentiary hearing held in late June. Construction of the project commenced on Aug. 8, 2019, and is ongoing.

In July, the commission approved a permit, with 45 conditions, for the construction of the **Sweetland Wind Farm**. The 200-megawatt wind energy facility will include up to 71 wind turbines in a 20,979-acre area in Hand County. Other components of the project will include a 6.44-mile, 230-kV generation tie-in transmission facility, access roads, an operations and maintenance facility, up to four meteorological towers, underground 34.5-kV electrical collector lines, underground fiber optic cable, a collection substation, a switchyard and additional temporary construction areas. Sweetland Wind Farm filed its application with the PUC on March 6, 2019. A public input hearing was held in Miller in April. One intervenor participated in the docket.

In October, the commission approved a settlement agreement between **Tatanka Ridge Wind Project** and PUC staff, except for conditions 26 and 36 of the settlement regarding noise levels and ice monitoring, and also reserved the protection of whooping cranes for consideration during an evidentiary hearing. An evidentiary hearing was held in early November. The PUC approved a permit with 41 conditions to construct the Tatanka Ridge Wind Project in Deuel County in late November. The wind energy facility will include up to 56 wind turbines capable of generating up to 155 megawatts of energy. Tatanka Ridge filed its application with the PUC in June. A public input hearing was held in Toronto in August.



Commissioners listen to public comments and concerns regarding the Triple H Wind Project during a public input meeting held in Highmore in March. Triple H filed its application for a permit to construct the 250-megawatt project in February and received approval from the commission for a permit in July.

Territory Boundary Agreements

The commission processed four electric service territory boundary agreements to verify electric territory mapping data for conversion to electronic format and use in a Geographic Information System database. The GIS database can be found at www.puc.sd.gov/energy/electricmaps.

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 telecommunications 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 PUC uses several measures to gauge the agency's effectiveness at handling these issues. Here is a look at the commission's telecommunications work in 2019.

CenturyLink Service

In October, the PUC met with South Dakota CenturyLink subscribers from the Valentine, Nebraska, exchange to discuss future improvements to the CenturyLink telephone system and provision of broadband internet in the area. The discussion included members of the Nebraska Public Service Commission and CenturyLink representatives in an effort to provide a better understanding among all parties of the scope and timing of planned upgrades in the area. A similar meeting was held in the fall of 2018.

Broadband Deployment

While the commission does not have a statutory duty related to broadband service, it recognizes the importance of broadband availability to South Dakotans and advocates for the expansion of advanced telecommunications services. The Federal Communications Commission tracks broadband deployment through an Annual Broadband Progress Report. The report describes telecommunications deployment according to census blocks. The information is updated annually to reflect changes in population and the construction of new homes. The PUC uses this information to track broadband expansion in the state.

Measurement, for reporting year ending June 30, 2019

New census blocks that meet 10 mbps download speed: 7,822

New census blocks that meet 25 mbps download speed: 8,741

Universal Service Fund

Thirty 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. Each year, the commission must certify to the Federal Communications Commission that these carriers, designated as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers 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. The Universal Service Administration Co. estimates South Dakota carriers invested more than \$60 million in USF monies in South Dakota in 2019.

Wireless

Monitored the actions and results as new wireless telecommunications sites were launched by companies at a number of locations including those in or near Beresford, Britton, Canton, Clark, Clear Lake, Colman, Colome, Crazy Horse, Edgemont, Faith, Fort Pierre, Freeman, Gann Valley, Gettysburg, Hayti, Highmore, Hot Springs, Huron, Ipswich, Kadoka, Ludlow, Mitchell, Mound City, Mud Butte, Okaton, Pierre, Pringle, Redfield, Sioux Falls, St. Francis, Sturgis, Wagner, Wicksville and Winner. Wireless companies also made numerous network enhancements throughout the state.

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.

Here is a look at the commission's pipeline safety work in 2019.

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, 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, 2019

Inspections: 145 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.

Measurement, 2019

Audit score: 100%

Federal Certification

PUC staff members involved in pipeline safety inspection are required to complete seven training courses to become certified pipeline safety inspectors. Additional training is required for certification to conduct specialty inspections for 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, 2019

PUC inspectors are fully certified to conduct all inspections.



PUC Chairman Gary Hanson visits with South Dakota consumers about the purpose and services of the PUC at the commission's booth at the South Dakota State Fair.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE

Monitoring the South Dakota grain industry is a significant responsibility of the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC Warehouse Program licenses and inspects state-licensed grain storage warehouses, federally-licensed grain storage warehouses holding state grain-buyer licenses, and 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 staff works to reduce producer risk by reviewing grain buyer and grain warehouse financial statements throughout the year and by performing regular on-site inspections. The PUC uses three main categories, inspections, licenses and license revocations, to measure its effectiveness in the grain industry, plus other major happenings in the PUC's grain program in 2019.

Inspections

Inspections ensure compliance with statutes and rules related to the licensing and bonding requirements for grain warehouses and grain buyers. The number of inspections describes the penetration of the program's review process. State law requires that each licensed facility receive one inspection each year. The current PUC inspection process typically results in each facility being inspected once every six to nine months.

Measurement, 2019

Grain warehouse and grain buyer inspections: 476 inspections at 282 licensed facilities

Licenses

The PUC issues licenses for grain buyers and 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, 2019

- Class A Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that use voluntary credit sale contracts or exceed \$5,000,000 in annual purchases): 116 entities with 289 locations.
- Class B Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that do not use voluntary credit sale contracts and do not exceed \$5,000,000 in annual purchases): 60 entities with 61 locations.
- State Warehouse Licenses (entities that store grain for hire): 51 entities with 70 locations; one out-of-state.
- Federal Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the USDA to store grain for hire): 34 entities with 150 locations; 14 out-of-state locations maintain a South Dakota grain buyer license.
- Processors (entities that purchase grain for the purpose of processing it into other products): 25 entities with 34 locations; 11 out-of-state locations 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): 15 entities with 17 locations; two out-of-state locations.
- Truck (entities that are primarily trucking companies with no grain handling facility but purchase grain for the purpose of resale): 13 entities with five in-state and eight out-of-state locations.
- Brokers (entities that purchase grain but do not take physical possession of the grain): 40 entities with five in-state and 37 out-of-state 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. Though the commission works diligently to minimize the risk to producers, some license revocations cannot be avoided.

Measurement, 2019

License Revocations: None

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:

Consumer Complaints & Assistance

Assisted consumers on nearly 1,261 occasions with issues and complaints related to electric, natural gas, telecommunications (including wireless), pipeline siting, energy efficiency and other utility-related topics.

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, 2019
Complaints resolved within a month: 97%

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 PUC staff's negotiation and mediation skills.

Measurement, 2019
Formal consumer complaints: One

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, 2019
South Dakota telephone numbers on Do Not Call Registry: 689,706 (1.29% increase)

Public Outreach

PUC commissioners and staff visited with nearly 4,900 consumers about the purpose and service of the PUC at **spring home shows** in Sioux Falls and Rapid City and at the **South Dakota State Fair**.

LEADERSHIP

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners hold a number of leadership roles with national and regional organizations. Here is a look at their roles in 2019.

South Dakota PUC

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen took the oath of office in January to mark the beginning of a second six-year term on the commission.

Commissioners selected **Commissioner Gary Hanson** to serve as PUC chairman and **Commissioner Chris Nelson** to serve as vice chairman.

Mid-America Regulatory Conference

Commissioner Gary Hanson was elected to serve as vice president of the **Mid-America Regulatory Conference**. MARC is an association of regional organizations of utility and energy regulatory agencies from 14 states: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Commissioner Chris Nelson was appointed to serve on the Investment Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, continued his work on NARUC's board of directors and the board of the National Regulatory Research Institute, was appointed co-chair of the Washington Action Program and served on the group's Committee on Telecommunications.

Southwest Power Pool

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen was elected vice president of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee. The committee provides state regulatory agency input related to the development and operation of regional bulk electric transmission in 14 states in the central U.S.

Speaking Engagements

Chairman Gary Hanson shared his expertise on a number of occasions, speaking to local groups and national gatherings including the South Dakota State Federation of Labor, Center for Public Utilities Current Issues conference, Mid-America Regulatory Conference annual meeting, and the Brookings Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Vice Chairman Chris Nelson participated in a number of speaking engagements throughout the year, providing updates and education to various groups about the PUC. Among the organizations and events he addressed were students from Newell, Chamberlain and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; South Dakota Ag Expo; South Dakota Rural Electric Association managers; Dakota Valley Business Council; South Dakota State Federation of Labor; Center for Public Utilities Current Issues; telecommunications company managers; Pierre Rotary Club; Rural Broadband Teleforum; and annual meetings of Black Hills Electric Co-op, Mid-America Regulatory Conference, South Dakota Telecommunications Association, Butte Electric Co-op, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen engaged in numerous outreach activities to youth, informing them of the work of the PUC and offering education about government and leadership. She met with students from Newell, Chamberlain, Parker, New Tech High School in Sioux Falls, TeenPact, and Boys State. She also presented to the South Dakota State Federation of Labor and at a USDA Rural Broadband ReConnect program event.

LEGISLATION

Occasionally, the commission finds that current South Dakota laws are in need of modification or clarification and makes efforts to update legislation. In 2019, the PUC proposed the following changes.

Energy Facilities Siting Legislation

The commission introduced legislation revising statutes relating to permitting energy facilities. **Senate Bill 15** defined solar energy facilities, established certain provisions regarding solar energy permits and specified that all wind and solar energy facilities permitted by the PUC be subject to a nine-month siting period.

Decommissioning Legislation

Legislation was passed to enable the commission to require financial security for the decommissioning of wind turbines.



Chairman Gary Hanson and Finance Manager Cindy Kemnitz present the PUC budget to the Appropriations Committee during the 2019 Legislative Session.



Commissioner Chris Nelson meets with other members of NARUC's Washington Action Program. The program serves as NARUC's barometer on the utility-related activities in and throughout the nation's capital and provides a framework for improving the credibility, visibility and effectiveness of NARUC before Congress, the executive branch, the media and with other stakeholder organizations. Nelson, who was appointed co-chair of the program in December 2018, is pictured with Commissioner Daniel C. Scripps of the Michigan Public Service Commission and fellow Co-chair ToNola D. Brown-Bland of the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

2019 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

The commission has territory, complaint and quality of service authority over all natural gas, electric and telecommunications utilities operating within South Dakota. Certain utilities are exempt from the commission's rate regulation. They include municipal, rural electric cooperatives and small, independent and cooperative telephone companies. The commission retains the 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	\$ 1,218,328
Telecommunications Companies	\$ 547,526

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

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.

#

365 Wireless LLC (withdrew COA 11/19)
800 Response Information Services LLC

A

Access One Inc.
Access Point Inc. (withdrew COA 04/19)
AccessLine Communications Corp. dba Voice
Telco Services
ACN Communications Services Inc.
Affinity Network Inc.
Airespring Inc.
Airus Inc.
Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.
Alliance Global Networks LLC
American Telecommunications Systems Inc.
AmeriVision Communications Inc. dba LifeLine
Communications dba Affinity 4
ANPI LLC
AT&T Corp.

B

BCN Telecom Inc.
BEK Communications Cooperative
Birch Communications Inc.
Blackfoot Communications Inc.
Broadband Dynamics LLC
Broadsmart Global Inc.
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC
Broadwing Communications LLC
BullsEye Telecom Inc.
Business Network Long Distance Inc.
Business Telecom LLC dba Earthlink Business

C

Callcatchers Inc. dba Freedom Voice Systems
(withdrew COA 10/19)
CBTS Technology Solutions LLC
Central Telecom Long Distance Inc.
CenturyLink Communications LLC

Long Distance Telephone Companies (continued)

C continued

CenturyLink Public Communications Inc.
 Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
 Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband
 ComApp Technologies LLC
 Combined Public Communications LLC
 Comcast Phone of South Dakota LLC
 Communications Network Billing Inc.
 Communication Venture Corp. dba INdigital
 COMTECH 21 LLC
 Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services Inc.
 Consolidated Communications Networks Inc.
 Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured Technologies Inc.
 Consumer Telcom Inc.
 Convergia Inc.
 Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
 Crown Castle Fiber LLC
 CSDVRS LLC
 Custom Teleconnect Inc.

D

DeltaCom LLC dba EarthLink Business
 dishNet Wireline LLC

E

EarthLink Business LLC
 Easton Telecom Services LLC
 Education Networks of America Inc.
 Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba ECG LLC and Boom Mobile
 EnTelegent Solutions Inc.
 Express Communications Inc.

F

City of Faith Telephone Co. dba Faith
 Municipal Telephone Co. FiberComm LC
 First Choice Technology Inc.
 First Communications LLC
 France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC
 Frontier Communications of America Inc.
 Fusion LLC fka Network Billing Systems LLC

G

GC Pivotal LLC dba Global Capacity
 Global Crossing Telecommunications Inc.
 Global Tel*Link Corp.
 GoDaddy.com LLC
 Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative dba Golden West Telecommunications
 Granite Telecommunications LLC
 Greenfly Networks Inc. dba Clearly Communications

H

Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa

I

IDT America Corp.
 inContact Inc.
 Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions
 Integrated Services Inc.

J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co. dba James Valley Telecommunications
 Jefferson Telephone LLC dba Long Lines

K

KDDI America Inc.

L

LCR Telecommunications LLC
 Legacy Long Distance International Inc.
 Level 3 Communications LLC
 Level 3 Telecom Data Services LLC
 Lingo Communications North LLC
 Long Lines Metro LLC

M

MAGICJACK SMB Inc.
 Magna5 LLC
 Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business Technologies, Trinsic Communications, VarTec Telecom, Excel Telecommunications, Impact Telecom, Americatel, Lingo
 MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC
 MCI Communications Services Inc. dba Verizon Business Services
 MCI metro 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
 Midstate Communications Inc.
 Mitel Cloud Services Inc. (withdrew COA 08/19)
 Mobilitie LLC
 Multiline Long Distance Inc.

N

National Access Long Distance Inc.
 Nationwide Long Distance Services Inc.
 Native American Telecom LLC
 Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications Inc.

Long Distance Telephone Companies (continued)

N

Netwolves Network Services LLC
 Network Communications International Corp.
 dba NCIC Inmate Communications
 Network Innovations Inc.
 Network Service Billing Inc.
 NetworkIP LLC dba Elite Telecom
 Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC
 New Horizons Communications Corp.
 NextGen Communications Inc.
 NGA 911 LLC
 North Dakota Long Distance LLC
 Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co.
 Northern Valley Communications LLC
 NOS Communications Inc.
 NOSVA Limited Partnership

O

Onvoy LLC
 Operator Service Co. LLC (*withdrew COA 11/19*)
 Opex Communications Inc.

P

PaeTec Communications Inc.
 Pay Tel Communications Inc.
 Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC
 PNG Telecommunications Inc.
 Premier Communications Inc.
 Public Communications Services Inc.

Q

QuantumShift Communications Inc. dba Vcom
 Solutions
 Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

R

RC Technologies
 Reduced Rate Long Distance LLC
 Reliance Telephone Inc.
 Reliant Communications Inc. (*withdrew COA 11/19*)

S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba Truconnect
 (*withdrew COA 03/19*)
 Santel Communications Cooperative
 SBC Long Distance LLC dba AT&T Long Distance
 Securus Technologies Inc.
 Spectrotel Inc. dba OneTouch Communications
 dba Touch Base Communications
 Sprint Communications Co. LP
 Stratus Networks Inc.

T

Talk America Services LLC
 TDS Long Distance Corp.
 Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
 Televergence Solutions Inc.
 Telrite Corp.
 Three River Telco
 TIME CLOCK SOLUTIONS LLC
 Time Warner Cable Business LLC
 Toly Digital Networks Inc.
 Total Holdings Inc. dba GTC Communications dba
 ETC Long Distance
 TouchTone Communications Inc.

U

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

V

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

W

West Safety Communications Inc.
 West Telecom Services LLC
 Wide Voice LLC
 WiTel Communications LLC
 WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services
 Windstream Communications LLC
 Windstream KDL LLC.
 Windstream Norlight LLC
 Windstream NTI LLC
 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 contract, a connection to long distance or local services from such places as hotels, motels, hospitals, correctional facilities and campuses. The following operator service providers are authorized to do business in South Dakota.

C

CenturyLink Public Communications
ComApp Technologies LLC
Combined Public Communications LLC
Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured Technologies Inc.
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

G

Global Tel*Link Corp.

I

Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions

L

Legacy Long Distance International Inc.

N

Network Communications International Corp.
dba NCIC Inmate Communications

O

Operator Service Co. LLC (withdrew COA 11/19)

P

Pay Tel Communications Inc.
Public Communications Services Inc.

R

Reliance Telephone 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 25) 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 (withdrew COA 10/19)

A

Access Point Inc. (withdrew COA 03/19)
ACN Communications Services LLC
Airespring Inc.
Airus Inc.
ANPI Business LLC
ANPI LLC
AT&T Corp.
ATV Holdings LLC dba Mitchell Telecom

B

Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC
BCN Telecom Inc.
BEK Communications Cooperative
Birch Communications Inc.
Blackfoot Communications Inc.
BlueBird Communications SD LLC
Broadsmart Global Inc.
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC
BullsEye Telecom Inc.

C

CBTS Technology Solutions LLC
CenturyLink Communications LLC
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband
Common Point LLC (withdrew COA 12/19)
Communications Venture Corp. dba INdigital
COMTECH21 LLC
Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services Inc.
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
Crown Castle Fiber LLC

D

dishNet Wireline LLC

E

EarthLink Business LLC
Education Networks of America Inc.
eNetworks LLC
EnTelegent Solutions Inc.
ExteNet Systems Inc.

Competitive Local Exchange Companies (continued)

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.
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC)

L

Level 3 Communications LLC
Level 3 Telecom Data Services LLC
Lingo Communications North LLC
Long Lines Metro LLC

M

MAGICJACK SMB Inc.
Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business
Technologies, Trinsic Communications, VarTec
Telecom, Excel Telecommunications, Impact
Telecom, Americatel, Lingo
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
Midstate Communications Inc.
Mitel Cloud Services Inc. (*withdrew COA 08/19*)
Mobilitie LLC
Mobilitie Management LLC

N

Native American Telecom LLC
Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications Inc.
NetFortris Acquisition Co. Inc.
Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC
New Horizons Communications Corp.
NextGen Communications Inc.
NGA 911 LLC
Northern Valley Communications LLC
NOS Communications Inc.

O

Onvoy LLC

P

Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC

Q

QuantumShift Communications Inc. dba Vcom
Solutions

R

RC Technologies

S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba Truconnect
(*withdrew COA 03/19*)
South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN Communications
Spectrotel Inc. dba OneTouch Communications dba
Touch Base Communications
Sprint Communications Co. LP
SQF LLC

T

Talk America Services LLC
Teleport Communications America LLC
TIME CLOCK SOLUTIONS LLC

V

Valley Communications Inc. dba Valley FiberCom
Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever Inc.
Vesta Solutions Inc.

W

West Safety Communications Inc.
West Telecom Services LLC
Wide Voice LLC
Windstream KDL LLC
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 (*withdrew 11/19*)

A

Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.
Alltel Communications LLC
American Messaging Services LLC

B

Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless
Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel
Communications

C

China Unicom (Americas) Operations Limited
Comcast OTR1 LLC
CommNet Cellular Inc.
Consumer Cellular Inc.
Cricket Wireless LLC
CSC Wireless LLC dba Altice Mobile

D

Databytes Inc.

E

Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba
Boom Mobile
Excellus Communications LLC

F

FiberComm LC
Flash Wireless LLC

G

Gabb Wireless Inc.
Global Connection Inc. of America (*withdrew 11/19*)
Google North America Inc.
Granite Telecommunications LLC

H

Hello Mobile Telecom LLC

I

IM Telecom dba Infiniti Mobile
Iowa Wireless Services dba iWireless (*withdrew 05/19*)
i-wireless LLC

J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co. dba
James Valley Telecommunications
James Valley Wireless

K

Kajeet Inc.
KDDI America Inc.
Konatel Inc. dba Telecon.mobi (*withdrew 07/19*)

L

Locus Telecommunications LLC
Lunar Labs Inc. dba Lunar Wireless
Lycamobile USA

M

Midstate Communications Inc.
Mint Mobile LLC
Mitel Cloud Services Inc. (*withdrew 08/19*)
Mobi Inc.

N

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

O

OnStar LLC
Onvoy Spectrum LLC

P

Patriot Mobile LLC
Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC
PNG Telecommunications Inc.
Puretalk Holdings Inc.

R

Ready Wireless LLC dba Affinity Cellular and dba
Club Cellular
Republic Wireless Inc.
ROK Mobile Inc. (*withdrew 11/19*)
Rural Cellular Corp.

S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba Truconnect
SelectTel Inc. dba SelectTel Wireless
Soehl Electronics Inc. dba Vantek Communications
SoTel Systems LLC
Sprint Spectrum LP dba Sprint PCS
Stream Communications LLC
STS Media Inc. dba FreedomPop

Wireless Companies (continued)

T

T C Telephone LLC dba Horizon Cellular
Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
Tempo Telecom LLC
The Peoples Operator USA LLC
Ting Inc.
T-Mobile Central LLC dba T-Mobile USA Inc.
The Light Phone Inc.
TracFone Wireless Inc.
Truphone Inc.

U

US Mobile LLC
UVNV Inc.

V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative
Association Inc.
Virgin Mobile USA LP
Visible Service LLC
Vodafone US Inc. dba Vodafone Americas

W

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

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 22) 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

K

Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc.

Q

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

MUNICIPALS

B

City of Beresford dba Beresford Municipal
Telephone Co.
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone Co.

F

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

COOPERATIVES

A

Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.

G

Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative dba
Golden West Telecommunications

I

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC)

J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co. dba James
Valley Telecommunications

M

Midstate Communications Inc.

R

RC Technologies

S

Santel Communications Cooperative

T

TrioTel Communications Inc.

V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative
Association Inc.
Venture Communications Cooperative

W

West River Cooperative Telephone Co.

Local Telephone Companies (continued)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CARRIERS

C

Citizens Telecommunications Company of
Minnesota LLC
Consolidated Telcom Inc.

D

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative

F

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.

G

Great Plains Communications LLC

H

Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa

N

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co.

Q

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

R

Red River Rural Telephone Association
RT Communications Inc.

T

Three River Telco

V

Valley Telephone Co.

W

West River Telecommunications Cooperative

Other Telecommunications Companies

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

S

South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN
Communications

Y

YMax Communications Corp.

T

Teleport Communications America LLC



Commissioner Chris Nelson speaks with U.S. Sen. John Thune and FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr following a Sioux Falls broadband hearing that examined the innovations high-speed broadband services bring to rural America and explored the need to bring additional reliable broadband connectivity in rural America.

2019 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

Type	Filed	Completed	Pending as of 12/31/19
Administrative Items	2	2	0
Civil	2	0	2
Complaint	1	0	1
Electric	43	31	12
Gas & Electric	4	4	0
Grain Warehouse	2	2	0
Natural Gas	12	9	3
Pipeline Safety	1	1	0
Rulemaking	1	0	1
Telecommunications	52	47	5
TOTALS	120	96	24

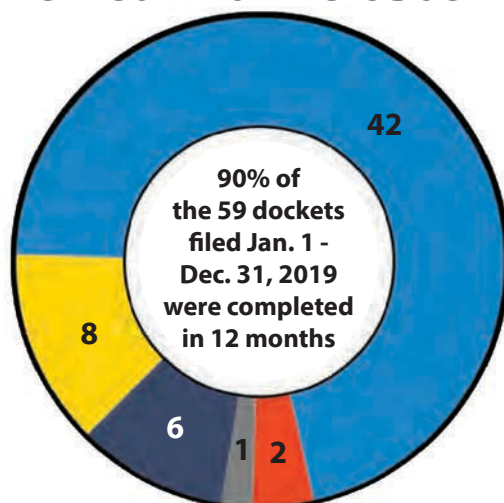
Dockets closed between Jan. 1, 2020, and the publication date of this report (Spring 2020) are noted in parentheses.

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

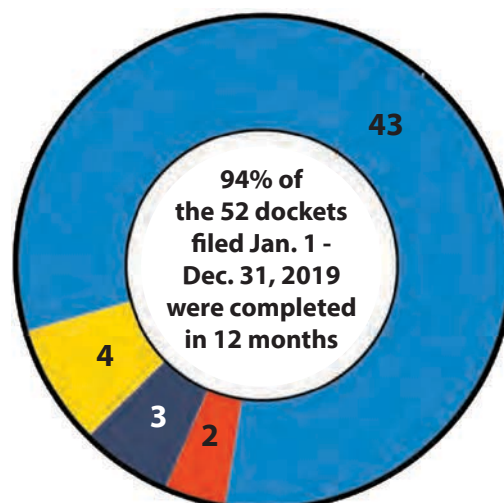
COMPLETED DOCKETS

The number of 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 and telecommunications dockets within 12 months of a docket being filed.

ELECTRIC & NATURAL GAS DOCKETS



TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS



Administrative Items

AA19-001 - In the Matter of Clarification of the Commission's ETC Certification Process
Date Filed: 03/07/19 • Completed: 05/14/19

AA19-002 - Establishment of the Gross Receipts Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2020
Date Filed: 04/02/19 • Completed: 05/01/19

Civil Dockets

14CIV19-290 - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant and Codington Counties
Date Filed: 08/19/19 • Pending

14CIV19-303 - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant and Codington Counties (Lindgren v. Codington County et. al)
Date Filed: 08/29/19 • Pending

Complaint Dockets

CE19-001 - In the Matter of the Complaint Filed by the City of North Sioux City and North Sioux City Economic Development Corporation, North Sioux City, South Dakota, against MidAmerican Energy Company Regarding Commercial Development in the Flynn Business Park
Date Filed: 11/04/19 • (Completed: 02/06/20)

Electric Dockets

EL19-001 - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy and Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 01/15/19 • Completed: 02/21/19

EL19-002 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of a Credit Mechanism for Payments from the Second Extended Department of Energy Settlement
Date Filed: 01/22/19 • Completed: 02/22/19

EL19-003 - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant and Codington Counties
Date Filed: 01/30/19 • Pending

EL19-004 - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between MidAmerican Energy Company and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 01/30/19 • Completed: 02/20/19

EL19-005 - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rates for Small Power Production and Cogeneration
Date Filed: 02/01/19 • Completed: 03/07/19

EL19-006 - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for a Facility Permit to Construct a 230 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Pennington County
Date Filed: 02/05/19 • Completed: 07/03/19

- EL19-007** - In the Matter of the Application by Triple H Wind Project, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Hyde County, South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/06/19 • Pending
- EL19-008** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its 2018 Transmission Cost Recovery Reconciliation and 2019 Transmission Cost Recovery Factors
Date Filed: 02/15/19 • Completed: 03/22/19
- EL19-009** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of the Annual Update to Its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate
Date Filed: 03/01/19 • Completed: 05/16/19
- EL19-010** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of the Annual Update to Its Infrastructure Rider Rate
Date Filed: 03/01/19 • Completed: 05/07/19
Date Reopened: 05/22/19 • Completed: 06/13/19
- EL19-011** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its 2018 Economic Development Report and 2019 Economic Development Plan
Date Filed: 03/01/19 • Completed: 05/08/19
- EL19-012** - In the Matter of the Application by Sweetland Wind Farm, LLC for Facility Permits for a Wind Energy Facility and a 230-kV Transmission Facility in Hand County, South Dakota for the Sweetland Wind Farm Project
Date Filed: 03/06/19 • Pending
- EL19-013** - In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2018 Economic Development Activities and 2019 Budget
Date Filed: 03/19/19 • Completed: 05/07/19
- EL19-014** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Revisions to Its Sample Forms and Associated Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 03/26/19 • Completed: 05/06/19
- EL19-015** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2019 Economic Development Plan and 2018 Economic Development Report
Date Filed: 03/29/19 • Completed: 05/07/19
- EL19-016** - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Deuel, Grant and Codington Counties
Date Filed: 04/01/19 • Completed: 05/16/19
- EL19-017** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Dakota Energy Cooperative Inc.
Date Filed: 04/25/19 • Completed: 06/13/19
- EL19-018** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its Plan to Provide Proceeds to Customers From a Settlement regarding the Outage at Sherco Unit 3
Date Filed: 04/26/19 • Completed: 06/03/19
- EL19-019** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2018 Demand Side Management Report and 2020 Proposed Demand Side Management Plan
Date Filed: 05/01/19 • Completed: 12/17/19
- EL19-020** - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's 2018 South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report and 2019 Annual Filing to Update the Energy Efficiency Adjustment Rider
Date Filed: 05/01/19 • Completed: 06/13/19

- EL19-021** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy
Date Filed: 05/01/19 • Completed: 06/13/19
- EL19-022** - In the Matter of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy's Application for Adjustment to Its Cogeneration and Small Power Production Service Simultaneous Net Billing Generation Credit Rate(s)
Date Filed: 05/01/19 • Completed: 07/31/19
- EL19-023** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. dba Sioux Valley Energy
Date Filed: 05/02/19 • Completed: 06/13/19
- EL19-024** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Boundary Change between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. dba Sioux Valley Energy
Date Filed: 05/17/19 • Completed: 07/31/19
- EL19-025** - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of Phase-In Rider
Date Filed: 05/31/19 • Completed: 08/26/19
- EL19-026** - In the Matter of the Application by Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Deuel County, South Dakota
Date Filed: 06/18/19 • Pending
- EL19-027** - In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Deuel, Grant and Codington Counties
Date Filed: 07/09/19 • Pending
- EL19-028** - In the Matter of the Petition of Black Hills Power Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Deferred Accounting Treatment for SD Sun Project Transaction and Development Costs
Date Filed: 07/31/19 • (Completed: 01/24/20)
- EL19-029** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Update the Disconnect Notice
Date Filed: 08/08/19 • Completed: 09/19/19
- EL19-030** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its LED Light Rates (Rates 19 and 56)
Date Filed: 08/23/19 • Completed: 09/25/19
- EL19-031** - In the Matter of the Filing by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rates for Small Power Production and Cogeneration
Date Filed: 08/29/19 • Completed: 10/23/19
- EL19-032** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2020 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment
Date Filed: 08/30/19 • Completed: 12/18/19
- EL19-033** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 09/11/19 • Completed: 10/02/19
- EL19-034** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of a Revision to the Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency Solutions Adjustment (EESA) Rates
Date Filed: 10/01/19 • Completed: 12/03/19
- EL19-035** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2020 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update
Date Filed: 10/01/19 • Completed: 12/18/19

- EL19-036** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 10/04/19 • Completed: 10/31/19
- EL19-037** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Ready Check Brochure
Date Filed: 10/24/19 • *(Completed: 01/02/20)*
- EL19-038** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its LED Street and Area Lighting
Date Filed: 10/24/19 • Completed: 12/03/19
- EL19-039** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate
Date Filed: 10/31/19 • *(Completed: 02/21/20)*
- EL19-040** - In the Matter of the Petition of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of Deferred Accounting Treatment for Retiring of the Lewis & Clark 1, Heskett 1 and Heskett 2 Coal-Fired Generators
Date Filed: 11/01/19 • *(Completed: 01/10/20)*
- EL19-041** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rates for Rate 95 and Rate 96
Date Filed: 11/15/19 • *(Completed: 01/08/20)*
- EL19-042** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/12/19 • *(Completed: 01/27/20)*
- EL19-043** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Approval of an Amended Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/16/19 • *(Completed: 02/21/20)*

Gas & Electric Dockets

- GE19-001** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of a Revised Customer Information Welcome Booklet
Date Filed: 03/14/19 • Completed: 05/14/19
- GE19-002** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its Reconciliation and Annual Report for 2018 and 2018 Reconciliation for the Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor
Date Filed: 04/12/19 • Completed: 06/04/19
Date Reopened: 09/20/19 • Completed: 11/01/19
Date Reopened: 12/23/19 • *(Completed: 02/25/20)*
- GE19-003** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of a Revised Customer Information Welcome Booklet
Date Filed: 06/14/19 • Completed: 07/03/19
- GE19-004** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Approval of a Customer Reference Guide
Date Filed: 07/29/19 • Completed: 09/16/19

Grain Warehouse Dockets

GW19-001 - In the Matter of Green Leaf Commodities, LLC's Failure to Timely Respond Pursuant to SDCL 49-45-26
Date Filed: 02/15/19 • Completed: 03/27/19

GW19-002 - In the Matter of PUC Staff's Complaint Against High Country Mercantile, Inc.
Date Filed: 08/01/19 • Completed: 11/01/19

Natural Gas Dockets

NG19-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with POET Biorefining – Hudson, LLC
Date Filed: 01/23/19 • Completed: 02/21/19

NG19-002 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Its Revised Conservation Tracking Adjustment
Date Filed: 01/31/19 • Completed: 03/04/19

NG19-003 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2019 Economic Development Plan and 2018 Economic Development Report
Date Filed: 03/29/19 • Completed: 05/07/19

NG19-004 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Its 2018 Economic Development Activities and 2019 Proposed Budget
Date Filed: 05/01/19 • Completed: 06/04/19

NG19-005 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Revisions to Its Sample Forms and Associated Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 05/31/19 • Completed: 07/03/19

NG19-006 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Dan & Jerry's Greenhouse
Date Filed: 06/21/19 • Completed: 07/31/19

NG19-007 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Update the Disconnect Notice
Date Filed: 08/08/19 • Completed: 09/19/19

NG19-008 - 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: 08/23/19 • Completed: 09/19/19

NG19-009 - 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: 10/22/19 • Completed: 11/13/19

NG19-010 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Rate 88 and Associated Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 11/08/19 • (Completed: 01/02/20)

NG19-011 - In the Matter of the Petition of the South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company for a Waiver of Loss and Unaccounted Calculation for 2020
Date Filed: 12/03/19 • (Completed: 01/08/20)

NG19-012 - In the Matter of the Application of MidAmerican Energy Company for Authority to Continue Its Incentive Gas Supply Procurement Plan in South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/30/19 • Pending

Pipeline Safety Dockets

PS19-001 - PUC Staff's Request for Adoption of PHMSA's Exercise of Enforcement Discretion
Date Filed: 03/28/19 • Completed: 05/15/19

Rulemaking Dockets

RM19-001 - In the Matter of the Adoption of Rules Regarding Rate Filing, Energy Facility Plans, Siting Rules, Local Exchange Competition, Telecom Services, Pipeline Safety, and Stray Voltage
Date Filed: 05/23/19 • Pending

Telecommunications Dockets

TC19-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to Its Exchange and Network Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 01/03/19 • Completed: 01/29/19

TC19-002 - In the Matter of the Application of Vesta Solutions, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/07/19 • Completed: 05/07/19

TC19-003 - In the Matter of the Application of NGA 911, L.L.C. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/14/19 • Completed: 05/07/19

TC19-004 - In the Matter of the Application of Communications Venture Corporation dba INdigital for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/27/19 • Completed: 05/07/19

TC19-005 - In the Matter of the Application of LTE Wireless Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 03/01/19 • Completed: 06/14/19

TC19-006 - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Service Tariff
Date Filed: 04/01/19 • Completed: 05/06/19

TC19-007 - In the Matter of the Application of Teliix, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 04/08/19 • Completed: 06/04/19

TC19-008 - In the Matter of the Approval of a Cageless Collocation Bay Procurement Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Level 3 Communications, LLC
Date Filed: 04/23/19 • Completed: 05/16/19

TC19-009 - In the Matter of the Petition of North American Local, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 04/24/19 • Pending

TC19-010 - In the Matter of the Request of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 361389)
Date Filed: 05/01/19 • Completed: 09/20/19

TC19-011 - In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 361495)
Date Filed: 05/01/19 • Completed: 09/20/19

- TC19-012** - In the Matter of the Approval of an Intercarrier Compensation Bill and Keep Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and XO Communications Services, LLC
Date Filed: 06/06/19 • Completed: 07/15/19
- TC19-013** - In the Matter of the Request of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 361123)
Date Filed: 06/10/19 • Completed: 09/20/19
- TC19-014** - In the Matter of the Request of Venture Communications Cooperative for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: Venture Communications Cooperative 391680 and Western Telephone Co. 391688)
Date Filed: 06/18/19 • Completed: 09/20/19
- TC19-015** - In the Matter of the Request of RT Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 512251)
Date Filed: 06/18/19 • Completed: 09/20/19
- TC19-016** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative-391654 and Stockholm Strandburg-391679)
Date Filed: 06/18/19 • Completed: 09/20/19
- TC19-017** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., fka SSTELECOM, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399013)
Date Filed: 06/18/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-018** - In the Matter of the Request of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: Armour-391640, Golden West Telecom-391659, Kadoka-391667, Sioux Valley-391677, Union-391684, Vivian-391686)
Date Filed: 06/18/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-019** - In the Matter of the Request of TrioTel Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: McCook 391669 and Tri-County Telecom 391682)
Date Filed: 06/21/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-020** - In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391685)
Date Filed: 06/21/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-021** - In the Matter of the Request of Fort Randall Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 391660)
Date Filed: 06/21/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-022** - In the Matter of the Request of Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391668)
Date Filed: 06/24/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-023** - In the Matter of the Request of City of Brookings Municipal Telephone for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 391650)
Date Filed: 06/25/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-024** - In the Matter of the Request of Brookings Municipal Utilities dba Swiftel Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 399009)
Date Filed: 06/25/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-025** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391664)
Date Filed: 06/25/19 • Completed: 09/24/19

- TC19-026** - In the Matter of the Request of Northern Valley Communications, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: 399017 and 396340)
Date Filed: 06/25/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-027** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Wireless, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399014)
Date Filed: 06/25/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-028** - In the Matter of the Request of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391647)
Date Filed: 06/25/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-029** - In the Matter of the Request of West River Telecommunications Cooperative for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: Mobridge-391671)
Date Filed: 06/25/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-030** - In the Matter of the Request of Beresford Municipal Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391649)
Date Filed: 06/26/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-031** - In the Matter of the Request of City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 391653)
Date Filed: 06/27/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-032** - In the Matter of the Request of West River Cooperative Telephone Company Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 391689)
Date Filed: 06/27/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-033** - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399005)
Date Filed: 06/27/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-034** - In the Matter of the Request of Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: ILEC-391652 and CLEC-399006)
Date Filed: 06/27/19 • Completed: 09/24/19
- TC19-035** - In the Matter of the Request of RC Technologies for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391674)
Date Filed: 06/28/19 • Completed: 09/25/19
- TC19-036** - In the Matter of the Request of Midstate Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: ILEC-391670 and CLEC-399011)
Date Filed: 06/28/19 • Completed: 09/25/19
- TC19-037** - In the Matter of the Request of Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas 391405, 391642 and 391657)
Date Filed: 06/28/19 • Completed: 09/25/19
- TC19-038** - In the Matter of the Request of Santel Communications Cooperative Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 391676)
Date Filed: 06/28/19 • Completed: 09/25/19
- TC19-039** - In the Matter of the Request of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 395145)
Date Filed: 06/28/19 • Completed: 09/25/19
- TC19-040** - In the Matter of the Request of Jefferson Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 391666)
Date Filed: 07/01/19 • Completed: 09/25/19

- TC19-041** - In the Matter of AF Pierre, Inc. dba Anytime Fitness' Petition for a Declaratory Ruling Regarding Alleged Do Not Call Violations
Date Filed: 07/10/19 • Completed: 10/23/19
- TC19-042** - In the Matter of the Application of Time Warner Cable Business LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/22/19 • Completed: 09/19/19
- TC19-043** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Reciprocal Compensation Bill and Keep Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband (fka Knology of the Black Hills, LLC fka PrairieWave Black Hills, LLC)
Date Filed: 07/23/19 • Completed: 09/16/19
- TC19-044** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Reciprocal Compensation Bill and Keep Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband (fka Knology of the Plains, Inc. fka PrairieWave Telecommunications, Inc.)
Date Filed: 07/23/19 • Completed: 09/16/19
- TC19-045** - In the Matter of the Filing by Fusion Cloud Services, LLC for Approval of Its Access Service Tariff
Date Filed: 08/22/19 • Completed: 10/23/19
- TC19-046** - In the Matter of the Application of Combined Public Communications, LLC for Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services as an Alternative Operator Service
Date Filed: 09/10/19 • Completed: 12/18/19
- TC19-047** - In the Matter of the Filing by Midcontinent Communications for Approval of Revisions to Its Local Exchange Service Tariff
Date Filed: 09/11/19 • Completed: 10/02/19
- TC19-048** - In the Matter of the Application of Standard Tandem, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota
Date Filed: 10/30/19 • Pending
- TC19-049** - In the Matter of the Petition of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 10/30/19 • *(Completed: 01/02/20)*
- TC19-050** - In the Matter of the Approval of Wireless Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and CSC Wireless, LLC dba Altice Mobile
Date Filed: 11/05/19 • Completed: 12/04/19
- TC19-051** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Native American Telecom, LLC
Date Filed: 11/25/19 • *(Completed: 01/02/20)*
- TC19-052** - In the Matter of the Filing by Northern Valley Communications, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Service Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 12/27/19 • Pending

Reopened Dockets

- EL13-028** - In the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company for a Permit to Construct the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line
Date Filed: 08/23/13 • Completed: 11/09/15
Date Reopened: 08/05/19 • Completed: 08/27/19
- EL15-020** - In the Matter of the Application by Wind Quarry Operations, LLC, for a Wind Energy Facility Permit for the Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility and Associated Facilities
Date Filed: 05/27/15 • Completed: 11/17/15
Date Reopened: 10/17/18 • Completed: 11/21/18
Date Reopened: 07/17/19 • Pending
- 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
Date Reopened: 06/21/18 • Completed: 12/12/18
Date Reopened: 05/22/19 • Completed: 07/03/19
- EL17-006** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of 2017 Transmission Facility Adjustment
Date Filed: 02/15/17 • Completed: 06/20/17
Date Reopened: 05/01/18 • Completed: 05/17/18
Date Reopened: 12/31/19 • (Completed: 01/10/20)
- EL17-008** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its 2017 Environmental Improvement Adjustment
Date Filed: 02/15/17 • Completed: 06/20/17
Date Reopened: 05/01/18 • Completed: 05/17/18
Date Reopened: 12/31/19 • (Completed: 01/10/20)
- EL17-050** - In the Matter of the Application of Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Facility Permit to Construct a 230 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities from Codington County to the Big Stone South Substation
Date Filed: 12/05/17 • Completed: 11/21/18
Date Reopened: 03/29/19 • Completed: 05/16/19
- EL17-055** - In the Matter of the Application by Crocker Wind Farm, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility and a 345 kV Transmission Line in Clark County, South Dakota, for Crocker Wind Farm
Date Filed: 12/15/17 • Completed: 05/20/19
Date Reopened: 06/07/19 • Pending
- EL18-026** - In the Matter of the Application by Prevailing Wind Farm, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Bon Homme County, Charles Mix County and Hutchinson County, South Dakota, for the Prevailing Wind Park Project
Date Filed: 05/30/18 • Completed: 05/16/19
Date Reopened: 06/13/19 • Pending
- EL18-029** - In the Matter of the Application Black Hills Power Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its Tax Cut and Jobs Act Proposal
Date Filed: 06/29/18 • Completed: 01/02/19
Date Reopened: 01/14/19 • Completed: 02/04/19
- EL18-046** - In the Matter of the Application of Dakota Range III, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility and a 345-kV Transmission Line in Grant and Roberts Counties
Date Filed: 10/26/18 • Completed: 02/22/19
Date Reopened: 09/09/19 • Pending

- EL18-048** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate
 Date Filed: 10/31/18 • Completed: 02/21/19
 Date Reopened: 07/01/19 • Completed: 07/30/19
 Date Reopened: 07/31/19 • Completed: 09/19/19
- EL18-053** - In the Matter of the Application of Deuel Harvest Wind Energy LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility and a 345-kV Transmission Line in Deuel County
 Date Filed: 11/30/18 • Completed: 07/03/19
 Date Reopened: 09/10/19 • Pending
- EL18-060** - In the Matter of the Filing by Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of a Renewable Ready Service Tariff and Tariff Revisions to Its Energy Cost Adjustment
 Date Filed: 12/17/18 • Completed: 06/27/19
 Date Reopened: 11/01/19 • Completed: 12/03/19
- NG17-009** - In the Matter of the Application of South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company for Authority to Increase Its Natural Gas Rates
 Date Filed: 06/01/17 • Completed: 07/16/18
 Date Reopened: 09/24/19 • Completed: 10/31/19
- TC13-026** - In the Matter of Study Area Boundaries for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers
 Date Filed: 03/27/13 • Completed: 06/25/13
 Date Reopened: 03/07/14 • Completed: 03/21/14
 Date Reopened: 04/29/15 • Completed: 12/29/15
 Date Reopened: 03/07/17 • Completed: 03/17/17
 Date Reopened: 01/02/19 • Completed: 02/22/19



Commissioner Chris Nelson participated in a panel discussion on robocalls at the 2019 MARC Conference. Commissioner Nelson, along with fellow panelists Mary Ridder of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, Philip Linse of CenturyLink, Linda Vandeloop of AT&T, William Maxson of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, and Heather Hendrickson of the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau, discussed the new Shaken/Stir program that allows customers to verify the legitimacy of callers and the ongoing battle with spoofing.

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.

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