

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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About the PUC

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, reasonable rates. It plays a more limited regulatory role with respect to telecommunications companies and cooperative and municipal utilities.

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.



SITING



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.

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.



OTHER DUTIES

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 puc.sd.gov/scamcalls.

Life. Uninterrupted. The site, 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 CHRIS NELSON



ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Chris was appointed to the commission by Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Jan. 8, 2011, to fill a vacancy. 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, 2019 and 2020.

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 state members 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 puc.sd.gov/chrisnelsonbio

VICE CHAIRPERSON

KRISTIE FIEGEN



ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Kristie was appointed to the commission on Aug. 9, 2011, by Gov. Dennis Daugaard, to fill a vacancy. She was elected to her first, full six-year term 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
- member of the NARUC Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety
- president of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee
- member of the SPP Regional States Committee and the Organization of MISO States Seams Liaison Committee
- member of the Gas Technology Institute's Public Interest Advisory 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 puc.sd.gov/kristiefiegen



Commissioner Chris Nelson, Commissioner Kristie Fiegen and Commissioner Gary Hanson pause for a holiday photo.

COMMISSIONER GARY HANSON

ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Gary was first elected to the PUC in 2002. South Dakota voters re-elected Gary to continue serving on the PUC in 2008, 2014 and 2020.

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Gary served as the commission's chairman in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2019 and 2020 and as vice chairman in 2003, 2004, 2011, 2017 and 2018.



EXPERIENCE

Gary was twice elected mayor of Sioux Falls and oversaw multiple departmental operations.

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 on Bonding and of Government Audit and Operations, and was 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
- president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference (06/20-06/21)
- member of the Advisory Council for New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities
- member of the Organization of MISO States' Board of Directors and Committee on Conflict of Interest
- member of the 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 South Dakota's Energy Task Force
- member of Gov. George S. Mickelson's 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 co-founded 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 for a total decrease of over 31%.

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 puc.sd.gov/garysbio

ABOUT OUR PUC STAFF

The PUC's staff members perform a variety of duties on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota 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 oversees 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 and functions.

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 is responsible for the development of educational materials and news releases, and assists with 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. **Mikayla Frick** coordinates meeting logistics, travel and training. **Janeth Merriman** assists with the preparation of orders, handles meeting minutes, distributes meeting agendas, and weekly filings.

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, 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.

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.



Commission Advisor Greg Rislov celebrated 45 years with the Public Utilities Commission in July. Rislov began working for the commission as an analyst in 1976, following his graduation from the University of South Dakota. His institutional knowledge serves the PUC well!

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

	BUDGET	GENERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	ENCUMBRANCE	BUDGET NOT EXPENDED
ADMINISTRATION						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,269,330	\$367,946	\$29,159	\$857,547	\$0	\$14,679
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$194,789	\$0	\$2,146	\$111,692	\$129	\$80,822
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,464,119	\$367,946	\$31,305	\$969,238	\$129	\$95,501

GRAIN WAREHOUSE

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$307,823	\$211,031	\$0	\$60,413	\$0	\$36,379
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$78,197	\$46,928	\$0	\$3,033	\$0	\$28,236
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$386,020	\$257,959	\$0	\$63,446	\$0	\$64,615

FIXED UTILITY (INFORMATIONAL BUDGET)

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,543,262	\$0	\$2,416	\$1,307,246	\$0	\$233,600
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$384,884	\$0	\$99	\$145,539	\$0	\$239,246
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,928,146	\$0	\$2,515	\$1,452,786	\$0	\$472,846

PIPELINE SAFETY (INFORMATIONAL BUDGET)

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$235,279	\$0	\$148,846	\$73,145	\$0	\$13,288
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$70,750	\$0	\$33,550	\$10,927	\$0	\$26,273
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$306,029	\$0	\$182,396	\$84,073	\$0	\$39,560

DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPERATING EXPENSES	27,388	\$0	\$0	\$4,735	\$0	\$22,653
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$27,388	\$0	\$0	\$4,735	\$0	\$22,653

GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FUND REVENUES & FEES

GRAIN & WAREHOUSE LICENSES	\$99,275	GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FEES	\$1,722,094
GRAIN & WAREHOUSE PENALTIES	\$23,000	GROSS RECEIPTS TAX PENALTIES	\$3,233
CHECK OFF AUDITS	\$12,100	APPLICATION FEES	\$1,000
INTEREST EARNED	\$4,328	INTEREST EARNED	\$73,344
TOTAL REVENUE	\$138,703	TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,799,671

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back highlighting actions taken by the PUC during the 2021 calendar year.

ELECTRIC & 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 legal and accurate 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 2021.

ELECTRIC & NATURAL GAS RATE CHANGES & 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, 2021

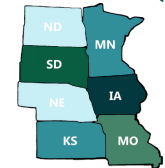
NATURAL GAS Measurement per thousand cubic feet, 2020



South Dakota

12.25 cents

\$7.11



*West Central Region
(Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri,
Nebraska, North Dakota and South
Dakota)*

12.21 cents

\$8.70



United States

13.72 cents

\$10.78

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

In April, the PUC approved an annual update to **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.**'s infrastructure rider rate. The update approved a 2021 Infrastructure Rider revenue requirement of \$1,028,616, authorized the inclusion of additional costs associated with the Mandan Substation and Lines Project and costs associated with the Lewis & Clark Substation Project and approved the new tariff rate of \$0.00687 per kWh. As a result of this update, a typical residential customer using 853 kWh saw a \$1.31 decrease to their monthly bill.

Following the review of MDU's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan by an outside consultant on PUC staff's behalf, staff filed a memo regarding the Lewis and Clark Regulatory Asset Recovery. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve MDU's regulatory asset recovery proposal in November.

ELECTRIC & NATURAL GAS RATE CHANGES & ADJUSTMENTS CONTINUED...

The commission approved an update to **Xcel Energy's** Infrastructure Rider Adjustment Factor in December. The change adds approximately \$1.10 to the bill of an average residential customer's monthly bill using 750 kWh per month and allows Xcel Energy to recover the cost of 74 previously-approved projects, two new projects and operations and maintenance expenses associated with wind investments.

In August, the PUC approved an update to **Otter Tail Power Co.'s** phase-in rider rate with a revised "percent-of-bill" phase-in rider factor of 1.351% and a revenue requirement of \$345,134. The updated rate allows the company to recover costs associated with the Astoria Station Natural Gas Plant project, Merricourt Wind Project, forecasted net benefits associated with additional load in the Lake Norden area and net savings associated with Otter Tail's retirement of its Hoot Lake Plant. As a result, a typical customer using an average of 1,000 kWh per month will see their monthly bill decrease by approximately \$3.75.

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

- In February, **Otter Tail Power Co.'s** updated TCR rider rate was approved by the commission. The updated rate allows for the recovery of nearly \$2.2 million related to two new transmission projects, two previously-approved transmission projects, the transmission adjustment from rate case EL18-021, Southwest Power Pool Schedule 9 and Schedule 11 expenses, and Midcontinent Independent System Operator Schedule 26 and 26A expenses and revenues, along with MISO Schedule 9 and MVP ARR revenues. As a result of this change, a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month should see a drop of approximately \$0.86 on their monthly bill.
- In March, **MidAmerican Energy Co.'s** updated TCR rider rate was approved by the commission. The updated rate covers allowed costs related to the MISO's Federal Energy Regulation Commission Transmission Rate Schedules 10, 10-FERC, 26 and 26-A. The \$534,114 approved revenue requirement translates to roughly an \$0.18 monthly bill increase for a typical residential customer's bill averaging 700 kWh per month.
- In April, the commission approved an updated TCR rider rate for **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** The updated rate includes costs associated with three transmission projects, two-previously approved projects along with the new Greenway Substation and Line Project, the MISO and SPP expenses net of revenues, and net of the Basin Facility Agreement revenue. The approved \$1,038,261 revenue requirement translates roughly to a \$1.54 monthly bill increase for a typical residential customer using 853 kWh per month.
- In December, the commission approved **Xcel Energy's** request for an update to its TCR rate to allow recovery of over \$7 million related to 31 transmission projects, including the addition of 10 new projects and removal of one previously approved project, and costs associated with MISO Schedule 26 expenses. A typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month saw a monthly decrease of approximately \$0.15.

In March of 2021, **Black Hills Energy** filed to amend its existing Cogeneration and Small Power Production Service Tariff to become its Qualifying Generation Facilities Service Tariff with the goal of putting in place conditions of service for customers who install behind-the-meter generation that are fair for all Black Hills Energy customers. The commission granted intervention to two parties in April and six additional parties in May. On Oct. 12, 2021, the commission approved a Joint Motion for Approval of a Settlement Stipulation signed by all parties. Through the settlement stipulation, parties agreed to dismiss the current docket, while continuing to work towards a solution through further examination of proposed solutions and data collection. The parties also agreed to hold at least two input meetings in both 2022 and 2023 to exchange data and discuss potential revisions to Black Hills Energy's tariffs. The future filing of proposed revisions by Black Hills Energy will have a rate effective no earlier than Jan. 1, 2024.

SITING

In January, the commission granted **Meridian Wind Project LLC**'s motion to withdraw their application for a permit to construct an up to 175-megawatt wind energy conversion facility, an 8.9 mile, 345-kV transmission line and associated facilities in Hyde County. The company moved to withdraw after being made aware of substantial and unexpected interconnection costs by the system operator. Meridian Wind filed its application with the PUC on April 23, 2020.

In March, the **South Dakota 3rd Circuit Court** issued an order affirming the commission's decision to grant a permit to construct the Crowned Ridge II Wind Farm, an up to 301-megawatt wind energy facility in Deuel, Grant and Codington counties. The PUC's decision was appealed by intervenors Garry Ehlebracht, Steven Greber, Mary Greber, Richard Rall, Amy Rall and Laretta Kranz in April of 2020. A second appeal was filed on May 1, 2020, by intervenors Amber Christenson and Allen Robish. By order of Circuit Court Judge Carmen Means, the two cases were consolidated later that month. On April 6, 2021, both groups appealed the 3rd Circuit Court's decision to the South Dakota Supreme Court. Decisions by that court are expected in 2022. Phase I of the Crowned Ridge II project, consisting of 200 megawatts, began operations in December of 2020.

In June, the PUC received an application from **North Bend Wind Project, LLC** for a permit to construct and operate a wind energy facility with a nameplate capacity not to exceed 200 megawatts in Hyde and Hughes counties. A public input meeting was held in Pierre in August.



In October, the South Dakota Supreme heard oral arguments in the appeal of Crowned Ridge II at USD's School of Law in Vermillion. Staff Attorney Amanda Reiss appeared on behalf of the PUC while Commissioner Fiegen was on hand for support.

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.

Measurement

South Dakota 2021 scores compared to National 2020 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.

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.

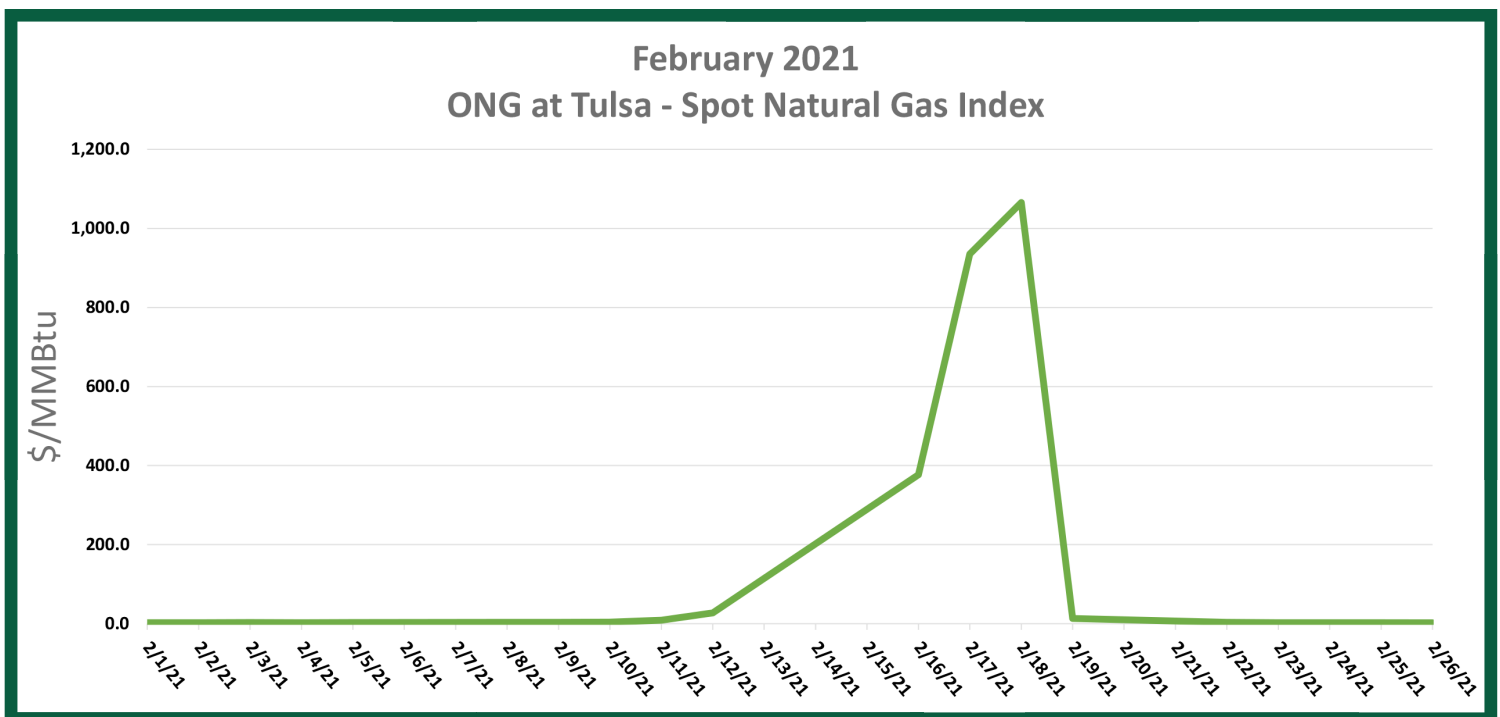
WINTER STORM URI

In February of 2021, an unprecedented, week-long cold snap resulted in unparalleled demand for natural gas and substantially impacted natural gas prices for utilities across the region. In addition to increased demand and prices for natural gas utilities supplying consumers with natural gas for heating, the event also stressed the bulk electric system, including Southwest Power Pool's member electric utilities. SPP is a regional transmission organization managing the electric grid in a 14-state region in the central and western United States. Characterized by SPP as a 1-in-85-year event, the weather event known as Winter Storm Uri increased electricity needs for customers across the SPP region and created issues with natural gas supply due to frozen wells in the south. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator member utilities were also impacted to a lesser degree. Fortunately for those South Dakota electric utilities in the SPP and MISO markets, market sales revenue helped to mitigate increased natural gas prices. In response to the event and elevated natural gas prices that accompanied it, PUC staff requested the commission authorize staff to work with South Dakota's six investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to mitigate the rates impact to customers.

- To mitigate the impacts of increased natural gas costs for its natural gas customers, **NorthWestern Energy** proposed two changes to its normal Purchased Gas Adjustment Clause process. These changes included proposing to speed up recovery and help reduce carrying costs experienced by customers by including the increased gas costs in NorthWestern's March 1 PGA filing rather than waiting until April and that a share of increased prices be allocated to Rate 84 and 86 customers to ensure all customers pay their fair share of increased costs. Commissioners approved NorthWestern's proposal at an ad hoc commission meeting on Feb. 23, 2021. While NorthWestern electric customers were subjected to higher purchased power and fuel costs, they also benefitted from the higher market value for generation sales, negating the need for any changes to its normal electric fuel adjustment clause methodology.
- **MidAmerican Energy's** proposed mitigation plan to spread February actual costs throughout the months of March 2021 through December 2021 for its natural gas customers was approved by the commission at an ad hoc meeting on Feb. 23, 2021. On Dec. 9, 2021, MidAmerican requested to modify its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Rate mitigation plan to extend the recovery period through April 2022. MidAmerican was unable to collect all of the costs associated with this event as planned by the end of December 2021 due to the increasing market price of natural gas coupled with lower volumes due to warmer weather. This request was approved by the commission in January of 2022. MidAmerican Energy did not request changes to the normal electric energy cost adjustment methodology given the impact to electric customers was minimal.
- The PUC approved **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s** proposal to eliminate surcharge adjustment credits for natural gas customers at its Feb. 23, 2021 ad hoc commission meeting. In April, commissioners voted to grant Montana-Dakota's request for a variance to its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Rate 88 tariff to allow an alternative computation of the surcharge amount and the timing of implementation. The approval allowed MDU to recover gas costs over a 17-month period beginning May 1, 2021, and implement a staggered rate recovery, in which summer rates differ from winter rates, for firm customers and a flat rate recovery method for interruptible customers. Montana-Dakota did not request changes to the normal electric fuel and purchased power adjustment methodology due to offsetting transactions in MISO and SPP that resulted in very little impact to Montana-Dakota's electric customers.
- Although **Otter Tail Power Co.'s** costs were up as a result of the February extreme cold event, the impact was not severe enough to warrant any special adjustments to Otter Tail's Energy Adjustment Rider calculations and associated rates. The company filed its April 2021 EAR rate update, the first month to include costs from the cold weather event, showing a \$0.02751 cost per kWh on March 25, 2021, which was up approximately half a cent from the March rate of \$0.02275.

WINTER STORM URI CONTINUED...

- During Winter Storm Uri, **Xcel Energy**'s generation provided energy exceeding its load serving needs and excess energy was sold into the MISO market. The incremental revenue from those energy sales more than offset the increased costs of fuel during the cold event. As a result, Xcel estimated a net decrease in Fuel Adjustment Clause costs during the storm and made no changes to their FAC methodology.
- **Black Hills Energy** filed for approval of deferred accounting treatment and the creation of a regulatory asset for its February cold weather costs associated with Winter Storm Uri in May of 2021. The request specified that the company planned to recover \$20,065,640, or 83.6% of Black Hills Power's multi-jurisdictional total of \$24 million in costs associated with the weather event, from South Dakota customers through a separate line item on each customer's bill labeled "February Costs." It also detailed a 12-month recovery period beginning on June 1, 2021, and a proposed 12-month amortization with carrying cost of 1.35% in lieu of the normal 7% carrying charge. The commission voted 2-1 to approve the proposal, with Commissioner Nelson dissenting, at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 2021.



Natural gas commodity prices spiked during Winter Storm Uri. The graph above illustrates the day-to-day commodity price before, during and immediately following the cold weather event.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence Capital IQ Pro.

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

Nationwide, 115,000 lineworkers work to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of electricity. On April 18, the PUC celebrated National Lineman Appreciation Day and encouraged all South Dakotans to thank the men and women who are always there to support our communities, even in the worst of conditions. National Lineman Appreciation Day was established by Congress in 2013 in recognition of those who work tirelessly to keep the power on.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The commission approved updates to energy efficiency and conservation programs. In 2021, the estimated energy savings for all investor-owned utilities was 22,423 megawatt hours of electricity and 8,907 dekatherms of natural gas.

- **Xcel Energy's** 2022 Demand Side Management Plan and revised Cost Adjustment Factor was approved by the commission, along with the company's 2020 DSM status report, 2020 DSM Tracker Account, and performance incentive earned in 2020. The 2022 DSM plan includes changes to both residential and business lighting programs, modified the Residential Demand Response program to include townhomes as a qualifying AC Rewards dwelling type and increased the rebate and maximum tank size for qualifying residential heat pump water heaters.
- **Otter Tail Power Co.** continued its Energy Efficiency Plan in 2021. The commission approved the 2020 financial incentive, 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report and an unchanged Energy Efficiency Adjustment Factor in June. In September, Otter Tail filed a request to modify certain existing programs that were previously approved in 2020 as part of its three-year energy efficiency plan to increase program rebate flexibility for 2022 and 2023 EEP program years. Program changes included a budget increase for 2021 and several rebate changes for 2022 and 2023, including decreasing rebates for the residential and commercial heat pump programs and commercial and residential lighting, discontinuing rebates for standard air source heat pumps, and adding a new measure and rebate for air-to-water heat pumps.
- **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** updated its Conservation Program Tracking Mechanism in 2021. The commission approved a revised Conservation Tracking Adjustment rate of \$0.020 per dk in February. As a result, a residential customer using 70 dk annually would see an estimated annual increase of \$0.84.



Above: Commissioner Gary Hanson acted as a responder in a session discussing balancing consumer demands for greener power with the need for affordability and reliability at the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities' Current Issues Conference. Other session participants included commissioners from Illinois, Nevada and Montana and speakers from the Natural Gas Supply Association, Consumer Energy Alliance, Nicor, MISO, EDF Renewable Energy, and the Arkansas' Attorney General's Office.

Left: Commissioner Kristie Fiegen toured Otter Tail Power Company facilities with Nate Jensen, Otter Tail's manager of resource planning.

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 2021.

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. View broadband coverage maps on the PUC's website at puc.sd.gov/commission/telecom/Broadbandmaps.pdf.

Measurement, for reporting year ending Dec. 31, 2020

New census blocks that meet 10 mbps download speed: 2,760

New census blocks that meet 25 mbps download speed: 8,815

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

Twenty-eight 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 funds for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Dollars invested reflect the strengthening and expansion of telecommunications infrastructure, to enhance system reliability and enable more service options to more customers, particularly in rural areas. In 2020, the Universal Service Administrative Co. distributed over \$126 million in High-Cost Support and over \$1.3 million in Lifeline and Link-Up monies to South Dakota companies.

WIRELESS

The PUC monitored the actions and results as new wireless telecommunications sites were launched and new technology, including 5G, was installed to provide enhanced coverage by companies at more than 70 locations including those in or near Aberdeen, Box Elder, Camp Crook, Fort Pierre, Gettysburg, Highmore, Keldron, McLaughlin, Martin, Meadow, Midland, Oglala, Philip, Porcupine, Red Owl, Red Shirt, Reliance, Sisseton, Sturgis, Wagner, Waubay and Yankton.

3G PHASE OUT

The commission informed consumers of the upcoming 3G phase out and what steps they could take ahead of time to ensure a smooth transition. In an effort to allow providers to focus more of their resources on building out new networks with newer technology, like 5G, all major carriers, including AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile, planned to begin decommissioning 3G networks in 2022. As a result of the change, some older mobile phones that require 3G networks to operate lost service.

MANDATORY 10-DIGIT DIALING

The PUC helped prepare South Dakotans for the implementation of mandatory 10-digit dialing across the state through an informational campaign. Beginning in October, all callers were required to dial the area + telephone number for all local calls; those dialed with only seven digits would not be completed. The new required dialing pattern was a necessary first step in the Federal Communications Commission's effort to establish 988 as a three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. Starting July 16, 2022, dialing "988" will route your call directly to the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

SOUTH DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

Commissioners, staff and members of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association gathered for the bi-annual SDTA-PUC Forum in December. Attendees heard presentations about broadband funding, the Connect SD program, cybersecurity, Universal Service Fund reform and emerging issues.



The South Dakota Telecommunications Association held their 2021 Annual Conference at the Deadwood Lodge in August. The agenda covered many topics including a session on recent telecommunications-related legislation, led by Commissioner Chris Nelson (*right*), industry challenges and broadband. Commissioner Kristie Fiegen had a chance to speak with Governor Kristi Noem following her session on the South Dakota connectivity gap (*top left*) while Commissioner Gary Hanson caught up with Alliance Communications board member Vince Hanson (*bottom left*).

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 federal and state statutes and administrative rules. Here is a look at the commission's pipeline safety work in 2021.

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 126 inspection days are required annually.

Measurement, 2021

Inspections: 168 days (126 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, 2021

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, 2021

PUC inspectors are fully certified to conduct all inspections.

2021 NAPSR NATIONAL MEETING

The PUC hosted the **2021 Meeting for the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives** in Deadwood in August. The five-day event attracted over 130 members of the pipeline safety industry from more than 45 states. Participants attended presentations on a variety of topics including PHMSA rulemaking and accident investigation, hydrogen and liquid hydrocarbon permeation, monitoring and reporting on One Call Locate effectiveness and gas emissions detection. South Dakota PUC Pipeline Program Manager Mary Zanter served as the 2020-2021 NAPSR chairperson.

2021 NAPSR NATIONAL MEETING



Top: PUC Pipeline Safety Program Manager Mary Zanter leads a session during the convention's "NAPSR-only" day, a day when only members of the organization attended to network and share best practices. Other days of the conference welcomed industry representatives to take part.

Bottom Left: Zanter accepts a plaque in recognition of her role as 2020-2021 national chairman of NAPSR at the national meeting's banquet.

Bottom right: Women attending NAPSR get together for a night out. Ladies' Night started as a way for women breaking into a predominantly male field to build connections with other women in similar circumstances and has become an annual tradition.

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 examines the following areas to evaluate its performance in this field:

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS & ASSISTANCE

The PUC assisted consumers on more than 1,900 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, in-person. 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 resolved within a month reveals the commission's effectiveness in responding to consumers. The goal is 90% resolved within a month.

Measurement, 2021

Complaints resolved within a month: 98%

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, 2021

Formal consumer complaints: 1

DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

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

Measurement, 2021

South Dakota telephone numbers on Do Not Call Registry: 701,444 (1% increase)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The PUC visited with more than 2,300 consumers about the purpose and services of the PUC at the South Dakota State Fair. Commissioners were involved in a number of outreach activities throughout the year, meeting with high school and college students, rural electric cooperative leaders and members and other South Dakotans as well as learning and sharing with utility commission counterparts from around the country at educational forums.

2021 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR



Commissioners Chris Nelson and Kristie Fiegen greet consumers and answer questions at the PUC's booth at the 2021 South Dakota State Fair in Huron.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE

The Public Utilities Commission is responsible for monitoring the South Dakota grain industry. To reduce producer risk, the PUC's Grain Warehouse Program licenses and inspects state-licensed grain storage warehouses, federally-licensed grain storage warehouses holding state grain-buyer licenses, grain buyers licensed as processors and non-storage facilities. Grain brokers and truck-based grain buyers are also licensed but not inspected because they do not maintain facilities in South Dakota.

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 2021.

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, 2021

Grain warehouse and grain buyer inspections: 492 inspections at 351 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 reviews financial statements and analyzes grain buyers' 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, 2021

- Class A Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that use voluntary credit sale contracts or exceed \$5,000,000 in annual purchases): 112 entities with 281 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): 70 entities with 72 locations.
 - Class A and Class B Grain Buyer Licensees include:
 - Processors (entities that purchase grain for the purpose of processing it into other products): 31 entities with 31 locations; 18 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): 20 entities with 25 locations; four out-of-state locations.
 - Truck (entities that are primarily trucking companies with no grain handling facility but purchase grain for the purpose of resale): 14 entities with six in-state and eight out-of-state locations.
 - Brokers (entities that purchase grain but do not take physical possession of the grain): 43 entities with 13 in-state and 38 out-of-state locations.
- State Warehouse Licenses (entities that store grain for hire): 44 entities with 66 locations; one out-of-state.
- Federal Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the USDA to store grain for hire): 32 entities with 147 locations; 11 out-of-state locations maintain a South Dakota grain buyer license.

LICENSE REVOCATIONS

If a licensed warehouse or grain buyer fails to meet its obligations to its producers, the PUC follows prescribed laws and administrative rules to investigate, audit or take necessary action to limit damage to the public. Though we work diligently to minimize producer risk, some license revocations cannot be avoided.

Measurement, 2021

License Revocations: 1

FARMERS COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR OF AVON

PUC staff investigated **Farmers Cooperative Elevator of Avon** for financial insolvency after seeing a steep decline in working capital and the company's inability to secure the bond necessary to qualify for re-licensing for the licensing year beginning July 1, 2021. The commission approved PUC staff's petition to seek receivership on July 8, 2021, and follow statutory procedures to begin the process to distribute Farmers Cooperative's \$250,000 grain buyer bond and a \$632,000 warehouse bond. On Aug. 4, 2021, following a petition by PUC staff, the 1st Circuit Court ordered PUC Grain Warehouse Program Manager Cody Chambliss to serve as receiver of the grain elevator portion/grain elevator assets of Farmers Cooperative Elevator. Chambliss continues to work with the elevator to re-establish financial stability by paying off and/or restructuring debts, selling grain inventory or liquidating assets, if necessary.

PIPELINE FOODS, LLC

In July 2021, commission staff became aware that **Pipeline Foods, LLC**, a licensed grain buyer in South Dakota until June 30, 2021, had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and engaged in a remote electronic investigation of Pipeline's financials and purchases within the state. The investigation uncovered unpaid cash sales that were contracted and delivered during the 2020-2021 licensing year, and showed that the company was unable to pay these cash sales. On Aug. 12, 2021, staff filed to open a docket and begin the process of seeking and disbursing proceeds from the company's \$50,000 grain buyer bond.

KINGSBURG GRAIN AND FEED, LP

Following the 2020 surrender of **Kingsburg Grain and Feed, LP's** grain buyer and grain warehouse licenses, PUC staff determined that no producers had claims covered by either the company's \$150,000 surety bond or \$25,000 warehouse bond. PUC staff continued to work with the company to pay producers, ship out grain, set up deals that were financially beneficial to all parties, complete a full audit, organize a public auction, and help secure an offer for purchase of the facility. A final report from staff was filed requesting the commission close the docket in February of 2021 at which time all producers had been paid, all debts were settled, and Lesterville Grain and Feed had completed the purchase of Kingsburg and was fully operational.

LEADERSHIP

Commissioners hold a number of leadership roles with national and regional organizations. Here is a look at their roles in 2021. They also engage with South Dakota consumers, students, industry professionals and community leaders through many public gatherings each year.

SOUTH DAKOTA PUC

Commissioners selected **Commissioner Chris Nelson** to serve as PUC chairman and **Commissioner Kristie Fiegen** to serve as vice chairperson.

Commissioner Gary Hanson took the oath of office in January to mark the beginning of his fourth term on the commission.

MID-AMERICA REGULATORY CONFERENCE

Chairman Gary Hanson completed his term as president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference. MARC is an association of utility regulatory agencies from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. Hanson had previously served two years as vice president, two years as secretary and one year as treasurer. As MARC president, Hanson led the commissioners conference in January.

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen was elected to serve as president of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee, which is tasked with overseeing the fulfillment of the on-target, customer-driven goals of SPP as it provides bulk transmission, reliability and market services to transmission companies, utilities and end-use customers in the region. In addition to Fiegen's participation with the group, South Dakota PUC Advisor Greg Rislov was selected 2021 chairperson of the Cost Allocation Working Group, a group tasked with supporting the Regional State Committee headed by Fiegen.

RSC President Fiegen created the SPP Improved Resource Availability Task Force comprised of SPP member subject matter experts, utility representatives and state regulators. This group is performing a comprehensive review of SPP's February 2021 Winter Storm electric service issues. The task force will develop multiple recommendations over a two-year period related to fuel assurance, resource planning and availability, and other issues identified in the report. Fiegen was an inaugural member of the group.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chris Nelson served as chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Broadband Expansion Task Force. The Task Force issued their final report, which was adopted by resolution, at the NARUC Summer Policy Summit in July 2021.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Chairman Chris Nelson led discussions, offered insight and shared his range of knowledge with groups on varied topics throughout the year including wireless telecommunications, universal service contribution reform, and broadband funding, speed, and deployment to events and groups such as the Energy Policy Leadership Summit, Federal Communications Bar Association, Utilities Technology Council, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' educational summits, Center for Public Utilities Current Issues Forum, Utility Broadband Alliance Summit and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Commissioner Nelson also met South Dakota students and utility industry representatives, offering updates about the PUC at presentations to Newell and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology students, members of Advantage South Dakota, and at annual meetings of Midstate Telecommunications and Butte Electric Cooperative.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUED...

Vice Chairperson Kristie Fiegen met with numerous South Dakotans and utility industry groups throughout the year. She carried a message of the importance of public service to students from the University of South Dakota and high schools in Howard and Sioux Falls and encouraged future leaders at the South Dakota Girls State convention. Commissioner Fiegen provided updates about the PUC to several groups and events including the Heartland Consumer Power District's annual meeting and the South Dakota Telecommunications Association/South Dakota Network Leadership Conference. As a long-time leader with the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool, she participated in many group discussions and presentations about regional transmission.

Commissioner Gary Hanson participated in a discussion about balancing demands, affordability and reliability among electricity fuel mix and power markets at the Center for Public Utilities Current Issues Forum. As president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference, Commissioner Hanson led discussions among commissioners from the 14-state region about best practices, emerging matters and regulatory challenges.



Top: Commissioner Kristie Fiegen spoke with high school juniors taking part in South Dakota Girls State in June. The annual program provides high school girls with a chance to learn about government and citizenship through hands-on experience.

Bottom Left: Commissioner Chris Nelson introduces presenters from the Capital Area United Way during the 2021 United Way “Be the G.O.A.T.” campaign. Presenters included CAUW Executive Director Chris Maxwell, project coordinator Neha Patel, and “Be the G.O.A.T.” campaign mascot, Champ (*pictured*). Capital Area United Way helps support 35 programs and services offered through 17 local CAUW funded agencies in Hughes and Stanley counties.



Bottom Right: As president of SPP's Regional States Committee and a member of SPP's Comprehensive Storm Uri Review Steering Committee, Commissioner Fiegen participated in the RTO Public Forum in Bismarck, North Dakota, in May. The forum focused on examining the impacts of February's Winter Storm Uri and possible improvements that could be made to help minimize those impacts in the future.

REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

A listing of the companies regulated by the PUC in 2021.

2021 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	\$ 1,284,290
Telecommunications Companies	\$ 482,315

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.

#	Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.
800 Response Information Services LLC	Alliance Global Networks LLC
A	American Telecommunications Systems Inc. (COA revoked 01/21)
Access One Inc.	AmeriVision Communications Inc. dba LifeLine Communications dba Affinity 4
AccessLine Communications Corp. dba Voice Telco Services	ANPI LLC
ACN Communication Services LLC	AT&T Corp.
Affinity Network Inc. dba Quantum Link Communications dba HorizonOne Communications	B
Airespring Inc.	Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC
Airus Inc.	BCN Telecom Inc.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES (CONTINUED)

B continued...

BEK Communications Cooperative
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.

C

CBTS Technology Solutions LLC
Central Telecom Long Distance Inc.
CenturyLink Communications LLC dba Lumen
CenturyLink Public Communications Inc. (withdrew
COA 04/21)
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband
Clear Rate Communications LLC
Combined Public Communications LLC
Comcast Phone of South Dakota LLC
Communications Network Billing Inc.
Communications Venture Corp. dba INdigital
COMTECH21 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
dishNET Wireline LLC

E

Easton Telecom Services LLC
Education Networks of America Inc.
Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba
ECG LLC
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
Fusion Cloud Services LLC

G

GC Pivotal LLC dba Global Capacity
Global Crossing Telecommunications Inc.
Global Tel*Link Corp.
GoDaddy.com LLC
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative
Inc. 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. dba UCN Inc.
Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions
Integrated Services Inc.
Intrado Communications LLC
Intrado Safety Communications Inc.

J

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

K

KDDI America Inc.

L

LCR Telecommunications LLC
Level 3 Communications LLC
Level 3 Telecom Data Services LLC
Long Lines Metro LLC
LTS Telecommunications Services (USA) Inc.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES (CONTINUED)

M

MagicJack SMB Inc.
Magna5 LLC
Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business Technologies
 dba Trinsic Communications dba VarTec Telecom
 dba Excel Telecommunications dba Impact
 Telecom dba Americatel dba Lingo
MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC dba Mediacom
MCI Communications Services LLC dba Verizon
 Business Services
MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. dba
 Verizon Access Transmission Services
McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services LLC dba
 PAETEC Business Services
Metropolitan Telecommunications of South Dakota Inc.
 dba MetTel
Midcontinent Communications
Middle Mile Infrastructure LLC
Midstate Communications Inc.
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.
Netwolves Network Services
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 dba CierraCom Systems

O

Onvoy LLC
Opex Communications Inc.

P

PaeTec Communications LLC
PayTel Communciations Inc.
Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC
PNG Telecommunications Inc. dba PowerNet Global
 Communications dba CrossConnect dba Thr!ve
Premier Communications Inc. dba Premier
 Communications
Public Communications Services Inc.

Q

Quantumshift Communications dba vCom Solutions
Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

R

RC Technologies
Reduced Rate Long Distance LLC
Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.

S

Santel Communications Cooperative
SBC Long Distance LLC dba AT&T Long Distance
Securus Technologies LLC
Simwood Inc.
Spectrotel Inc. dba OneTouch Communications dba
 Touch Base Communications
Sprint Communications Co. LP (withdrew COA 03/21)
Standard Tandem LLC
Stratus Networks Inc.

T

Talk America Services LLC (withdrew COA 02/21)
TDS Long Distance Corp.
Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
Televvergence Solutions Inc.
Telrite Corp.
Three River Telco dba Three River Long Distance
Time Clock Solutions LLC
Time Warner Cable Business LLC
Toly Digital Networks Inc.
Total Holdings Inc. dba GTC Communications Inc. dba
 GTC Long Distance
Touchtone Communications Inc.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES (CONTINUED)

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, A Managed Services Company, Inc.
Venture Vision Inc.
Verizon Long Distance LLC
Verizon Select Services Inc.
Vesta Solutions Inc.
Voicecom Telecommunications LLC dba Intelliverse

W

Wide Voice LLC
WiTel Communications LLC
WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services
Windstream Communications LLC
Windstream KDL LLC
Windstream New Edge LLC fka EarthLink Business LLC
Windstream Norlight 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 Inc. (withdrew COA 04/21)
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

N

Network Communications International Corp. dba NCIC
Inmate Communications

P

PayTel Communications Inc.
Public Communications Services Inc.

R

Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.

S

Securus Technologies LLC

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 31) in different service areas. The following CLECs are certified by the PUC to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota.

#

321 Communications Inc.

A

ACN Communication 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
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 dba Lumen
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband
Clear Rate Communications LLC
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

Easton Telecom Services LLC
Education Networks of America Inc.
eNetworks LLC
EnTelegent Solutions Inc.
ExteNet Systems Inc.

F

FiberComm LC
France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC
Fusion Cloud Services LLC

G

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

I

IDT America Corp.
InContact Inc. dba UCN Inc.
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative Inc.
Intrado Communications LLC
Intrado Safety Communications Inc.

L

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

M

MagicJack SMB Inc.
Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business Technologies
dba Trinsic Communications dba VarTec Telecom
dba Excel Telecommunications dba Impact Telecom
dba Americatel dba Lingo
MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC dba Mediacom
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.
Mobilitie LLC
Mobilitie Management (*withdrew 08/21*)

COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANIES (CONTINUED)

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 dba vCom Solutions

R

RC Technologies

S

Simwood Inc.
South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN Communication
Spectrotel Inc. dba One Touch Communications dba
Touch Base Communications
Sprint Communications Co. LP (*withdrew COA 03/21*)

SQF LLC

Standard Tandem LLC

T

Talk America Services LLC (*withdrew COA 02/21*)
Teleport Communications America LLC
Time Clock Solutions LLC

U

Uniti National LLC

V

Valley Communications Inc. dba Valley FiberCom
Velocity, A Managed Services Co. Inc.
Venture Vision Inc.
Vesta Solutions Inc.

W

Wide Voice LLC
Windstream KDL LLC
Windstream New Edge LLC fka Earthlink Business LLC

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.

A

Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.
Alliant Technologies LLC
Alltel Corp.
American Messaging Services LLC
AmeriVision Communications Inc. dba LifeLine
Communications dba Affinity 4
Assurance Wireless USA LP

B

Best Buy Health Inc. dba GreatCall
Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless
Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel
Communications

C

China Unicom (Americas) Operations Limited
(*withdrew 10/21*)

Comcast OTR1 LLC

CommNet Cellular Inc.

Consumer Cellular Inc.

Cricket Wireless LLC

CSC Wireless LLC dba Altice Mobile

D

Databytes Inc.

DISH Wireless LLC (Boost Mobile brand)

E

EarthLink LLC

Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba Boom
Mobile

Excellus Communications LLC

Excess Telecom Inc.

WIRELESS COMPANIES (CONTINUED)

F

FiberComm LC
Flash Wireless LLC

G

Gabb Wireless Inc.
GloTell US Corp.
Google North America Inc. dba Project Fi by Google
Granite Telecommunications LLC

H

Hello Mobile Telecom LLC

I

IM Telecom LLC dba Infiniti Mobile
i-wireless LLC

J

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

K

Kajeet Inc.
KDDI America Inc.

L

Locus Telecommunications LLC
Lunar Labs Inc. dba Lunar Wireless (*withdrew 06/21*)
Lycamobile USA Inc.

M

Marconi Wireless Holdings LLC dba Credo Mobile
Maxsip Telecom Corp.
MetroPCS of Michigan LLP dba Metro by T-Mobile
Mint Mobile LLC
Mobi Inc.

N

Native Wireless LLC
NetZero Wireless Inc. dba magicJack wireless
New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC dba AT&T Mobility LLC
NewPhone Wireless LLC
Nextel West Corp. dba Nextel
Nextiva
Nexus Communications dba Reachout Wireless
NPCR Inc. dba Nextel Partners

O

OnStar LLC
Onvoy Spectrum LLC
Orbic North America LLC

P

Pareteum Corp.

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

R

Ready Wireless LLC
Republic Wireless Inc. (*withdrew 08/21*)
Rural Cellular Corp.

S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba TruConnect
SelectTel Inc. dba SelectTel Wireless
Soehl Electronics Inc. dba Vantek Communications
Sprint Spectrum LP dba Sprint PCS
Standing Rock Telecom
Stream Communications LLC
STS Media Inc. dba FreedomPop
STX Group LLC dba Twigby

T

T C Telephone LLC dba Horizon Cellular
Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
Telefonica USA Inc.
Tempo Telecom LLC
The Light Phone Inc.
Ting Inc.
T-Mobile Central LLC dba T-Mobile USA Inc.
TouchTone Communications Inc.
TracFone Wireless Inc.
Troomi Wireless Inc.
Truphone Inc.
Tube Incorporated dba Reach Mobil

U

U.S. Mobile LLC
UVNV Inc.

V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association Inc.
Visible Service LLC
Vodafone US Inc. dba Vodapone Americas

W

WaveNation LLC
Western Communications Inc.
Wing Tel Inc.
Wizie Mobile LLC
Working Assets Funding Service Inc. dba Credo Long
Distance

Z

Zefcom LLC

LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES

Also known as Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, the following companies were providing local services when the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted. Some companies can be both an ILEC and a CLEC (see page 28) in different service areas.

INDEPENDENT

C

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband

F

Fort Randall Telephone Co.

J

Jefferson Telephone LLC aka Long Lines Ltd.

K

Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc.

Q

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

MUNICIPALS

B

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 Inc. dba
Golden West Telecommunications

I

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative Inc.

J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co. dba James
Valley Telecommunications

M

Midstate Communications Inc.

R

RC Technologies

T

TrioTel Communications Inc.

V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association Inc.
Venture Communications Cooperative

W

West River Cooperative Telephone Co.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPANIES

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 Cooperative 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

In his role as president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference, Commissioner Gary Hanson hosted MARC's Commissioners Meeting in January. Due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions faced by many participants, Hanson opted to hold the 1.5-day event virtually via Zoom to allow commissioners' participation from a distance.



DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

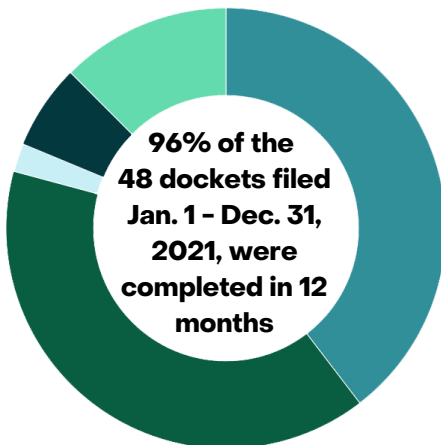
A look at all of the dockets filed with the PUC in 2021.

Type	Filed	Completed	Pending as of Jan. 1, 2022	Dockets closed between Jan. 1, 2022, and the publication date of this report (Spring 2022) are noted in parentheses. Visit www.puc.sd.gov to check the current status of pending dockets.
Administrative Items	2	2	0	
Civil	3	0	3	
Complaint	1	1	0	
Electric	35	29	6	
Gas & Electric	2	2	0	
Grain Warehouse	7	2	5	
Natural Gas	11	11	0	
Pipeline Safety	2	2	0	
Telecommunications	126	117	9	
TOTALS	189	166	23	

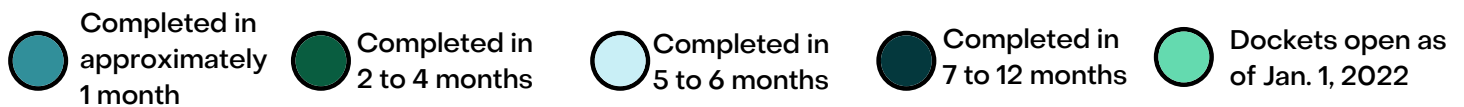
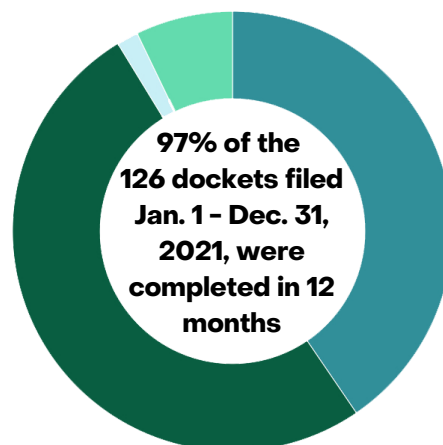
COMPLETED DOCKETS

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 and Natural Gas Dockets



Telecommunications Dockets



ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

AA21-001 – In the Matter of Clarification of the Commission’s ETC Certification Process
Date Filed: 03/09/21 ♦ Completed: 04/19/21

AA21-002 – Establishment of the Gross Receipts Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2022
Date Filed: 04/19/21 ♦ Completed: 05/06/21

CIVIL DOCKETS

Supreme Court #29610 – Garry Ehlebracht, Steven Greber, Mary Greber, Richard Rall, Amy Rall, and Laretta Kranz vs. Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC and South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Date Filed: 04/06/21 ♦ (Completed: 03/24/22)

Supreme Court #29615 – Christenson and Robish vs. Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC and South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Date Filed: 04/06/21 ♦ Pending

04CIV21-037 – In the Matter of Farmers Cooperative Elevator, Avon, South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/21/21 ♦ Pending

COMPLAINT DOCKETS

CE21-001 – In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Ann Marie Jordan against Historic Log Cabins, Hot Springs, SD Regarding an Electric Service Dispute
Date Filed: 03/22/21 ♦ Completed: 06/25/21

ELECTRIC DOCKETS

EL21-001 – 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: 01/14/21 ♦ Completed: 03/19/21

EL21-002 – In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval to Amend the Energy Cost Adjustment
Date Filed: 01/26/21 ♦ Completed: 08/05/21

EL21-003 – In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2020 Economic Development Activities and 2021 Budget
Date Filed: 02/08/21 ♦ Completed: 03/17/21

EL21-004 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company’s Petition for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its LED Lighting Rates
Date Filed: 02/08/21 ♦ Completed: 04/07/21

EL21-005 – In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Its 2020 Transmission Cost Recovery Reconciliation and 2021 Transmission Cost Recovery Factors
Date Filed: 02/16/21 ♦ Completed: 03/17/21

EL21-006 – In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Rights Exception between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. dba Sioux Valley Energy
Date Filed: 02/17/21 ♦ Completed: 04/12/21

ELECTRIC DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

EL21-007 – 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: 02/26/21 ♦ Completed: 11/16/21

EL21-008 – In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its 2020 Economic Development Report and 2021 Economic Development Plan
Date Filed: 03/01/21 ♦ Completed: 04/12/21

EL21-009 – 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: 03/01/21 ♦ Completed: 04/30/21

EL21-010 – In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Charles Mix Electric Association, Inc.
Date Filed: 03/17/21 ♦ Completed: 04/07/21

EL21-011 – In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc., dba Black Hills Energy to Amend its Cogeneration and Small Power Production Service Tariff
Date Filed: 03/19/21 ♦ Completed: 10/14/21

EL21-012 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2021 Economic Development Plan and 2020 Economic Development Report
Date Filed: 03/31/21 ♦ Completed: 05/27/21

EL21-013 – In the Matter of the Filing by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Revised Welcome Brochures
Date Filed: 04/29/21 ♦ Completed: 06/15/21

EL21-014 – In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2020 Demand Side Management Report and 2022 Proposed Demand Side Management Plan
Date Filed: 05/03/21 ♦ Completed: 12/16/21

EL21-015 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's 2020 South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report and 2021 Annual Filing to Update the Energy Efficiency Adjustment Rider
Date Filed: 05/03/21 ♦ Completed: 06/24/21

EL21-016 – In the Matter of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy's Petition for Approval for Deferred Accounting Treatment for February Cold Weather Costs
Date Filed: 05/03/21 ♦ Completed: 05/28/21

EL21-017 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of Phase-In Rider Rate
Date Filed: 06/01/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

EL21-018 – In the Matter of the Application by North Bend Wind Project, LLC for a Permit to Construct and Operate the North Bend Wind Project in Hyde County and Hughes County, South Dakota
Date Filed: 06/23/21 ♦ Pending

ELECTRIC DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

EL21-019 - 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: 06/24/21 ♦ Completed: 12/21/21

EL21-020 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Rights Exception between Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 06/29/21 ♦ Completed: 07/29/21

EL21-021 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc. and NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy
Date Filed: 07/07/21 ♦ Completed: 08/06/21

EL21-022 - In the Matter of the Request for a Declaratory Ruling Regarding the Electric Service Territory Boundary Between Clay-Union Electric, Inc. and the City of Vermillion
Date Filed: 07/13/21 ♦ Completed: 09/26/21

EL21-023 - In the Matter of the Filing by Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with GCC Dacotah, Inc.
Date Filed: 08/02/21 ♦ Completed: 09/17/21

EL21-024 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 08/23/21 ♦ Completed: 09/29/21

EL21-025 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2022 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment
Date Filed: 09/01/21 ♦ Completed: 12/20/21

EL21-026 - In the Matter of the Agreement between the City of Vermillion and Clay Union Electric Corporation for Transfer of Annexed Service Territory
Date Filed: 09/13/21 ♦ Completed: 09/30/21

EL21-027 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Rights Exception between Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 09/29/21 ♦ Completed: 11/01/21

EL21-028 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2022 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update
Date Filed: 10/01/21 ♦ Completed: 12/28/21

EL21-029 - 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: 10/13/21 ♦ Completed: 12/06/21

EL21-030 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rate SAL - Street and Area Lighting Tariff
Date Filed: 10/27/21 ♦ Completed: 12/06/21

ELECTRIC DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

EL21-031 – In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate

Date Filed: 10/29/21 ♦ (Completed: 02/25/22)

EL21-032 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company’s Petition for Approval of Real Time Pricing Rider Tariff Revisions

Date Filed: 11/19/21 ♦ Pending

EL21-033 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company’s Proposal for a Residential Time of Day Pilot Plan

Date Filed: 11/19/21 ♦ (Completed: 03/11/22)

EL21-034 – In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Additional Customer Signature Options

Date Filed: 11/22/21 ♦ (Completed: 01/20/22)

EL21-035 – In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of a Credit Mechanism for Payments from the Third Extended Department of Energy Settlement

Date Filed: 12/03/21 ♦ (Completed: 01/20/22)

GAS & ELECTRIC DOCKETS

GE21-001 – In the Matter of Staff’s Request regarding the February 2021 Cold Weather Event and Its Impact on Utility Fuel Clause Adjustments and Purchased Gas Adjustments

Date Filed: 02/17/21 ♦ Completed: 04/30/21

Date Reopened: 12/09/21 ♦ (Completed: 01/06/22)

GE21-002 – In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of a Revised Customer Information Welcome Booklet

Date Filed: 03/17/21 ♦ Completed: 05/04/21

GRAIN WAREHOUSE DOCKETS

GW21-001 – In the Matter of PUC Staff’s Complaint Against Fearless Grain Marketing, LLC and Jeremy Frost

Date Filed: 03/31/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

GW21-002 – In the Matter of Farmers Cooperative Elevator, Avon, South Dakota

Date Filed: 07/07/21 ♦ Pending

GW21-003 – In the Matter of the Grain Buyer Bond of Farmers Cooperative Elevator, Avon, South Dakota

Date Filed: 07/22/21 ♦ (Completed: 03/22/22)

GW21-004 – In the Matter of the Grain Buyer Bond of Pipeline Foods, LLC

Date Filed: 08/12/21 ♦ Pending

GW21-005 – In the Matter of the Request for Approval of a Settlement Stipulation Regarding Violations of SDCL 49-45

Date Filed: 10/26/21 ♦ Completed: 12/21/21

GRAIN WAREHOUSE DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

GW21-006 - In the Matter of the PUC Staff's Complaint Against West Plains, LLC For Violations of SDCL 49-45-1

Date Filed: 11/29/21 ♦ (Completed: 01/03/22)

GW21-007 - In the Matter of the PUC Staff's Complaint Against Dallas Langley Trucking For Violations of SDCL 49-45-1

Date Filed: 12/30/21 ♦ (Completed: 03/18/22)

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS

NG21-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Its Revised Conservation Tracking Adjustment

Date Filed: 01/29/21 ♦ Completed: 02/25/21

NG21-002 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2021 Economic Development Plan and 2020 Economic Development Report

Date Filed: 03/31/21 ♦ Completed: 05/27/21

NG21-003 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Its 2020 Economic Development Activities and 2021 Proposed Budget

Date Filed: 05/06/21 ♦ Completed: 06/24/21

NG21-004 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Removal of a Contract with Deviations with the University of South Dakota

Date Filed: 07/01/21 ♦ Completed: 07/29/21

NG21-005 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Crystal Springs Feeds, LLC

Date Filed: 08/20/21 ♦ Completed: 09/16/21

NG21-006 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions

Date Filed: 08/23/21 ♦ Completed: 09/29/21

NG21-007 - 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: 08/27/21 ♦ Completed: 10/01/21

NG21-008 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Brightmark Full Circle RNG, LLC

Date Filed: 10/12/21 ♦ Completed: 12/13/21

NG21-009 - 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: 10/21/21 ♦ Completed: 11/24/21

NG21-010 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Brightmark Mill Valley RNG LLC

Date Filed: 11/17/21 ♦ Completed: 12/22/21

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

NG21-011 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with POET Biorefining – Mitchell, LLC
Date Filed: 12/13/21 ♦ Completed: 12/22/21

PIPELINE SAFETY DOCKETS

PS21-001 – PUC Staff’s Request for Waiver of Certain Code Requirements Identified in PHMSA Amendment 192-128
Date Filed: 03/25/21 ♦ Completed: 05/05/21

PS21-002 – PUC Staff’s Request for Additional Waiver of Certain Code Requirements Identified in PHMSA Amendment 192-128
Date Filed: 05/18/21 ♦ Completed: 05/27/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

TC21-001 – In the Matter of the Application of LTD Broadband LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Federal Universal Service Support
Date Filed: 01/07/21 ♦ Pending

TC21-002 – In the Matter of the Application by Uniti National LLC for Certificates of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 01/27/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

TC21-003 – In the Matter of the Application by Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. for Expanded Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 01/29/21 ♦ Completed: 05/07/21

TC21-004 – In the Matter of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC’s Petition for Authority to Convert to GAAP Accounting
Date Filed: 02/01/21 ♦ Completed: 03/10/21

TC21-005 – In the Matter of the Approval of a Type 2 Wireless Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and DISH Wireless LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/05/21 ♦ Completed: 03/10/21

TC21-006 – In the Matter of the Routing of Traffic Through a Third Party Transit Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and DISH Wireless LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/08/21 ♦ Completed: 03/10/21

TC21-007 – In the Matter of the Application of RC Technologies for an Amended Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation in the Milbank Exchange
Date Filed: 02/08/21 ♦ Completed: 04/15/21

TC21-008 – In the Matter of the Application of LTS Telecommunications Services (USA) Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Service in South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/16/21 ♦ Completed: 05/05/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-009 – In the Matter of the Application by Venture Vision Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 02/19/21 ♦ Completed: 04/20/21

TC21-010 – In the Matter of Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. dba Alliance Communications' Application for Expanded Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Date Filed: 03/09/21 ♦ Completed: 05/19/21

TC21-011 – In the Matter of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.'s Application for Expanded Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Date Filed: 03/09/21 ♦ Completed: 05/19/21

TC21-012 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and CenturyLink Communications LLC
Date Filed: 03/31/21 ♦ Completed: 05/04/21
Date Reopened: 07/13/21 ♦ Completed: 08/04/21

TC21-013 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Level 3 Communications LLC
Date Filed: 03/31/21 ♦ Completed: 05/05/21
Date Reopened: 07/13/21 ♦ Completed: 08/05/21

TC21-014 – In the Matter of the Application of LTD Broadband LLC for Certificates of Authority to Provide Resold and Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 04/13/21 ♦ Pending

TC21-015 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 04/27/21 ♦ Completed: 05/27/21

TC21-016 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 04/27/21 ♦ Completed: 05/27/21
Date Reopened: 07/13/21 ♦ Completed: 08/06/21

TC21-017 – In the Matter of the Petition of Fiber Ring Revenue-Pooling Association for Approval of Revised Rates
Date Filed: 04/30/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

TC21-018 – In the Matter of the Adoption of the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Clear Rate Communications, Inc. for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 05/05/21 ♦ Completed: 06/15/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-019 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/05/21 ♦ Completed: 06/11/21

Date Reopened: 07/13/21 ♦ Completed: 08/04/21

TC21-020 – In the Matter of the Filing by Midcontinent Communications dba Midco for Approval of Waiver of the Utilization Threshold Requirements in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/06/21 ♦ Completed: 05/19/21

TC21-021 – In the Matter of the Filing of Metropolitan Telecommunications of South Dakota, Inc. dba MetTel for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 3

Date Filed: 05/06/21 ♦ Completed: 06/22/21

TC21-022 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Nebraska Technology and Telecommunications Inc. for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/07/21 ♦ Completed: 06/15/21

TC21-023 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Nebraska Technology and Telecommunications Inc. for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/07/21 ♦ Completed: 11/01/21

TC21-024 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Northern Valley Communications, LLC for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/19/21 ♦ Completed: 06/15/21

Date Reopened: 07/13/21 ♦ Completed: 08/06/21

TC21-025 – In the Matter of the Filing of Intrado Communications, LLC for Approval of Its Access Services Tariff No. 2

Date Filed: 05/19/21 ♦ Completed: 06/24/21

TC21-026 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Clear Rate Communications, Inc. for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/20/21 ♦ Completed: 06/15/21

TC21-027 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Clear Rate Communications, Inc. for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/20/21 ♦ Completed: 06/11/21

TC21-028 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Midcontinent Communications for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 05/21/21 ♦ Completed: 06/29/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-029 - In the Matter of the Filing of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff
Date Filed: 05/21/21 ♦ Completed: 06/24/21

TC21-030 - In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and EnTelegent Solutions, Inc. for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 05/24/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

TC21-031 - In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 05/24/21 ♦ Completed: 08/04/21

TC21-032 - In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 05/24/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

TC21-033 - In the Matter of the Approval of Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Resale Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and InTTec, Inc. for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 05/25/21 ♦ Completed: 06/29/21

TC21-034 - In the Matter of the Filing by Northern Valley Communications, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 05/28/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

TC21-035 - In the Matter of the Filing by Local Exchange Carriers Association for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 06/01/21 ♦ Completed: 06/24/21

TC21-036 - In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Bullseye Telecom, Inc. for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 06/02/21 ♦ Completed: 07/26/21

TC21-037 - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 06/07/21 ♦ Completed: 08/31/21

TC21-038 - In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and XO Communications Services, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 06/09/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

TC21-039 - In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and XO Communications Services, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 06/09/21 ♦ Completed: 08/04/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-040 - In the Matter of the Filing by MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. dba Verizon Access Transmission Services for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 06/10/21 ♦ Completed: 07/08/21

TC21-041 - In the Matter of the Application of City of Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel Communications for an Amended Certificate of Authority
Date Filed: 06/14/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TC21-042 - In the Matter of the Filing of Airus, Inc. for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 06/14/21 ♦ Completed: 07/26/21

TC21-043 - In the Matter of the Filing of Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 06/14/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TC21-044 - 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: 06/16/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-045 - 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: 06/21/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-046 - 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: 06/21/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-047 - 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: 06/21/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-048 - 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: 06/21/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-049 - 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: 06/21/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-050 - In the Matter of the Approval of a Third Party Transit Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC
Date Filed: 06/23/21 ♦ Completed: 07/27/21

TC21-051 - In the Matter of the Approval of a Routing of Traffic Through a Third Party Transit Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC
Date Filed: 06/23/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-052 - 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: 06/23/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-053 - 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: 06/23/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-054 - 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: 06/23/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-055 - 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: 06/24/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-056 - 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: 06/24/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-057 - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391654)
Date Filed: 06/24/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-058 - 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: 06/24/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-059 - In the Matter of the Filing of Fort Randall Telephone Company for Approval of Revisions to Its Intrastate Switched Access Services Tariff
Date Filed: 06/24/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TC21-060 - In the Matter of the Request of Venture Communications Cooperative for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391680)
Date Filed: 06/24/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-061 - 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: 06/25/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-062 - 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: 06/25/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-063 - 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: 06/25/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-064 - 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: 06/25/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-065 - In the Matter of the Filing by dishNET Wireline, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 06/28/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TC21-066 - 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: 06/29/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-067 - In the Matter of the Request of RC Technologies for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391674)
Date Filed: 06/29/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-068 - 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: 06/29/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-069 - 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: 06/29/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-070 - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399005)
Date Filed: 06/29/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-071 - In the Matter of the Filing of Intrado Communications, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 06/29/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TC21-072 - In the Matter of the Filing of McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 3
Date Filed: 06/30/21 ♦ Completed: 07/27/21

TC21-073 - In the Matter of the Filing of YMax Communications Corp. for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 06/30/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TC21-074 - In the Matter of the Filing of MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. dba Verizon Access Transmission Services' for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 06/30/21 ♦ Completed: 07/28/21

TC21-075 - 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: 06/30/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-076 - In the Matter of the Filing of Bandwidth.com CLEC, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its South Dakota Tariff No. 1

Date Filed: 06/30/21 ♦ Completed: 07/29/21

TC21-077 - 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: 06/30/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-078 - In the Matter of the Filing of Broadvox-CLEC, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1

Date Filed: 07/01/21 ♦ Completed: 08/26/21

TC21-079 - In the Matter of the Filing of AT&T Corp. for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services and Network Interconnection Services Tariff

Date Filed: 07/01/21 ♦ Completed: 08/27/21

TC21-080 - 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: 07/01/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-081 - In the Matter of the Application of Cable One VoIP LLC dba Sparklight for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Receive Federal Lifeline Support

Date Filed: 07/01/21 ♦ Completed: 09/30/21

TC21-082 - 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: 07/01/21 ♦ Completed: 09/27/21

TC21-083 - In the Matter of the Filing of Granite Telecommunications, LLC's for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 3

Date Filed: 07/02/21 ♦ Completed: 08/26/21

TC21-084 - In the Matter of the Filing of Fusion Cloud Services, LLC's for Approval of Revisions to Its South Dakota Tariff No. 1

Date Filed: 07/06/21 ♦ Completed: 07/29/21

TC21-085 - In the Matter of the Filing of BullsEye Telecom, Inc. for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2

Date Filed: 07/06/21 ♦ Completed: 11/01/21

TC21-086 - In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Teleport Communications America, LLC

Date Filed: 07/08/21 ♦ Completed: 08/05/21

TC21-087 - In the Matter of the Batch Hot Cut Removal Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Teleport Communications America, LLC

Date Filed: 07/08/21 ♦ Completed: 09/20/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-088 – In the Matter of the Batch Hot Cut Removal Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and AT&T Corporation
Date Filed: 07/08/21 ♦ Completed: 09/15/21

TC21-089 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and AT&T Corporation
Date Filed: 07/08/21 ♦ Completed: 08/05/21

TC21-090 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Intrado Communications, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/09/21 ♦ Completed: 08/25/21

TC21-091 – In the Matter of the Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Spectrotel, Inc. dba OneTouch Communications dba Touch Base Communications
Date Filed: 07/09/21 ♦ Completed: 08/05/21

TC21-092 – In the Matter of the Filing of Midcontinent Communications for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff
Date Filed: 07/09/21 ♦ Completed: 08/26/21

TC21-093 – In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Approval of Revisions to Vast Broadband fka Knology of the Plains' South Dakota Access Tariff No. 3 and Vast Broadband fka Knology of the Black Hills, LLC's South Dakota Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 07/12/21 ♦ Completed: 10/05/21

TC21-094 – In the Matter of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. fka SSTELECOM for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 07/13/21 ♦ Completed: 08/31/21

TC21-095 – In the Matter of the Filing of Midstate Communications, Inc. for Approval of Revisions to Its Switched Access Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 07/14/21 ♦ Completed: 08/26/21

TC21-096 – In the Matter of the Filing of ATV Holdings, LLC dba Mitchell Telecom for Approval of Revisions to Its Switched Access Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 07/15/21 ♦ Completed: 08/26/21

TC21-097 – In the Matter of the Filing by South Dakota Network, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Service Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 07/15/21 ♦ Completed: 10/05/21

TC21-098 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Intrado Communications, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/26/21 ♦ Completed: 08/30/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-099 – In the Matter of the Filing of Hills Telephone Company, Inc. for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1

Date Filed: 07/27/21 ♦ Completed: 11/01/21

TC21-100 – In the Matter of the Filing of Intrado Communications, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2

Date Filed: 07/27/21 ♦ Completed: 08/30/21

TC21-101 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and QuantumShift Communications, Inc. dba vCom Solutions for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 07/27/21 ♦ Completed: 08/26/21

TC21-102 – In the Matter of the Approval of the Amended Interconnection Agreement between Midcontinent Communications dba Midco and Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

Date Filed: 07/28/21 ♦ Completed: 08/27/21

TC21-103 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Airus, Inc. fka IntelPeer, Inc. for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 07/29/21 ♦ Completed: 08/24/21

TC21-104 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and QuantumShift Communications, Inc. dba vCom Solutions for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 07/30/21 ♦ Completed: 08/27/21

TC21-105 – In the Matter of the Filing of Neutral Tandem-South Dakota, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1

Date Filed: 08/03/21 ♦ Completed: 08/30/21

TC21-106 – In the Matter of the Filing of Onvoy, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2

Date Filed: 08/03/21 ♦ Completed: 10/05/21

TC21-107 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Bandwidth.com CLEC, LLC for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 08/18/21 ♦ Completed: 09/20/21

TC21-108 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Bandwidth.com CLEC, LLC for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 08/18/21 ♦ Completed: 09/16/21

TC21-109 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and BCN Telecom, Inc. for the State of South Dakota

Date Filed: 08/19/21 ♦ Completed: 09/20/21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-110 – In the Matter of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.’s Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the Purpose of Receiving Federal Universal Service Support for Lifeline Only in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 08/30/21 ♦ Completed: 11/01/21

TC21-111 – In the Matter of the Application of Middle Mile Infrastructure, LLC for a Certificate of Authority for Interexchange Service in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 09/01/21 ♦ Completed: 11/15/21

TC21-112 – In the Matter of the Approval of the Partner Delivery Service Arrangements Amendment to the Type 1 and Type 2 Paging Connection Service Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Spok, Inc. for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 09/17/21 ♦ Completed: 10/29/21

TC21-113 – In the Matter of the Application by Electric Lightwave LLC dba Allstream for Certificates of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 09/17/21 ♦ Pending

TC21-114 – In the Matter of the Application by Venture Vision, Inc. for Approval of a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 10/04/21 ♦ Completed: 11/16/21

TC21-115 – In the Matter of the Petition of Fiber Ring Revenue-Pooling Association for Approval of Amended Documents and Additional Traffic Class
Date Filed: 10/08/21 ♦ Completed: 11/29/21

TC21-116 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and ACN Communication Services, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 11/01/21 ♦ Completed: 12/13/21

TC21-117 – In the Matter of the Approval of a Batch Hot Cut Removal Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and ACN Communication Services, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 11/01/21 ♦ Completed: 12/13/21

TC21-118 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and ACN Communication Services, LLC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 11/01/21 ♦ Completed: 12/13/21

TC21-119 – In the Matter of DataBytes Inc.’s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/24/21 ♦ (Completed: 02/25/22)

TC21-120 – In the Matter of T C Telephone LLC dba Horizon Cellular’s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/24/21 ♦ (Completed: 02/25/22)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

TC21-121 - In the Matter of Wing Tel, Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/24/21 ♦ (Completed: 02/25/22)

TC21-122 - In the Matter of the Approval of an ICC VoIP Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Midcontinent Communications for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 11/29/21 ♦ Completed: 12/23/21

TC21-123 - In the Matter of the Approval of a Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Midcontinent Communications for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 11/29/21 ♦ Completed: 12/23/21

TC21-124 - In the Matter of the Approval of the Petition for Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement Between Midcontinent Communications and James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company
Date Filed: 12/06/21 ♦ Pending

TC21-125 - In the Matter of the Application of Celerity Networks LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/20/21 ♦ (Completed: 02/24/22)

TC21-126 - In the Matter of the Filing by Clear Rate Communications, LLC for Approval of Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 12/29/21 ♦ (Completed: 03/21/22)

REOPENED DOCKETS

EL20-022 - In the Matter of the filing by Otter Tail Power Company regarding its 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency Partnership Triennial Plan
Date Filed: 07/01/20 ♦ Completed: 11/30/20
Date Reopened: 09/20/21 ♦ Completed: 10/14/21

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
Date Reopened: 12/08/21 ♦ (Completed: 02/04/22)

EL17-042 - In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of a Combustion Turbine Generator and Associated Infrastructure Including a Natural Gas Pipeline and Electric Transmission Line near Astoria, South Dakota
Date Filed: 10/05/17 ♦ Completed: 08/03/18
Date Reopened: 05/27/21 ♦ Pending

EL09-028 - In the Matter of the Application by PrairieWinds SD1, Inc., a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, for a Wind Energy Facility Permit for the PrairieWinds SD1 Wind Farm and Associated Facilities
Date Filed: 12/30/09 ♦ Completed: 08/14/10
Date Reopened: 06/01/21 ♦ Pending

REOPENED DOCKETS (CONTINUED)

EL08-031 - In the Matter of the Application by Buffalo Ridge II LLC a subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, Inc., for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of the Buffalo Ridge II Wind Farm and Associated Collection Substation and Electric Interconnection System.

Date Filed: 10/31/08 ♦ Completed: 04/23/09

Date Reopened: 02/25/11 ♦ Completed: 03/14/11

Date Reopened: 11/26/13 ♦ Completed: 12/17/13

Date Reopened: 03/31/21 ♦ Pending

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

Date Reopened: 01/05/21 ♦ Completed: 02/25/21

MISSION STATEMENT

of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will serve and protect South Dakota 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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