

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

South Dakota



**Public
Utilities
Commission**

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About the PUC

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners are elected statewide 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, puc.sd.gov, contains a wealth of information including audio livestreams and recordings of meetings and hearings.



REGULATION

The commission regulates investor-owned electric, natural gas, and telephone utilities. The PUC ensures utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable service and that investor-owned companies do so with just and reasonable rates. The commission has a limited regulatory role with respect to telecommunications companies and cooperative, independent 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, carbon dioxide or hydrogen.



SITING



OUTREACH

The commission advocates for telecommunications and energy policy at state and federal levels.

The PUC helps resolve disputes between customers and their utilities. The commission operates the South Dakota Do Not Call registry, natural gas pipeline safety program, and licenses and inspects public 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 and November 2022.

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Chairman: 2012, 2015, 2016, 2021, 2025
Vice Chairman: 2011, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020, 2025

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
- co-chairman 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 Organization of MISO States' board of directors, also serving as OMS vice president
- member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council

Past roles include:

- chairman of NARUC's Committee on Telecommunications
- chairman of NARUC's Broadband Expansion Task Force

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 recognized 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-CHAIR 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 and 2024.

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Chairperson: 2017, 2018, 2023, 2024

Vice Chairperson: 2012, 2015, 2016, 2021, 2022, 2025

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 and the state chairperson of the American Legislative Exchange Council.



NATIONAL & REGIONAL ROLES

Kristie's current roles include:

- vice chairperson of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Gas
- member of the NARUC Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety
- chairperson of the Gas Technology Institute's Public Interest Advisory Committee
- member of Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee
- chairperson of SPP's Resource and Energy Assurance Leadership team (REAL)
- chairperson of SPP's Improved Resource Availability Task Force
- member of SPP's RSC Nominating Committee
- member of SPP's Markets+ State Committee
- member of the SPP-RSC Liaison Committee

Past roles include:

- president of SPP's Regional State Committee
- chairperson of SPP's Regional Allocation Review Task Force

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

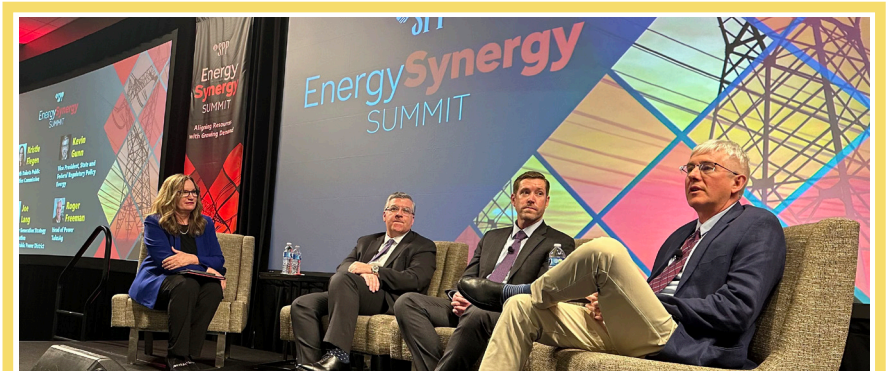
Kristie was recognized as the top Junior Achievement USA President in 2008. Under her leadership, participation in Junior Achievement increased from 2,400 to more than 44,000 students annually and her team was named among the top eight franchises in the country nine times.

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 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 Kristie Fiegen, far left, moderated the “Managing Load Growth” panel at SPP’s March EnergySynergy Summit in Dallas. The panel also included, left to right, Evergy’s Kevin Gunn, Omaha Public Power District’s Joe Lang, and Roger Freeman from Talus.

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

Chairman: 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020, 2025

Vice Chairman: 2003, 2004, 2011, 2017, 2018, 2023, 2024

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 chairman of the committees on Bonding and Government Audit and Operations, and was vice chairman 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
- member of the Advisory Council for New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities
- member of the national Low-Income Energy Forum

Past roles include:

- president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference
- member of the Organization of MISO States' Board of Directors and Committee on Conflict of Interest
- 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. In Sioux Falls, he was 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 Pavilion and Great Plains Zoo. While Gary was mayor of Sioux Falls, the violent crime rate decreased every year except one for a total decrease of over 35%.

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 Hats 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 THE 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

The PUC saw several staffing changes in 2025. Longtime executive director Patricia Van Gerpen retired at the end of June. While preparing for Van Gerpen's retirement, commissioners evaluated the commission's leadership structure in place, identified an opportunity to restructure the PUC in a way that would better prepare the commission for the road ahead and began the search for the best individuals to fill needed roles.

Former deputy executive director, **Leah Mohr**, stepped into the role of **executive director** upon Van Gerpen's exit. As executive director, Mohr is responsible for the overall management of the PUC staff and day-to-day operations of the agency. She is a liaison between commissioners and staff on all issues, as well as between the commission and the media. Leah also works directly on a number of planning and policy initiatives.

Cindy Kemnitz expanded her role this year, adding duties of **deputy executive director** to her existing role as **finance manager** of the PUC. She 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 supervises the commission's administrative support staff and functions.

Travis Heasley joined the staff as **operations specialist**. He schedules hearings and various meetings for the commission. He also prepares the commission's meeting agendas and coordinates logistics for informational and educational meetings, as well as hearings. Travis monitors and manages the development of the PUC's websites.

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

Administrative staff members perform a variety of support services including handling incoming phone calls and mail, greeting guests, providing support during commission meetings and hearings, and maintaining the docket management system. **Joy Irving, records specialist**, has primary responsibility for maintaining the PUC electronic docket system as well as each of the websites the commission operates. **Janeth Merriman, administrative specialist**, is on the front line in the front office, assists with commission orders, meeting agendas, minutes, and weekly filing reports and provides backup for online content maintenance.

Advising the commissioners are **Kristen Edwards** as **commission attorney** and **Greg Rislov** as **commission advisor**. Kristen also serves as hearing examiner and represents the commission in federal courts and before federal regulatory agencies. Greg provides policy and technical consultation and research support regarding major regulatory issues. He also has a key role in the commission's participation in regional transmission organizations.

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.

In 2025, **Patrick Steffensen** was promoted to the role of **public utilities program manager**. In his new position, Patrick maintains his role as an analyst with the added responsibilities of making docket and project assignments for docket staff and helping manage workloads. Patrick, along with **analysts Brittany Mehlhaff, Eric Paulson, and Joseph Rezac** 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, and provide in-depth analysis and support on regional transmission organization issues. They also provide other docket analysis as assigned.



Staff analyst Brittany Mehlhaff was recognized by the commission for long time service to the State of South Dakota at a commission meeting in June. A lapel pin was presented by Commissioner Hanson to mark her 15-year work anniversary with the state.



The PUC's newest staff attorney, Jennie Fuerst, was took her oath during her federal court swearing in ceremony in March. Fuerst's oath was administered the Honorable Eric C. Schulte, Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota.

Amanda Reiss, Jennie Fuerst and **Logan Schaeffbauer** 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. Jennie also took on the additional role of serving as commission counsel for docket HP24-001, Summit Carbon Solutions' application for a permit to construct a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline.

The **Pipeline Safety Program** is staffed by engineers and **inspectors 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.

Kyle Weinman is the **manager** of the **Grain Warehouse Program** that works to protect property of and safeguard payments to grain producers. **Inspectors 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 performs check-off audits for various grain commissions and councils. Kyle joined the PUC in September after former manager Cody Chambliss accepted a new opportunity in July.

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 coordinates the PUC's presence at home shows and the State Fair and makes group presentations as requested.



The PUC celebrated a successful year, shared holiday cheer and held a lively gift exchange at the annual PUC Christmas party.

Top left: Greg Rislov, Travis Heasley, Jennie Fuerst, Kristen Edwards and Mary Zanter

Top right: Janeth Merriman, Joy Irving, Brittany Olson, Amanda Reiss and Brittany Mehlhaff.

Middle Row: Darren Kearney, Patrick Steffensen, Logan Schaeffbauer, Eric Paulson and Joe Rezac.

Bottom Left: Cindy Kemnitz, Leah Mohr, Deb Gregg, and Commissioner Kristie Fiegen

Bottom Right: Jon Thurber, Vicky Burns, Sarah McIntosh, Jason Schuchard and Commissioner Chris Nelson.



2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

	BUDGET	GENERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	ENCUMBRANCE	BUDGET NOT EXPENDED
ADMINISTRATION						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,566,321	\$444,974	\$29,539	\$1,071,395	\$0	\$20,413
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$227,320	\$0	\$0	\$184,328	\$3,146	\$39,846
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,793,641	\$444,974	\$29,539	\$1,255,723	\$3,146	\$60,259
GRAIN WAREHOUSE						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$359,692	\$242,725	\$0	\$99,156	\$0	\$17,811
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$98,709	\$64,580	\$0	\$1,241	\$0	\$32,888
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$458,401	\$307,305	\$0	\$100,397	\$0	\$50,699
FIXED UTILITY (INFORMATIONAL BUDGET)						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,787,070	\$0	\$2,165	\$1,537,500	\$0	\$247,405
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$734,518	\$0	\$0	\$281,827	\$4,464	\$448,227
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$2,521,588	\$0	\$2,165	\$1,819,327	\$4,464	\$695,632
PIPELINE SAFETY (INFORMATIONAL BUDGET)						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$428,665	\$0	\$168,765	\$23,022	\$0	\$236,878
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$119,400	\$0	\$97,606	\$18,671	\$0	\$3,123
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$548,065	\$0	\$266,371	\$41,693	\$0	\$240,001
DO NOT CALL REGISTRY						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$9,536	\$0	\$464
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$9,536	\$0	\$464
GRAIN & GROSS RECEIPTS TAX REVENUES						
GRAIN & WAREHOUSE LICENSES*	\$116,325			GROSS RECEIPTS TAX*		\$2,021,066
CHECK OFF AUDITS	\$8,600			APPLICATION FEES		\$750
INTEREST EARNED	\$13,318			INTEREST EARNED		\$97,782
TOTAL REVENUE	\$138,243			TOTAL REVENUE		\$2,119,598

*Includes fines/penalties

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

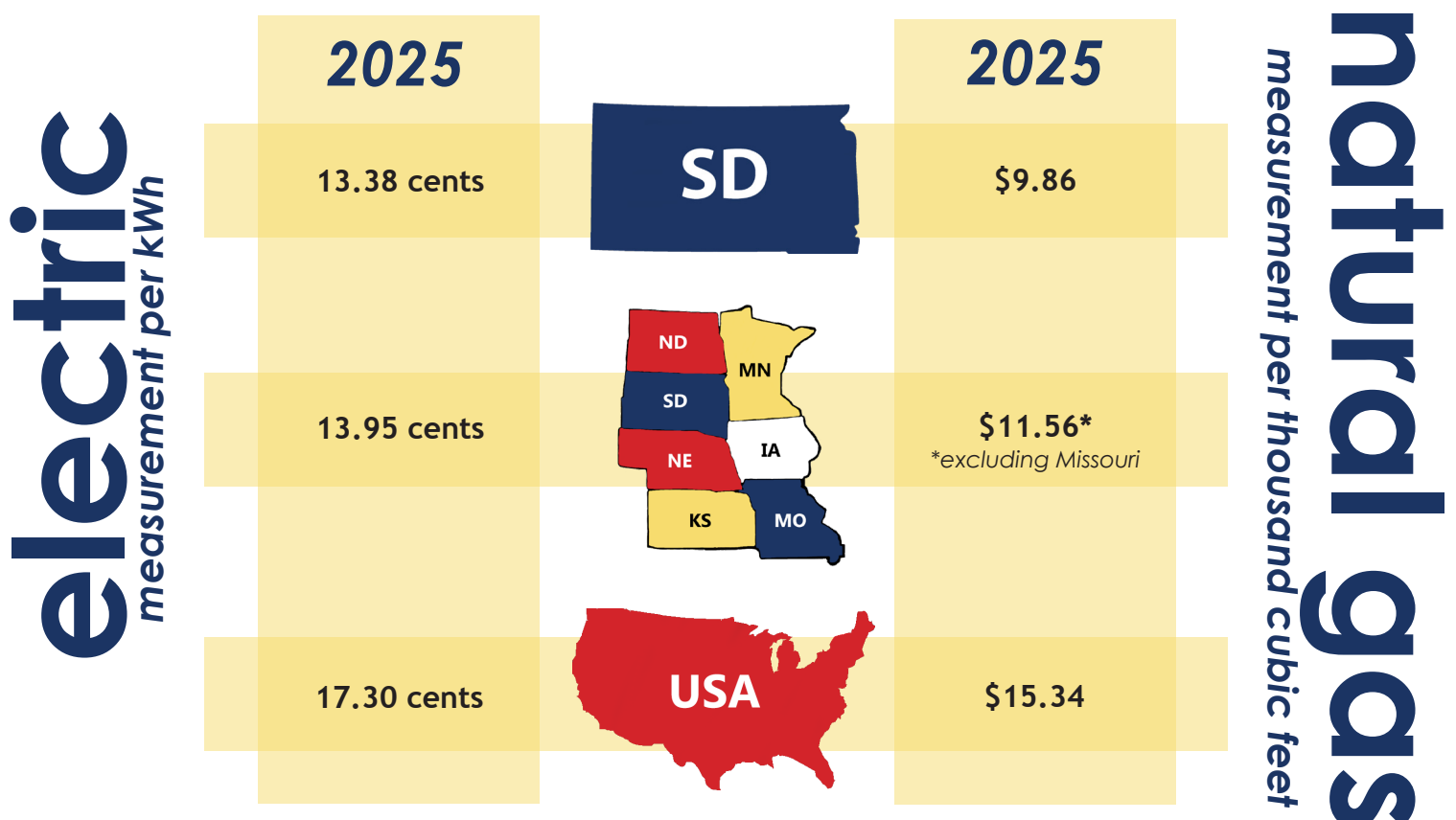
A look back highlighting actions taken by the PUC during the 2025 calendar year.

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 2025.

AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY RATES



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

RATE CHANGES & ADJUSTMENTS

The commission processed several transmission cost recovery tariff requests in 2025 with these results:

- In February, **Otter Tail Power Co.**'s updated transmission cost recovery rider rate was approved by the commission. The updated rate allows for recovery of nearly \$2.8 million related to six previously approved projects, regional transmission expenses and revenues, and an updated transmission demand allocation factor. The company's request also included returning an estimated \$286,687 from over-collection to customers. Otter Tail estimates a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month will see a monthly bill increase of approximately \$0.42 as a result of the change. See docket EL24-034.
- In March, the commission signed off on **MidAmerican Energy**'s updated TCR rider rate. The updated rates are based on true ups to the actual over/under recovery from 2024, 2025 forecasted Midcontinent Independent System Operator transmission expense, and the forecasted over/under recovery for January through March of 2025. The new rate, effective April 1, 2025, resulted in a typical residential customer using 700 kWh per month seeing a \$0.30 per month increase in their monthly bill. See docket EL25-004.
- In April, the PUC approved **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.**'s annual update to its TCR rider. The revised rate of negative \$0.00127 per kWh allows for the recovery of MISO and SPP expenses net of revenues, net of the Basin Facility Agreement and Rate 45 revenue, but does not include any new projects. Compared to the previous rate, a typical residential customer using 900 kWh per month will see an increase of \$0.80 per month or \$9.60 per year. When combined with the company's updated Infrastructure Rider Rate, that same customer will see a net decrease of \$0.40 per month or \$4.80 annually. See docket EL25-006.
- In December, the commission approved an updated transmission cost recovery rider rate for **Xcel Energy**. The updated rate included costs associated with 22 transmissions projects, including one new project, and MISO Schedule 26 revenues and expenses. The approved \$2,475,901 revenue translates to a monthly bill increase of approximately \$0.47 for a typical residential customer using 750 kwh per month. Costs and a determination related to the Minnesota Energy Connection project have been deferred to a later date pending the outcome of the filed rate case. See docket EL25-031.

In April, the commission approved **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.**'s annual update to its infrastructure rider rate. The update approved a 2025 Infrastructure Rider revenue requirement of \$356,083 associated with two new projects, the rebuild of the Wishek Transmission Substation and upgrades to the SCADA system, recovery of a Regulatory Asset, and a projected over collection from the previous year. As a result of the change, a typical residential customer using 900 kWh per month will see a decrease of \$1.20 per month, or \$14.40 per year. When combined with the company's updated Transmission Cost Recovery Rate, that same customer will see a net decrease of \$0.40 per month or \$4.80 annually. See docket EL25-007.

In May, the commission approved **Otter Tail Power Co.**'s annual update to its Phase-in Rider rate with a total revenue requirement of \$3,198,356. The revenue requirement is recovered in two parts, with the revised "percent of bill" phase-in rider factor of 9.863% and per meter rates that vary by customer class. The updated rates allow Otter Tail to recover costs associated with the Astoria, Merricourt, and Ashtabula III wind projects, Abercrombie Solar and Solway Solar projects, Lake Norden Area load growth credit, savings associated with the retirement of the Hoot Lake Plant, four wind repower projects at Langdon, Luverne, Ashtabula I and Ashtabula III, new advanced metering infrastructure, outage management system, and demand response system. As a result of the update, a residential customer with one residential meter who uses 1,000 kWh a month will see a monthly bill decrease of \$0.68. See docket EL24-038.

RATE CHANGES & ADJUSTMENTS CONTINUED...

In June, the commission received and began processing an application from **Otter Tail Power Co.** for approval to increase rates for approximately 11,500 electric service customers in its South Dakota service territory by over \$5.7 million annually or approximately 12.5% based on Otter Tail's 2024 historic test year. The company stated a typical residential customer using 932 kWh per month would see an increase of approximately \$14.39 per month. Interim rates were implemented in December.

(Following extensive discovery, negotiations and research, the company and PUC staff reached a comprehensive agreement on all issues and submitted it to the commission for consideration in March 2026. After additional inquiry, Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen voted to approved the submitted settlement stipulation allowing for an electric base rate increase below the company's original ask. Commissioner Hanson was unable to be present for the vote. As a result of the approval, a typical residential customer using 932 kWh per month would see an estimated increase of \$8.97 in their monthly bill, significantly less than the original request.) See docket EL25-022.

Xcel Energy filed an application with the PUC in June, requesting approval to increase rates for electric service to its approximately 107,000 South Dakota customers by approximately 15% or \$43.6 million annually. Additionally, the filing included specific requests to roll the costs of certain projects currently being recovered through infrastructure and transmission cost recovery riders into base rates that would result in a gross overall base rate increase of \$63.4 million. As a result of the changes, the company estimates a typical residential electric customer using 756 kWh per month would see an average monthly bill increase of about \$20.56 or 18.66%. One intervenor participated in the docket process. A decision is expected in 2026. See docket EL25-024.

In July, the PUC approved **NorthWestern Energy's** request to implement a phase-in rate plan rider. The approved rider plan will allow NorthWestern to recover costs associated with two new modular simple cycle natural gas combustion turbines located at the Aberdeen Generation Station site, along with the study and evaluation of Small Modular Nuclear Reactor (SMR) technology to meet future generation and capacity needs. The plan has a total revenue requirement of \$4,277,952 and will also remove costs that are currently recovered in base rates that are associated with assets that will soon be retired. As a result of the rider, a typical residential electric customer using an average of 750 kWh per month will see a bill increase of \$2.11 per month. See docket EL25-013.



Commissioner Kristie Fiegen attended Central Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting in Mitchell.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The commission approved updates to energy efficiency and conservation programs. In 2025, the estimated energy savings for investor-owned utilities with energy efficiency programs were 11,739 megawatt hours of electricity and 4,322 dekatherms of natural gas.

- The PUC approved a revised conservation tracking adjustment rate of \$0.016 per dk for **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** in February. MDU's conservation program provides incentives to residential customers using high-efficiency heating equipment and programmable thermostats. As a result of the updated rate, the estimated annual increase for a residential customer using 70 dk annually is \$0.14. The natural gas program also offers rebate options for commercial customers. See docket NG25-001.
- **Offer Tail Power Co.** continued its energy efficiency plan in 2025. In June, the commission approved the 2024 financial incentive, 2024 energy efficiency plan status report and updated the energy efficiency adjustment factor. As a result of the revised energy efficiency adjustment factor, an average residential customer using 927 kWh per month should see an increase of \$0.49 in their monthly bill. See docket EL25-021.
- In December, **Xcel Energy's** 2026 demand side management plan, 2026 cost adjustment factor, 2024 status report, 2024 DSM tracker account, and the performance incentive earned in 2024 were approved by the commission. The 2026 DSM plan includes changes to the Business Saver's Switch program and a new Commercial HVAC+R program. Changes also include the removal of the Residential Lighting program and changes to the Residential Demand Response program to focus on accommodating new installations and growing the base of customers participating in the Saver's Switch offering. All Xcel customers collectively share the cost of the DSM program. An average residential customer using 750 kWh per month will see a monthly bill decrease of \$0.02. See docket EL25-020.



Commissioner Gary Hanson takes a moment to catch up with Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors members Don DeGreef, left, and Leslie Heinemann, middle, at the September Partner in Progress Energy Forum. The event was hosted by Sioux Valley Energy in Brandon.

Commissioners Kristie Fiegen and Chris Nelson, along with Pam Bonrud of NorthWestern Energy, pictured left, participated in an energy summit hosted by NorthWestern Energy. The event, held on the Mitchell Tech campus in August, brought together energy company leaders, Mitchell Tech faculty and students, and other interested parties to discuss the state of energy in South Dakota and what the future may hold.



CORPORATE MERGER

In October, **Black Hills Corp.** and **NorthWestern Energy Group** and **NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corp. dba NorthWestern Energy** filed a joint application with the commission for approval of a corporate merger of their companies. The filing started the clock on the 180-day period within which the PUC must issue a final decision on the filing, as dictated by state law. In early December, the three-member panel granted South Dakota Laborers Local 620, the Great Plains Laborer's District Council, and the Laborers International Union of North America's petition to intervene. (A procedural schedule was established in January 2026. In February, following a motion and agreement by all parties, the commissioners agreed to extend the statutory deadline past 180 days and set the new deadline for July 27, 2026.) See docket GE25-001.



Top Left: Commissioner Fiegen moderated a natural gas panel at the Mid-America Regulatory Conference annual meeting in Indianapolis. Panelists included American Biogas Council's Heather Dzedzic, American Gas Association's Ashley Duckman, Stone Mountain Technologies Scott Reed and Somali Tomczak from Nicor Gas.

Top Right: Commissioner Chris Nelson presented at the NARUC Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C.

Bottom Left: Commissioners Chris Nelson and Kristie Fiegen connected with NARUC president Tricia Pridemore at the NARUC Summer Policy Summit in Boston.

SITING

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

POTENTIAL FUTURE SITING PROJECTS

In August, **Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC (CRES)** filed a petition with the commission requesting the panel issue a declaratory ruling finding the PUC does not have the statutory authority to require a facility permit for the construction and operation of an energy storage facility. The company plans to construct a 120-MW energy storage facility in Codington County with an anticipated commercial operation date of December 2027. After review of the facts presented through filings, oral arguments and further inquiry by commissioners, the PUC found, with Commissioner Nelson dissenting, that CRES did not clearly establish that the energy storage facility is not an energy conversion facility. In October, the commission issued an order denying the company's petition in accordance with the commission's findings, thereby requiring CRES to file for a permit. See docket EL25-027.

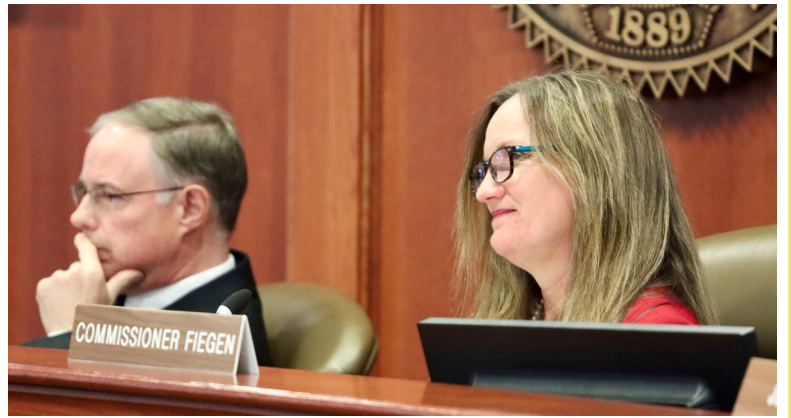
Following the decision in EL25-027, **Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I** filed a notice of intent to apply for a permit for an energy conversion facility with the PUC in mid-October. The company plans to construct a 120-megawatt, four-hour Battery Energy Storage System in Codington County. The project is proposed to be located on approximately 15.4 acres within the existing Crowned Ridge I Wind Energy Facility project area and connected to the existing Crowned Ridge Wind Collector Substation through an approximately 1,355 foot collection line. Crowned Ridge plans to build the energy storage facility on property with a voluntarily executed lease with a purchase option agreement. In November, the Commission issued an order that established the affected area and designated a local review committee. See docket EL25-034.

SITING APPLICATIONS

In January, the PUC approved a settlement stipulation and granted a permit for the construction of the **Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line Project**, a 345-kV transmission facility and associated facilities in Grant County. The permit included 34 conditions that were proposed in the settlement agreement from PUC staff and joint applicants **Otter Tail Power Co.** and **Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency**. The project will begin at Otter Tail's existing Big Stone South Substation two miles west of Big Stone City, South Dakota, and connect to a substation near Alexandria, Minnesota. The South Dakota portion of the project will consist of approximately 3.5 miles of transmission line. The applicants submitted their request to the commission in April 2024. A public input meeting was held Big Stone City in May 2024. Daniel and Tamra Jurgens were granted party status in the docket, and entered into a settlement agreement with the applicants and withdrew from the docket. See docket EL24-015.

In March, the commission granted **Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South LLC** a permit to construct the South Deuel Wind Project wind energy facility in Deuel County. The action was taken following a January evidentiary hearing in Pierre. The proposed project is expected to have a nameplate capacity not to exceed 260 megawatts and includes up to 68 wind turbines and a six-mile 345-kilovolt generator tie line. More than 50 conditions addressing a wide array of requirements the company will need to comply with while constructing, operating and maintaining the project were included in the PUC's order. Topics like agricultural operations and agricultural spray applicators in the area, habitat for threatened or endangered species, shadow flicker, noise levels, road use, reclamation, ice detection and decommissioning were among some of the issues addressed by the conditions. See docket EL24-023.

In November 2024, the PUC received **SCS Carbon Transport LLC**'s application for a permit to construct and operate a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline. The proposed project planned to span five states, and include approximately 2,500 miles of pipelines for the transportation of CO₂ from more than 30 ethanol plants, including 15 in South Dakota. Approximately 698 miles of pipeline would be placed in the state, crossing 23 counties. The PUC held public input meetings in Mitchell, Sioux Falls, De Smet, Watertown, Aberdeen and Redfield in January that were collectively attended by more than 1,500 people. The commission received more than 600 applications for party status in this docket and approved over 500 intervenors to formally participate in the docket. On March 6, Gov. Larry Rhoden signed House Bill 1052, prohibiting the use of eminent domain for carbon oxide pipelines, into law. Following that action, Summit Carbon Solutions filed a motion to suspend the procedural schedule in this docket and extend deadlines indefinitely. Landowners filed a motion in late March requesting the PUC deny the application. A hearing was held on April 10, 2025, to address the motions during which the commission denied Summit's request and deferred the motion from intervenors. On April 22, 2025, after hearing from all parties, commissioners found that the route put forth in the application was no longer viable and voted 2-1, with Commissioner Nelson dissenting, to deny Summit's permit application. See docket HP24-001.



Left: PUC staff members, left to right, Jon Thurber, Darren Kearney, Logan Schaeftbauer and Kristen Edwards participated in a April 22, 2025, hearing for the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline project. The Summit project came before the commission twice in April to determine if the project had a path forward or would be denied a permit.

Right: Commissioners Chris Nelson and Kristie Fiegen consider arguments from docket parties before making a final decision on Landowners' motion to deny Summit Carbon Solutions' permit application at an April 22 commission meeting.

Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and **Missouri River Energy Services** filed an application to construct an energy conversion facility and electric transmission line, known as the **Toronto Power Plant** project, in Deuel County, South Dakota, in August. The proposed project plans to consist of a 145-megawatt dual fuel power plant and 345-kilovolt generation-tie transmission line. The power plant will include four combustion turbine-generator sets, a turbine hall building, diesel fuel truck unloading facilities, and other associated facilities. The 345-kV generation-tie transmission line will be approximately 4.9 miles long and will connect the power plant with the existing Astoria 345-kV substation. Associated facilities will include natural gas piping anticipated to be less than 450 feet. The project is proposed to be in commercial operation in 2029. The applicants estimate the total construction cost to be \$378 million. A public input meeting was held in Toronto in September. A final decision from the commission is expected in 2026. See docket EL25-028.

In August, the commission received and began processing **Philip Wind Partners, LLC**'s application for a permit to construct a wind energy facility in Haakon County. The proposed project plans to span 68,300 acres and if built to full capacity, would be capable of generating up to 333 megawatts of energy, making it the largest wind project in the South Dakota to date. In addition to up to 87 turbines, the \$750 million project plans include an approximate 5.5-mile long 230-kV generator transmission tie line, a 34.5-kV electrical collection and supervisory control and data acquisition systems, a 230-kV collector substation, an operations and maintenance facility, up to three aircraft detection lighting system towers, access roads, and up to three meteorological towers. The PUC held a public input meeting in Philip in October. *(The company, along with PUC staff, submitted a joint settlement stipulation agreeing the applicant met the requirements for a permit that was approved by the commission in February 2026. The approved agreement incorporated 55 conditions and granted the applicant a permit to construct the Philip Wind Project.)* See docket EL25-029.

The commission began processing **Basin Electric Power Cooperative**'s transmission facility permit application in August. The application illustrated Basin Electric's proposal to construct a 0.95-mile, single-circuit 230-kV transmission line extension in Haakon County. The project extends between the new Philip North Switchyard, to be constructed by Western Area Power Administration, and a dead-end transmission structure that will cut into the existing transmission line connected to the Philip Tap switching station. It will include construction of up to seven three-phase, single circuit transmission structures constructed on steel H-frame and monopole structures and will include up to four pulling and tensioning sites. The company estimates the total construction cost of the proposed Project to be \$2.48 million. The PUC held a public input meeting in Philip in October. *(In early February 2026, PUC staff and the applicant reached an agreement on all issues and submitted a joint settlement for the commission's consideration. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the agreement at a regular meeting, granting Basin Electric a permit to construct and clearing the way for the project to move forward.)* See docket EL25-030.



Commission Attorney Kristen Edwards, Commissioner Chris Nelson, Commissioner Kristie Fiegen and Commission Advisor Greg Rislov prepare for a public input meeting in Philip. The meeting presented attendees with information on two projects, Philip Wind Project and Basin Electric Power Cooperative's application to construct a transmission facility. The meeting offered an opportunity for landowners and other interested parties to voice opinions or concerns and ask questions of the applicant. Over 120 people were in attendance.



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. All grain buyers licensed in South Dakota are inspected annually.

The PUC uses three main categories — inspections, licenses and license revocations — to measure its effectiveness in monitoring the grain industry. See these results plus other major happenings in the PUC's grain program in 2025.

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.

Measurement, 2025

Inspections: 480 (370 required)

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, 2025

- Class A+ Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that use voluntary credit sale contracts and exceed \$5,000,000 in annual purchases): 113 entities with 283 locations
- Class A Grain Buyer Licenses exceed \$5,000,000 in annual purchases NO VCS contracts: 15 entities 23 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): 66 entities with 69 locations
- State Warehouse Licenses (entities that store grain for hire): 37 entities with 56 locations
- Federal Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the USDA to store grain for hire): 29 entities with 140 locations

LICENSE REVOCATIONS & RECEIVERSHIPS

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. Options available to the commission include license revocation and receivership. Though the PUC works diligently to minimize producer risk, some license revocations and receiverships cannot be avoided. If a receivership is deemed necessary, the commission may apply to the circuit court to appoint a receiver. The determination of an appropriate receiver and the powers and duties given to that receiver are decided by the circuit court, not the PUC.

Measurement, 2025

License Revocations: 0 / Receiverships: 0

ASK AN INSPECTOR PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

The commission continued the “Ask an Inspector” promotional campaign at the South Dakota State Fair. The campaign encourages producers to contact the PUC's grain warehouse staff with any questions about South Dakota's grain industry and to report any concerns about the practices or financial solvency of grain businesses operating in South Dakota.

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 and 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 1,200 occasions with issues and complaints related to electric, natural gas, telecommunications (including wireless), hydrocarbon pipeline siting, energy efficiency, and other utility-related topics.

Complaints Resolved Within a Month

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, 2025

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, 2025

Formal Consumer Complaints: 0

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, 2025

South Dakota telephone numbers on Do Not Call Registry: 697,529 (2.88% decrease)

Note: The Federal Trade Commission, the national agency that manages the Do Not Call Registry, has updated the methodology used to calculate these numbers. Previously, the reported total included all South Dakota numbers that had ever been on the Do Not Call Registry. For law enforcement purposes, those historical records must be retained, even if the numbers are no longer active. The new methodology counts only active phone numbers that were registered as of Dec. 31, 2025, which explains the decrease in this measurement.

DON'T KNOW? DON'T ANSWER! INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN

The commission continued educating consumers about scam calls through their ongoing “Don't Know? Don't Answer!” informational campaign. The campaign informs consumers about scam calls, the tricks scam callers use to gain access to sensitive information or resources and provides tips on how to report scams and protect against their tactics.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The PUC visited with more than 2,750 consumers about the purpose and services of the PUC at spring home shows in Sioux Falls and Rapid City and at the South Dakota State Fair.



Top Left: Commissioner Gary Hanson answered questions and visited with consumers at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron.

Right: Commissioner Chris Nelson and Consumer Affairs Program Manager Deb Gregg were on hand to talk about the PUC and answer questions at the North Central Electric Association's Customer Service Workshop in Sioux Falls. The duo dove into what the commission hears from consumers and offered thoughts on how utility companies can meet customer expectations and move the needle toward providing excellent customer-focused service.



PIPELINE SAFETY

The PUC has responsibility to regulate natural gas intrastate pipelines, which includes ensuring the public is provided safe and dependable gas service. The pipeline safety program has two full-time employees who are fully trained by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Training and Qualifications program. As part of its duties, commission staff inspects and investigates natural gas pipeline operators for compliance with federal and state statutes and administrative rules.

South Dakota natural gas distribution lines: 5,546 miles
South Dakota natural gas intrastate transmission lines: 296 miles

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 PHMSA specifies a minimum number of inspection days required annually.

Measurement, 2025
Inspections: 173.5 days (149 days required)

FEDERAL EVALUATION

South Dakota's Pipeline Safety Program is field evaluated annually by PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety. 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, 2025
Evaluation Score: 99%

2025 SD/ND PIPELINE SAFETY OPERATOR TRAINING

The PUC hosted the **South Dakota/North Dakota Pipeline Safety Operator Training** in Sioux Falls for more than 140 members of the pipeline safety industry from both states. Participants attended presentations by experts discussing topics like gas leak detection, excavation damage, distribution integrity management, pipeline safety management systems, accident investigations and cybersecurity. The event also included an exhibitor showcase with 18 companies participating.

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

The commission recognized **National Safe Digging Month** in April and reminded South Dakotans to Call Before You Dig. Calling 811 before any excavation or digging project helps safeguard underground utilities, preserve vital services and protect against harm that can result from hitting buried infrastructure.

LEGISLATION

In January, PUC commissioners and staff invited senators and representatives to join them for the annual **PUC Briefing for Legislators**. The briefing provided an opportunity for Commissioners Nelson, Fiegen and Hanson to share information on current topics with lawmakers including energy regulation, rate cases, siting, telecommunications, broadband, pipelines, regional transmission organizations and grain warehouses. It also gave commissioners an opportunity to discuss the PUC's proposed legislation.

The PUC's legislation, **House Bill 1007**, eliminated ambiguity in state law as to how the PUC will be reimbursed for costs incurred in processing a siting permit. The bill allows the PUC to seek timely compensations, pay its expenses and removes risks to ratepayers.

House Bill 1008, the commission's legislation to include a hybrid facility as a facility to be regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, passed and was signed into law. The bill clarifies that a generation facility comprised of more than one type of generation, such as a combination of wind and solar, that has a total output of 100 megawatts or more does require a PUC siting permit.



Clockwise from top left:

Commissioner Gary Hanson and Finance Manager Cindy Kemnitz present the PUC's budget proposal to the SD Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee. Commissioner Chris Nelson was there to support the duo as they made their presentation and answered committee questions.

Commissioner Gary Hanson provided updates on rate cases filed with the commission at the PUC's annual briefing.

Commissioner Gary Hanson and Chris Nelson chat with legislators at the PUC's annual Open House and Breakfast.

Gov. Larry Rhoden stopped by the PUC's Open House in January. The warm breakfast, provided personally by commissioners and made by the PUC's own Chef Paul Kenefick-Aschoff, is always a hit with legislators.



LEADERSHIP

Commissioners hold a number of leadership roles with national and regional organizations. They also engage with South Dakota consumers, students, industry professionals and community leaders during many public gatherings each year.

SOUTH DAKOTA PUC

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen kicked off a new term in January by taking the oath of office. Her oath was administered by South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven R. Jensen in the Supreme Court Chambers in the State Capitol. Fiegen was re-elected by South Dakota voters in November 2024 and will serve in the elected post until 2031.

Commissioners selected **Commissioner Gary Hanson** to lead the PUC as chairman and **Commissioner Chris Nelson** to serve as vice chairman. Hanson made the decision to step back from the leadership role while he began treatments for cancer in the fall and elected to pass the gavel to fellow commissioner Chris Nelson. Nelson stepped into the role of chairman in November and Commissioner Fiegen transitioned to vice chairperson.

In July, **Leah Mohr** was appointed the new executive director of the PUC. She took the helm following Patricia Van Gerpen's retirement. Mohr had served as the commission's deputy executive director since 2009 and had worked for the PUC for a total of 19 years. Van Gerpen's retirement closed the book on an exceptional 20 years with the PUC and 41 years working in South Dakota state government. Finance manager **Cindy Kemnitz** was promoted to fill the vacancy of Mohr's former position while continuing her role as chief financial officer.

Commissioners also recognized that a change in executive leadership was an opportune time to evaluate the needs of the commission, the structure in place, look at best practices used in similar regulatory agencies across the country and determine if the PUC could benefit from their implementation. After much consideration, it was determined that some organizational restructuring would benefit the office. As a result, certain responsibilities were reassigned to streamline processes and a new operations specialist role was created.



Commissioner Kristie Fiegen was sworn into a new term as PUC commissioner in January. Fiegen was supported by her husband Tim, who held their family bible for the oath administered by South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven Jensen.

Commissioner Gary Hanson accepted the gavel, and stepped in to his role as chairman, from previous PUC chairperson Kristie Fiegen. Hanson was selected to lead the commission as its new chairman by his fellow commissioners in January.





PUC commissioners and staff celebrated Executive Director Patricia Van Gerpen's retirement in June. As a sign of appreciation to Van Gerpen, for her many years of service and dedication to the state of South Dakota, Gov. Larry Rhoden issued an executive proclamation declaring June 8, 2025, Patricia Van Gerpen Day in the South Dakota.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

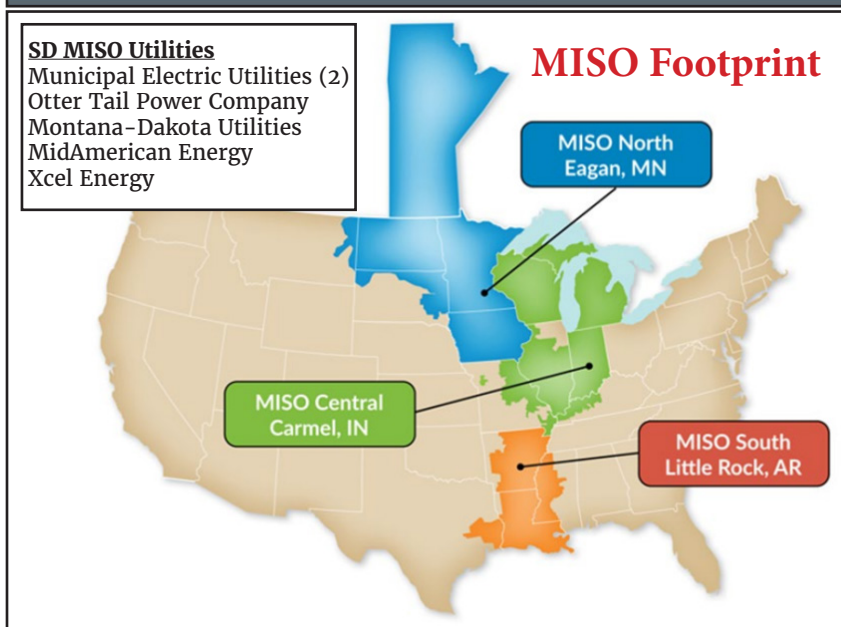
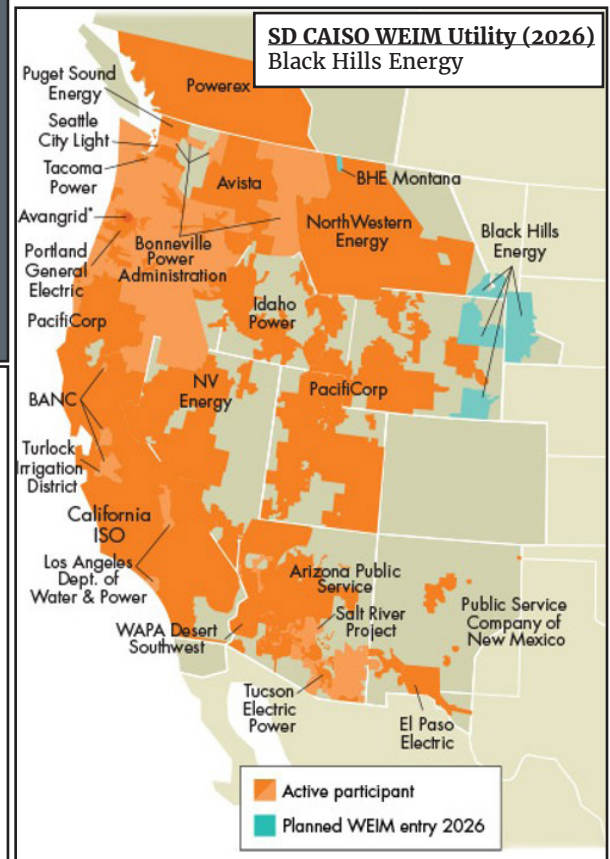
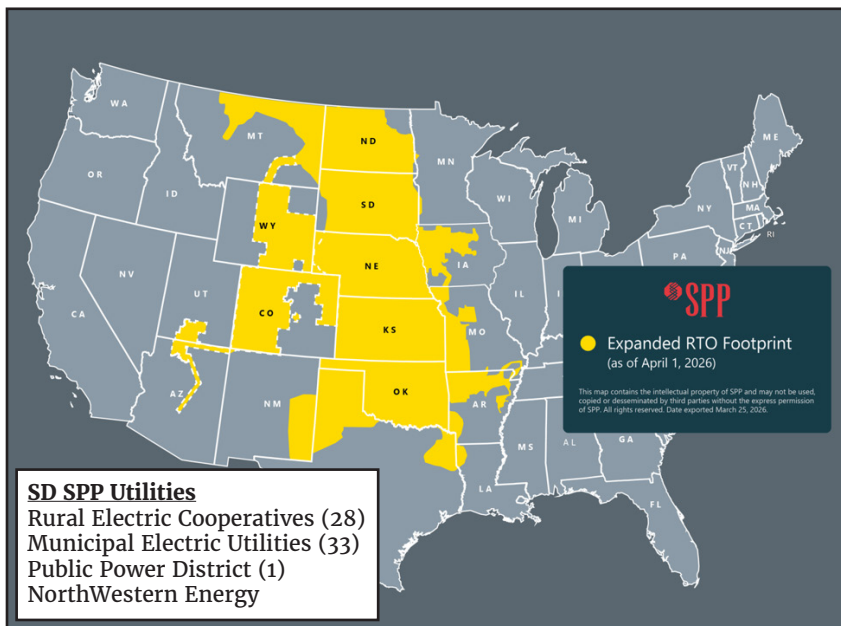
Commissioner Nelson educated and shared his expertise as a speaker, panelist and moderator at events hosted by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Organization of MISO States, National Association of Counties, Center for Public Utilities, South Dakota Telecommunications Association, South Dakota Rural Electric Association, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Western Dakota Technical College, Wisconsin Public Utility Institute, NorthWestern Energy, Stanley County Commission, North Central Electric Association and Grand Electric Cooperative, among others. Topics included broadband, Universal Service Fund spending, renewable energy, generation and transmission, energy security and the general role and happenings at the PUC. Nelson also found time to connect with industry representatives at events like an Xcel Energy ribbon cutting, and with students and community groups from across the state like Civil Air Patrol and Junior Achievement.

Commissioner Fiegen regularly met with students of all ages to share her passion for public service. She met with and discussed the PUC, the roles of the legislature and state government, the importance of ethics and leadership in proper governing and careers with students from Newell, Sioux Falls' Roosevelt and Jefferson High Schools, legislative pages and interns and several groups involved in South Dakota's Job's for America's Graduates program. She, together with Commissioner Nelson, also shared the role of the PUC and discussed leadership with Chamberlain Middle School Explorers students and South Dakota Civil Air Patrol. Fiegen is an active member of Southwest Power Pool and holds numerous leadership positions within the organization. At the organizations' Energy Synergy Summit, she spoke on managing load growth, the importance of planning and forecasting and grid modernization. Fiegen delivered a keynote speech on grid resilience planning for extreme cold and ice related weather events at a NARUC regional training. She also moderated several panel discussions at industry events: a discussion on Reliable and Sustainable Distribution Pipeline Systems at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Summer Policy Summit in Boston and another related to innovations in planning and technology for natural gas systems at the Mid-America Regulatory Conference annual meeting in Indianapolis. Commissioner Fiegen also met with numerous utility industry groups throughout the year, keeping them up to date on topics like electric reliability, happenings at the PUC, regional transmission organizations, policy or regulation changes, and other related topics.

Commissioner Hanson is an active member of the Advisory Council for New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities and participated in the CPU's Current Issues conference in Sante Fe, New Mexico, in April. The New Mexico State University program, one of only four university centers with programs endorsed by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, provides training programs and current policy issues conferences to meet the needs of professionals employed at federal and state commissions, utility companies, and other stakeholders in the electricity, natural gas distribution, interstate pipeline, water utility and telecommunications industries.

REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATIONS

In the United States, a regional transmission organization is an electric power transmission system operator that coordinates, controls and monitors a multi-state electric grid. These non-profit corporations were voluntarily created, following a December 20, 1999, order by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the purpose of promoting economic efficiency, reliability, and nondiscriminatory practices while reducing government oversight. The transfer of electricity among states is considered interstate commerce and electric grids spanning multiple states are therefore regulated by FERC. Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and Independent System Operators (ISOs) also operate competitive wholesale electricity markets, where electricity generators bid their supply into the market and the lowest-cost bids are dispatched first. The maps below provide a look at the regional transmission organizations and markets that affect South Dakota and the utility companies that participate in each.



RTOs and ISOs use a stakeholder process for decision making and policy setting, and state public utilities commissions have a crucial seat at the stakeholder table. The PUC actively participates in the Southwest Power Pool, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, and California Independent System Operator's Western Energy Imbalance Market stakeholder processes to advocate on behalf of South Dakotans and the state's electric utilities as issues arise. This participation is time consuming, with commissioners and staff devoting many hours of their week to work on RTO issues. The following table demonstrates the PUC's involvement in the RTO stakeholder process.

Within the RTO and ISO stakeholder workgroups, maintaining reliability of the electric grid and regional transmission planning are critical issues. Driving this work is the transition of the electric generating resource mix from existing dispatchable resources to new intermittent resources as well as forecasted load growth (e.g., new data centers). Intermittent resources are generating resources that depend on the weather to produce energy (e.g., wind and solar) or may be energy limited (e.g., storage), whereas dispatchable resources can produce energy when called upon by the system operator to do so. Commissioners advocate for a cost-effective, orderly transition of the electric industry at RTO and ISO workgroup meetings, where regional transmission expansion plans, transmission cost allocation, resource accreditation, wholesale market reforms, and bulk power system reliability needs are a few of the hot topics.

Regional Transmission Organization Involvement	
Organization of MISO States (OMS) Board of Directors	Nelson: Vice President
OMS Staff Workgroups (various)	Staff
MISO Advisory Committee	Nelson: Sector Representative
MISO Board of Directors Nominating Committee	Nelson: Member
MISO Committees/Workgroups (various) Monitoring	Nelson, Staff
SPP Regional State Committee (RSC)	Fiegen: Member
SPP Cost Allocation Work Group (CAWG)	Staff
SPP RSC/OMS Seams Liaison Committee (SLC)	Fiegen: Member
SPP Resource and Energy Adequacy Leadership Team (REAL)	Fiegen: Chairperson
SPP Cost Control and Allocation Review & Evaluation Team (CARE)	Staff
SPP Committee/Workgroups (various) Monitoring	Fiegen, Staff
Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) Body of State Regulators (BOSR)	Hanson: Member
WEIM BOSR Support	Staff

RTO EVENTS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

In September, the PUC hosted a **Regional Transmission Operator Information Session** in the State Capitol in Pierre. Representatives from Southwest Power Pool, Midwest Independent System Operator, California ISO and the Midwest Reliability Organization provided updates on their organizations and answered questions.

In October, the Organization of MISO States held their **2025 OMS Annual Meeting** in Sioux Falls. The meeting brought together leaders from OMS' 17 member organizations from 15 states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. The meeting's sessions focused on the energy sector's rapid transformation highlighting topics like shifting technologies, evolving markets, changing policy and political landscapes and possible regulatory paths forward. Commissioner Nelson was instrumental in the planning effort.

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 2025.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

Twenty-six 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 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. The Universal Service Administrative Co. distributed over \$122.7 million in High-Cost Support and over \$1.6 million in Lifeline and Link-Up monies to South Dakota companies.



Pictured Left: Shown left to right, South Dakota Telecommunications Association Executive Director Kara Semmler, PUC Commissioner Kristie Fiegen, Swiftel's Curt Kabris and Randy Koerner from Golden West Telecommunications take a moment to catch up during a break at SDTA's annual conference in Deadwood.

Pictured Right: Commissioner Chris Nelson also used breaks during the annual SDTA conference to speak with industry representatives and get updates on South Dakota telecommunications companies.

In December, commissioners and staff attended the **South Dakota Telecommunications Association/ Public Utilities Commission Educational Forum** in Sioux Falls. The event brought together telecommunications professionals from across the state to collaborate and connect. Topics of discussion included broadband, technology and regulatory issues.

REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

A listing of the companies regulated by the PUC in 2025.

2025 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. Those 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

The sum of these figures does not correspond with the Gross Receipts Tax Revenues reported on page 8 due to timing issues. Revenues are based on calendar year.

Electric and Natural Gas Companies	\$	1,173,784
Telecommunications Companies	\$	475,002

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

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.

#

800 Response Information Services LLC

Alliance Global Networks LLC
ANPI LLC
AT&T Corp.

A

Access One Inc.
AccessLine Communications Corp. dba Voice
Telco Services
ACN Communication Services LLC
Affinity Network Inc.
Airespring Inc.
Airus Inc.
Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.

B

Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC
Barr Tell USA Inc.
BCN Telecom Inc.
BEK Communications Cooperative
BIF IV Intrepid OpCo LLC
Blackfoot Communications Inc.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

B continued...

Boldyn Networks US LLC
Broadband Dynamics LLC
Broadsmart Global Inc.
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC
Broadwing Communications LLC

C

CBTS Technology Solutions LLC
Central Telecom Long Distance Inc.
CenturyLink Communications LLC dba Lumen
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
City of Faith Municipal Telephone Co.
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Bluepeak Fiber
Clear Rate Communications LLC
Combined Public Communications LLC
Comcast Phone of South Dakota LLC
Communications Venture Corp. dba INdigital
Consolidated Communications Networks Inc.
Consumer Telcom Inc.
Convergia Inc.
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
Crown Castle Fiber LLC
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

D

DeltaCom LLC
dishNET Wireline LLC

E

EarthGrid PBC Corp.
Easton Telecom Services LLC
Education Networks of America Inc.
Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba
ECG LLC
EnTelegent Solutions Inc.
Express Communications Inc.

F

FiberComm LC dba ImOn Communications
(canceled COA 04/25)
Fidium Enterprise Services LLC
First Choice Technology Inc.
First Communications LLC
France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC
Frontier Communications of America Inc.
Fusion Cloud Services LLC
Fusion LLC

G

GC Pivotal LLC dba Global Capacity
Global Crossing Telecommunications Inc.
Global Tel*Link Corp. dba ViaPath Technologies
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
Hypercube Networks LLC

I

IDT America Corp.
ImOn Communications LLC
InContact Inc.
Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions
Intrado Safety Communications Inc.

J

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

K

KDDI America Inc.

L

Level 3 Communications LLC
Level 3 Telecom Data Services LLC
Lingo Telecom LLC dba Trinsic Communications
dba VarTec Telecom dba Excel
Telecommunications dba Impact Telecom
dba Americatel dba Lingo dba Bullseye
Long Lines Metro LLC
LTS Telecommunications Services (USA) Inc.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

M

MagicJack SMB Inc.
MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC dba
Mediacom
MCI Communications Services LLC dba Verizon
Business Services
MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC dba
Verizon Access Transmission Services
McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services LLC
dba PAETEC Business Services
Metropolitan Telecommunications of South
Dakota LLC dba MeTel
Midcontinent Communications
Middle Mile Infrastructure LLC
Midstate Communications Inc.
Motorola Solutions Connectivity Inc.

N

Native American Telecom LLC - Pine Ridge LLC
Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications Inc.
NebraskaLink Holdings LLC dba OPTK Networks
Netwolves Network Services LLC
Network Communications International Corp.
dba NCIC Inmate Communications dba
NCIC Correctional Services dba NCIC
Network Innovations LLC dba Nitel
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. dba International Plus
dba 011 Communications dba Internet
Business Association dba Ivantage Network
Solutions dba Blueridge Telecom Systems
NOSVA Limited Partnership

O

Onvoy LLC

P

PaeTec Communications LLC
Pay Tel Communications 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

Q

Quantumshift Communications Inc. dba vCom
Solutions
Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

R

RC Technologies
Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.
RingSquared Telecom LLC

S

Santel Communications Cooperative Inc.
SBC Long Distance LLC
Securus Technologies LLC
Simwood Inc.
Spectrotel of the West LLC
Standard Tandem LLC
Stratus Networks Inc.

T

TDS Long Distance Corp.
Televergence 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.
TouchTone Communications Inc.

U

Ubiquity South Dakota LLC
Unifi National LLC
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. dba ViaPath
Technologies
Velocity, A Managed Services Company Inc.
Venture Vision Inc.
Verizon Long Distance LLC
Verizon Select Services Inc.
Voicecom Telecommunications LLC

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

W

Wide Voice LLC
WillTel Communications LLC
WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services
Windstream Communications LLC
Windstream KDL LLC
Windstream New Edge LLC
Windstream Norlight LLC
Working Assets Funding Service Inc. dba Credo
Long Distance

X

XO Communications Services LLC

Z

Zayo Group LLC
Zayo Network Services LLC
ZP Better Together 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

Combined Public Communications LLC
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

G

Global Tel*Link Corp. dba ViaPath

I

Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions

N

Network Communications International Corp. dba
NCIC Inmate Communications dba NCIC
Correctional Services dba NCIC

P

Pay Tel Communications Inc.

R

Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.

S

Securus Technologies LLC

V

Value-Added Communications Inc. dba ViaPath
Technologies

W

WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services



Commissioner Kristie Fiegen chairs a GTI Energy Public Interest Advisory Committee meeting in Chicago. The PIAC provides guidance to GTI Energy through interaction with GTI Energy executive and senior staff on public interest issues and long-term trends that may potentially have impact on GTI Energy, the utility industry, the energy and natural gas consumer.

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 35) 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
Barr Tell USA Inc.
BCN Telecom Inc.
BEK Communications Cooperative
BIF IV Intrepid OpCo LLC
Blackfoot Communications Inc.
BlueBird Communications SD LLC
Boldyn Networks US LLC
Broadsmart Global Inc.
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC

C

CBTS Technology Solutions LLC
CenturyLink Communications LLC dba Lumen
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Bluepeak Fiber
Clear Rate Communications LLC
Communications Venture Corp. dba INdigital
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
Crown Castle Fiber LLC

D

dishNET Wireline LLC

E

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

F

FiberComm LC dba ImOn Communications
(canceled COA 04/25)
Fidium Enterprise Services LLC
France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC
Fusion Cloud Services LLC

G

Gallatin Wireless Internet LLC dba Celerity
Internet
GC Pivotal LLC dba Global Capacity
Granite Telecommunications LLC
Greenfly Networks Inc. dba Clearly
Communications

H

Hypercube Networks LLC

I

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

L

Level 3 Communications LLC
Level 3 Telecom Data Services LLC
Lingo Telecom LLC dba Trinsic Communications
dba VarTec Telecom dba Excel
Telecommunications dba Impact Telecom
dba Americatel dba Lingo dba Bullseye
Long Lines Metro LLC

M

MagicJack SMB Inc.
MCC Telephony of the Midwest Inc. dba
Mediacom
MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC dba
Verizon Access Transmission Services
McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services LLC
dba PAETEC Business Services
Metropolitan Telecommunications of South
Dakota LLC dba MeTel
Midcontinent Communications
Midstate Communications Inc.
Motorola Solutions Connectivity Inc.

COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

N

Native American Telecom LLC - Pine Ridge
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
Communications
Spectrotel of the West LLC
SQF LLC
Standard Tandem LLC

T

Teleport Communications America LLC
Time Clock Solutions LLC

U

Ubiquity South Dakota, LLC
Uniti National LLC

V

Valley Communications Inc. dba Valley
FiberCom
Velocity, A Managed Services Company Inc.
Venture Vision Inc.

W

Wide Voice LLC
Windstream KDL LLC
Windstream New Edge LLC

X

XO Communications Services LLC

Y

Ymax Communications Corp.

Z

Zayo Group LLC
Zayo Network Services LLC



Commissioners Kristie Fiegen and Chris Nelson met with Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken at the 2025 OMS Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls.

WIRELESS COMPANIES

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

#

T GLOBAL Operations (US) Inc. fka TruPhone Inc.

Flex Mobile Inc.

Foxx Development Inc. dba Foxx Mobile

A

Affiniti Ventures, Inc. dba Noble Mobile

AFNET LLC

Air Voice Wireless LLC

Airespring Inc.

Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.

Alltel Corp.

American Messaging Services LLC

Approved Contact LLC

Aquarius Sliver LLC

Assurance Wireless USA LP

Atlantic Mobile US LLC dba Angel Mobile
(withdrew 05/25)

Atomic Mobile, Inc.

G

Gabb Wireless Inc.

GetFuture Inc.

Global Connection Inc. of America dba StandUp
Wireless

GloTell US Corp.

Go Technology Management LLC (withdrew
12/25)

Google North America Inc. dba Project Fi by
Google

Granite Telecommunications LLC

H

Helix Wireless Inc.

Hello Mobile Telecom LLC

Hoop Wireless LLC

I

IDT Domestic Telecom Inc. (Brand name: Boss
Wireless) (withdrew 02/25)

IM Telecom LLC dba Infiniti Mobile

i-wireless LLC

Insight Mobile Inc

J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co. dba
James Valley Telecommunications

James Valley Wireless LLC

K

Kajeet Inc.

KDDI America Inc.

L

Liberty Mobile Wireless LLC

Liberty Wireless LLC (canceled 08/25)

LinkUp Mobile Inc.

Locus Telecommunications LLC

Lux Mobile USA Inc.

Lycamobile USA Inc.

M

Marconi Wireless Holdings LLC dba Credo Mobile
Mediacom Wireless LLC

MetroPCS of Michigan LLP dba Metro by T-Mobile

Midcontinent Communications dba Midco

Mint Mobile LLC

Mobile X Global

Moxee Technologies LLC fka Panda Mobile LLC

MVNO Connect LLC

B

Bark Technologies Inc.

Best Buy Health Inc. dba GreatCall

Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless

Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel
Communications

C

CALL CENTERS INDIA INCORPORATED dba
Blueconnects

Cintex Wireless LLC dba SFone Wireless

Clear Mobile LLC dba Clear Wireless (withdrew
04/25)

Cliq Communications LLC dba Cliq Mobile

Comcast OTR1 LLC

Comlink Total Solutions Corp. (withdrew 12/25)

CommNet Cellular Inc.

Consumer Cellular Inc.

Cox Wireless LLC dba Cox Mobile

Cricket Wireless LLC

CSC Wireless dba Altice Mobile

D

Daywalker Mobile Inc.

DISH Wireless LLC (Boost Mobile brand)

E

EarthLink LLC

Easy Telephone Services Co. dba Easy Wireless

Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba
Boom Mobile

Excellus Communications LLC

Excess Telecom Inc.

F

FiberComm LC (withdrew 06/25)

Fierce Data Solutions LLC

WIRELESS COMPANIES CONTINUED...

N

Native Wireless LLC
Natwireless LLC dba NATIONAL WIRELESS
New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC dba AT&T
Mobility LLC
NewPhone Wireless LLC
Nextiva
Nexus Communications Inc. dba Reachout
Wireless
North American Local LLC
Nova Labs Inc.

O

Onvoy Spectrum LLC

P

Pareteum Corp.
Patriot Mobile LLC
Peak Data Network Solutions LLC
Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC
Phreeli Co.
Plintron Technologies USA LLC
Plug Mobile LLC
PNG Telecommunications Inc. dba PowerNet
Global Communication
Power Mobile LLC
Prepaid Wireless Group LLC dba Prepaid Wireless
Wholesale
Presto Wireless Corp. (*withdrew 08/25*)
Private Tech Inc. dba Cape
Prosper Wireless LLC
Puretalk Holdings Inc.

Q

Q Link Wireless LLC

R

Rabona Corp.
Ready Wireless LLC (*withdrew 01/25*)
Red Pocket Inc.
Ringer Mobile LLC
Rizz Wireless LLC
Rocstar Wireless LLC
Rocket Mobile LLC (*canceled 02/25*)
RSCU Mobile LLC
Rural Cellular Corp.

S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba
TruConnect
Sarver Corp. (*canceled 02/25*)
SelectTel Inc. dba SelectTel Wireless
SmartLess Mobile LLC
Soehl Electronics Inc. dba Vantek
Communications

Standing Rock Telecom
Splash Cellular LLC
Square Mobile Inc. (*canceled 02/25*)
Stream Communications LLC
STS Media Inc. dba FreedomPop
STX Group LLC dba Twigby
Surf Telecom LLC
Switch Mobile LLC

T

TDS Long Distance Corp.
Telco Communications LLC dba Telco Cellular
Telco Papa Ltd.
Telefonica USA Inc.
Tempo Telecom LLC
TerraCom Inc. fka TerraCom Inc. dba Maxsip Tel
The Light Phone Inc.
Ting Inc. (*withdrew 04/25*)
T-Mobile Central LLC dba T-Mobile USA Inc.
TouchTone Communications Inc.
TracFone Wireless Inc.
Trek Cellular LLC
Troomi Wireless Inc.
TruConnect Communications Inc.
Tube Inc. dba Reach Mobile

U

Unity Wireless Inc.
US Mobile LLC
USA Mobile LLC
UVNV Inc.

V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative
Association Inc.
Via Wireless LLC
Visible Service LLC
Viva-US Telecommunications Inc.
Vodafone US Inc. dba Vodapone Americas
VOLT MOBILE INC.

W

Welncentivize LLC dba ChosenWireless
(*canceled 02/25*)
Western Communications Inc.
Whoop Connect Inc. (*withdrew 12/25*)
Whoop Mobile Inc.
Wing Tel Inc.
Wizie Mobile LLC
Working Assets Funding Services Inc. dba Credo
Long Distance
Wrizzle Inc.

WIRELESS COMPANIES CONTINUED...

Y

Yonder Media Mobile Inc. dba Yo Mobile

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 31) in different service areas.

INDEPENDENT

C

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Bluepeak

F

Fort Randall Telephone Co.

J

Jefferson Telephone LLC dba Long Lines

K

Kennebec Telephone Co.

Q

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

MUNICIPALS

B

Beresford Municipal Telephone Co.
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone

F

City of Faith 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.

M

Midstate Communications Inc.

R

RC Technologies

S

Santel Communications Cooperative

T

TrioTel Communications Inc.

V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative
Association
Venture Communications Cooperative

W

West River Cooperative Telephone Co.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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. dba Range

T

Three River Telco

LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTINUED...

V

Valley Telephone Co.

W

West River Telecommunications Cooperative

OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

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

S

South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN
Communications



Commissioner Chris Nelson sat as a panelist at the 2025 National Association of Counties Western Interstate Region Conference in May. Nelson was joined on stage by South Dakota Rural Electric Association General Manager Steve Barnett, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative Chief Marketing Officer Matt Brunner, Black Hills Energy's South Dakota General Manager of Electric Operations Michael Pogany and Pennington County Commissioner Gary Drewes to have a discussion focused on energy affordability.

DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

A look at all the dockets filed with the PUC in 2025.

Type	Dockets Opened	Dockets Closed	Pending as of Jan. 1, 2026	Dockets closed between Jan. 1, 2026, and the publication date of this report (Spring 2026) are noted in parentheses.
Administrative Items	1	1	0	
Civil	2	0	2	
Electric	41	28	15	
Gas & Electric	2	1	1	
Grain Warehouse	1	1	0	
Natural Gas	6	6	0	
Pipeline Safety	3	1	2	
Rulemaking	1	1	0	
Telecommunications	60	58	20	
TOTALS	117	97	40	Visit puc.sd.gov to check the current status of pending dockets.

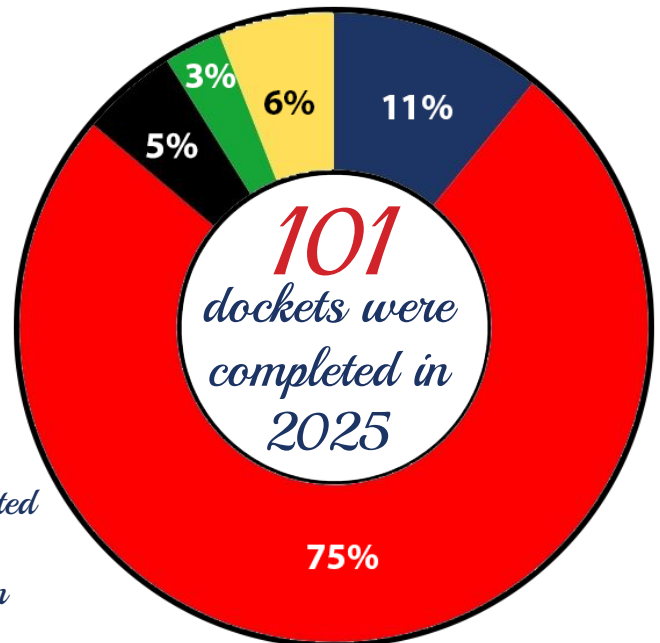
COMPLETED DOCKETS

The number of dockets 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% of its dockets within 12 months of a docket being filed.

DOCKET COMPLETION TIME

- Approximately 1 month
- 2 to 4 months
- 5 to 6 months
- 7 to 12 months
- More than 12 months

94%
of dockets completed
in 2025 were
completed within
12 months



ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

AA25-001 - Establishment of the Gross Receipts Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2026
Date Filed: 03/10/25 ♦ Completed: 05/13/25

CIVIL DOCKETS

32CIV25-036 - The State of South Dakota v. Yield10 Bioscience, Inc.
Date Filed: 01/31/25 ♦ Pending

14CIV25-100 - Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Inc v. City of Watertown Municipal Utility and the SD Public Utilities Commission
Date Filed: 07/17/25 ♦ Pending

ELECTRIC DOCKETS

EL25-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Revised Welcome Brochures
Date Filed: 01/17/25 ♦ Completed: 03/13/25

EL25-002 - 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: 01/31/25 ♦ Completed: 03/31/25

EL25-003 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Exchange Agreement between the City of Elk Point and Union County Electric Cooperative
Date Filed: 02/13/25 ♦ (Completed: 01/28/26)

EL25-004 - In the Matter of MidAmerican Energy Company's Application for Approval of Its 2024 Reconciliation and 2025 Transmission Cost Recovery Factors
Date Filed: 02/14/25 ♦ Completed: 03/28/25

EL25-005 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Small Qualifying Facility Rider (Rates 73 and 74)
Date Filed: 02/26/25 ♦ Completed: 03/27/25

EL25-006 - 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: 02/28/25 ♦ Completed: 04/17/25

EL25-007 - 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: 02/28/25 ♦ Completed: 04/17/25

EL25-008 - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its 2024 Economic Development Report and 2025 Economic Development Plan
Date Filed: 02/28/25 ♦ Completed: 05/12/25

EL25-009 - In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2024 Economic Development Activities and 2025 Economic Development Budget
Date Filed: 03/11/25 ♦ Completed: 04/17/25

ELECTRIC DOCKETS CONTINUED...

EL25-010 - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its South Dakota Rate Book, Section 16.00
Date Filed: 03/25/25 ♦ Completed: 04/29/25

EL25-011 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2025 Economic Development Plan and 2024 Economic Development Report
Date Filed: 03/28/25 ♦ Completed: 05/12/25

EL25-012 - In the Matter of the Filing by Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval to Amend Its Energy Cost Adjustment Tariff to Include Costs and Benefits Related to Participation Regional Markets
Date Filed: 03/31/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-013 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy's Request to Implement a Phase-In Rate Plan Rider
Date Filed: 04/01/25 ♦ Completed: 09/26/25

EL25-014 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Exchange Agreement between Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc. and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 04/10/25 ♦ Completed: 05/22/25

EL25-015 - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of an Electric Service Agreement for Big Stone South Energy Storage Project, LLC and Associated Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 04/22/25 ♦ Completed: 07/24/25

EL25-016 - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of an Electric Service Agreement for POET Biorefining - Big Stone, LLC and Associated Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 04/22/25 ♦ Completed: 07/24/25

EL25-017 - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of a Thermal Technology Market Energy Rate Section 14.16
Date Filed: 04/22/25 ♦ Completed: 08/05/25

EL25-018 - In the Matter of Big Stone Energy Storage Project, LLC's Petition for a Declaratory Ruling Regarding Otter Tail Power Company's Energy Efficiency Program's Cost Recovery Fee
Date Filed: 04/23/25 ♦ Completed: 09/15/25

EL25-019 - In the Matter of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval to Implement an Economic Flexible Load Service Tariff and Amend its Energy Cost Adjustment Tariff Effective June 1, 2025
Date Filed: 04/28/25 ♦ (Completed: 03/10/26)

EL25-020 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2024 Demand Side Management Report and 2026 Proposed Demand Side Management Plan
Date Filed: 05/01/25 ♦ Completed: 12/19/25

EL25-021 - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's 2024 South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report and 2025 Annual Filing to Update the Energy Efficiency Adjustment Rider
Date Filed: 05/01/25 ♦ Completed: 06/23/25

ELECTRIC DOCKETS CONTINUED...

EL25-022 - In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates in South Dakota
Date Filed: 06/04/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-023 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of a Waiver of Fuel and Purchase Power Adjustment Rate 58
Date Filed: 06/20/25 ♦ Completed: 08/22/25

EL25-024 - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase its Electric Rates
Date Filed: 06/30/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-025 - 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: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 11/03/25

EL25-026 - In the Matter of the Complaint of Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc. Against Otter Tail Power Company
Date Filed: 07/09/25 ♦ Completed: 10/28/25

EL25-027 - In the Matter of the Request for a Declaratory Ruling regarding Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC
Date Filed: 08/01/25 ♦ Completed: 11/02/25

EL25-028 - In the Matter of the Application by Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Missouri River Energy Services for a Facility Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility and Associated Facilities Including an Electric Transmission Line in Deuel County, South Dakota
Date Filed: 08/07/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-029 - In the Matter of The Application by Philip Wind Partners, LLC, for Energy Facility Permits of a Wind Energy Facility and a 230 KV Transmission Facility In Haakon County, South Dakota for The Philip Wind Project
Date Filed: 08/15/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-030 - In the Matter of the Application by Basin Electric Power Cooperative for Energy Facility Permit for a 230 KV Transmission Facility In Haakon County, South Dakota
Date Filed: 08/15/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-031 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2026 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment
Date Filed: 08/29/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-032 - In the Matter of the Petition of Sweetman Const. Co. dba Knife River, to have Xcel Energy Assigned as its Electric Provider in the Service Area of Sioux Valley Electric
Date Filed: 09/12/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-033 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2026 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update
Date Filed: 10/01/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-034 - In the Matter of the Filing by Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC regarding its Notification of Intent to Apply for a Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility
Date Filed: 10/15/25 ♦ Completed: 11/08/25

ELECTRIC DOCKETS CONTINUED...

EL25-035 - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of a Revised Real Time Pricing Rate Section 14.02
Date Filed:10/21/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-036 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Exchange Agreement between Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed:10/22/25 ♦ Completed: 11/19/25

EL25-037 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rates for Rate 95 and Rate 96
Date Filed:10/29/25 ♦ Completed: 12/12/25

EL25-038 - In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy's Notice of Intent to Apply for Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility at Aberdeen, South Dakota
Date Filed:10/31/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-039 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., Update to Infrastructure Rider (IR) Rate 56 and Request for Waiver of Fuel and Purchase Power Adjustment Rate 58
Date Filed:10/31/25 ♦ Pending

EL25-040 - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate
Date Filed:11/03/25 ♦ (Completed: 03/24/26)

EL25-041 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 12/01/25 ♦ Completed: 12/17/25

GAS & ELECTRIC DOCKETS

GE25-001 - In the Matter of the Joint Application of NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation, Black Hills Corporation and NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc., for Approval of Merger
Date Filed: 10/27/25 ♦ Pending

GE25-002 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of a Revised Customer Information Welcome Booklet
Date Filed: 12/01/25 ♦ Completed: 12/17/25

GRAIN WAREHOUSE DOCKETS

GW25-001 - In the Matter of PUC Staff's Settlement Agreement with All Star Trading, Inc. for Violations of SDCL 49-45-1 and SDCL 49-45-26
Date Filed: 04/22/25 ♦ Completed: 07/31/25

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS

NG25-001- In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of Its Revised Conservation Tracking Adjustment
Date Filed: 01/29/25 ♦ Completed: 03/03/25

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

NG25-002 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2025 Economic Development Plan and 2024 Economic Development Report
Date Filed: 03/28/25 ♦ Completed: 05/12/25

NG25-003 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Aberdeen Energy, LLC
Date Filed: 05/27/25 ♦ Completed: 07/01/25

NG25-004 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Its 2024 Economic Development Activities and 2025 Proposed Budget
Date Filed: 07/21/25 ♦ Completed: 08/27/25

NG25-005 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its Gas Transportation Tariff Revisions regarding Fuel Retention Percentage
Date Filed: 08/27/25 ♦ Completed: 10/09/25

NG25-006 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions
Date Filed: 12/01/25 ♦ Completed: 12/17/25

PIPELINE SAFETY DOCKETS

PS25-001 - In the Matter of the PUC Staff's Complaint Against Garretson Natural Gas Utilities
Date Filed: 03/04/25 ♦ *(Completed: 01/12/26)*

PS25-002 - In the Matter of the Petition of the PUC Pipeline Safety Program Manager and Staff for a Declaratory Ruling regarding the Proper Classification of Certain NorthWestern Energy Pipelines
Date Filed: 09/23/25 ♦ 12/18/25

PS25-003 - In the Matter of the PUC Staff's Complaint Against Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy
Date Filed: 11/04/25 ♦ Pending

RULEMAKING DOCKETS

RM25-001 - In the Matter of the Adoption of Administrative Rules
Date Filed: 04/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/29/25

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

TC25-001 - In the Matter of the Consideration of a Waiver of Certain Telecommunications Annual Reporting Requirements
Date Filed: 01/29/25 ♦ Completed: 03/27/25

TC25-002 - In the Matter of the Filing of Telrite Corporation dba Life Wireless' Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Dakota for the Limited Purpose of Providing Lifeline Service to Qualifying Customers
Date Filed: 03/14/25 ♦ Pending

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC25-003 - In the Matter of the Application of Assurance Wireless USA, L.P., to Expand its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designated Service Area to Include Tribal Lands
Date Filed: 05/05/25 ♦ Completed: 09/16/25

TC25-004 - In the Matter of the Filing of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Service Tariff
Date Filed: 05/15/25 ♦ Completed: 06/04/25

TC25-005 - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ILEC) for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391654)
Date Filed: 06/04/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-006 - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., fka SSTELECOM, Inc. (CLEC) for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399013)
Date Filed: 06/04/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-007 - 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: 06/04/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-008 - 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: 06/04/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-009 - 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: 06/04/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-010 - 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: 06/12/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-011 - In the Matter of the Application of Fiber AssetCo 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: 06/12/25 ♦ Completed: 08/15/25

TC25-012 - 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: 06/12/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-013 - 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: 06/16/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-014 - 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-Chamberlain/Oacoma)
Date Filed: 06/20/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-015 - 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: 06/23/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC25-016 - 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: 06/24/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-017 - In the Matter of the Request of West River Cooperative Telephone Company Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391689)
Date Filed: 06/24/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-018 - In the Matter of the Request of City of Brookings Municipal Telephone for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391650)
Date Filed: 06/25/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-019 - 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: 06/25/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-020 - 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: 06/26/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-021 - 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: 06/27/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-022 - 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: 06/27/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-023 - In the Matter of the Request of Venture Vision, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399025)
Date Filed: 06/27/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-024 - In the Matter of the Request of RC Technologies for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391674)
Date Filed: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-025 - 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: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-026 - 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: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-027 - 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: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-028 - 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, 391657 and 399024)
Date Filed: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC25-029 - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399005)
Date Filed: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-030 - In the Matter of the Request of Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Bluepeak Fiber for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: ILEC-391652 and CLEC-399006)
Date Filed: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-031 - In the Matter of the Request of City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391653)
Date Filed: 06/30/25 ♦ Completed: 09/04/25

TC25-032 - In the Matter of the Application of Zayo Network Services, LLC for a Certificates of Authority to Provide Resold and Facilities-Based Local Exchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/24/25 ♦ Completed: 10/09/25

TC25-033 - In the Matter of the Application of Zayo Network Services, LLC for a Certificates of Authority to Provide Resold and Facilities-Based Interexchange Telecommunications Services throughout the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 07/24/25 ♦ Completed: 10/09/25

TC25-034 - In the Matter of the Joint Application of Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Bluepeak and Certain Subsidiaries for Approval of Asset Transfer, Request for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation, and Request for Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation
Date Filed: 08/04/25 ♦ Completed: 11/26/25

TC25-035 - In the Matter of PUC Staff's Settlement Agreement with National Mortgage Home Loans LLC for Violations of SDCL § 49-31-108
Date Filed: 09/05/25 ♦ Completed: 10/17/25

TC25-036 - In the Matter of the Application by Beresford Municipal Telephone Company for an Amended Certificate of Authority
Date Filed: 10/27/25 ♦ (Completed: 03/05/26)

TC25-037 - In the Matter of the Application of Ezee Fiber Texas, LLC for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate as a Facilities-Based and Resale Competitive Local and Interexchange Carrier of Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 10/30/25 ♦ (Completed: 01/28/26)

TC25-038 - In the Matter of the Application of LTE Wireless, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 11/18/25 ♦ Pending

TC25-039 - In the Matter of Aquarius Silver LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-040 - In the Matter of Cliq Communications LLC dba Cliq Mobile's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-041 - In the Matter of Comlink Total Solutions Corp.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ Completed: 12/31/25

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC25-042 - In the Matter of Go Technology Management, LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-043 - In the Matter of Hello Mobile Telecom, LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-044 - In the Matter of Lux Mobile USA, Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-045 - In the Matter of Mobile 13, Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-046 - In the Matter of Native Wireless, LLC dba Free Conferencing Corporation's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ Completed: 12/18/25

TC25-047 - In the Matter of Wrazzle, Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-048 - In the Matter of Phreeli Company's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ Completed: 12/18/25

TC25-049 - In the Matter of Power Mobile, LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-050 - In the Matter of Prepaid Wireless Wholesale, LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ Completed: 12/18/25

TC25-051 - In the Matter of Q Link Wireless LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-052 - In the Matter of Ready Wireless LLC dba Affinity Cellular and Club Cellular's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-053 - In the Matter of RSCU Mobile LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-054 - In the Matter of Splash Cellular LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-055 - In the Matter of Volt Mobile Inc.'s Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-056 - In the Matter of Wide Voice, LLC's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ Completed: 12/29/25

TC25-057 - In the Matter of Working Assets Funding Service Inc. dba Credo Long Distance's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ (Completed: 02/17/26)

TC25-058 - In the Matter of Pareteum Corporation's Failure to Timely Pay the Gross Receipts Tax
Date Filed: 11/19/25 ♦ Completed: 12/29/25

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC25-059 - In the Matter of the Application of City of Brookings Municipal Telephone dba Swiftel Communications for an Amended Certificate of Authority
Date Filed: 11/21/25 ♦ (Completed: 03/05/26)

TC25-060 - In the Matter of Midcontinent Communications Waiver Request for Number Block Release
Date Filed: 12/30/25 ♦ (Completed: 03/05/26)

REOPENED DOCKETS

EL24-029 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2025 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update
Date Filed: 08/30/24 ♦ Completed: 12/19/24
Reopened: 03/31/25 ♦ Completed: 04/17/25

EL22-017 - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase its Electric Rates
Date Filed: 06/30/22 ♦ Completed: 07/06/23
Reopened: 03/31/25 ♦ Completed: 04/17/25

NG23-015 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.
Date Filed: 08/18/23 ♦ Completed: 09/26/23
Reopened: 09/19/25 ♦ Pending

TC13-026 - In the Matter of Study Area Boundaries for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers
Date Filed: 03/27/13 ♦ Completed: 06/25/13
Reopened: 03/07/14 ♦ Completed: 03/21/14
Reopened: 04/29/15 ♦ Completed: 12/29/15
Reopened: 03/07/17 ♦ Completed: 03/17/17
Reopened: 01/02/19 ♦ Completed: 02/22/19
Reopened: 01/05/21 ♦ Completed: 02/25/21
Reopened: 03/01/23 ♦ Completed: 03/15/23
Reopened: 02/19/25 ♦ Completed: 03/27/25

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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South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION