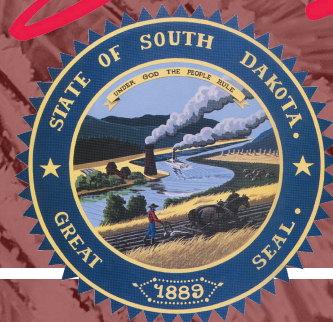


ANNUAL REPORT

2023

South Dakota



**PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION**

Photo by Travel South Dakota

Table of Contents

ABOUT THE PUC	1
COMMISSIONERS	2
PUC STAFF	5
2023 FINANCIAL REPORT	7
2023 YEAR IN REVIEW	8
REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES	27
2023 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER	36
ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS	37
ELECTRIC	37
GAS AND ELECTRIC	39
GRAIN WAREHOUSE	40
NATURAL GAS	40
PIPELINE SAFETY	42
RULEMAKING	42
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	42
REOPENED DOCKETS	48

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 webcasts and recordings of meetings and hearings.



REGULATION

The commission regulates investor-owned electric, natural gas, and telephone utilities. The PUC ensures utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable service and that investor-owned companies do so with just, reasonable rates. 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 or carbon dioxide.



SITING



ADVOCACY

The commission advocates for communications 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.

CHAIRPERSON

KRISTIE FIEGEN

ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Kristie was appointed to the commission on Aug. 9, 2011, by Gov. Dennis Daugaard, to fill a vacancy. She was elected to her first, full six-year term in November 2012 and re-elected in November 2018.

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Kristie served as the commission's chairperson in 2017, 2018 and 2023 and as vice chairperson in 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2021.

EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining the PUC, Kristie was the president of Junior Achievement of South Dakota for 17 years. Kristie's career also includes serving as the South Dakota area manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for nine years and as a sales representative for the Monsanto Company.

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

NATIONAL & REGIONAL ROLES

Kristie's current roles include:

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

Past roles include:

- president of SPP's Regional State Committee

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

EDUCATION

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

LEARN MORE

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



Commissioner Fiegen's family joined her for the 2023 Capitol Ball at the South Dakota State Capitol. Pictured left to right, Mara, Jackson, Kristie, Tim, McKenna and Alex.

VICE CHAIRMAN

GARY HANSON



ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

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

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Gary served as the commission's chairman in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2019 and 2020 and as vice chairman in 2003, 2004, 2011, 2017, 2018 and 2023.

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 of 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 Hat's Off Award, Spirit of Downtown Sioux Falls Award, White Cane Safety Award, Multiple Sclerosis Society Chapter's Mayor of the Year, Children's Care Hospital Wings of Love Award, DAV's Outstanding Legislator Award, and Life Member of Lions Club Sight and Service Foundation.

LEARN MORE

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

COMMISSIONER 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

Chris served as the PUC's chairman in 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2021 and as vice chairman in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2019 and 2020.

EXPERIENCE

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

Before serving as secretary of state, Chris held the position of state election supervisor in the secretary of state's office for 13 years and was uniform commercial code supervisor in the same office for two years.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL ROLES

Chris' current roles include:

- member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' board of directors
- 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

Past roles include:

- chairman of NARUC's Committee on Telecommunications
- chairman of NARUC's Broadband Expansion Task Force
- member of the National Regulatory Research Institute's board of directors

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



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.

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

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

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

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

Advising the commissioners are **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.

Administrative staff members perform a variety of support services including handling incoming phone calls and mail and greeting guests. Each staff member has specific duties that keep the PUC running smoothly. **Joy Lashley** has primary responsibility for maintaining the PUC electronic docket system as well as each of the websites the commission operates. **Mikayla Frick** provides support during commission meetings and hearings, coordinates travel logistics, distributes meeting agendas, minutes, and weekly filings, and maintains the docket management system.

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

Amanda Reiss 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.

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

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

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



Left: PUC Chairperson Kristie Fiegen welcomed staff attorney Logan Schaeffbauer to one of his first PUC proceedings. Schaeffbauer, a graduate of the University of South Dakota's Knudson School of Law, joined the PUC staff in June 2023.

Right: Commissioners Hanson, Fiegen and Nelson congratulated Executive Director Patricia Van Gerpen on 40 years of service to the State of South Dakota. Van Gerpen's husband, Charles, was also on hand to celebrate the milestone at a recognition event in the PUC office.

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

	BUDGET	GENERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	ENCUMBRANCE	BUDGET NOT EXPENDED
ADMINISTRATION						
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,386,929	\$395,944	\$27,285	\$893,488	\$0	\$70,212
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$198,520	\$0	\$0	\$161,572	\$0	\$36,948
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$1,585,449	\$395,944	\$27,285	\$1,055,060	\$0	\$107,160

GRAIN WAREHOUSE

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$314,175	\$210,559	\$0	\$87,679	\$0	\$15,937
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$94,325	\$62,560	\$0	\$6,648	\$0	\$25,117
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$408,500	\$273,119	\$0	\$94,327	\$0	\$41,054

FIXED UTILITY (INFORMATIONAL BUDGET)

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,509,459	\$0	\$2,114	\$1,455,861	\$0	\$51,484
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$545,768	\$0	\$0	\$469,719	\$0	\$76,049
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$2,055,227	\$0	\$2,114	\$1,925,580	\$0	\$127,533

PIPELINE SAFETY (INFORMATIONAL BUDGET)

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$319,096	\$0	\$152,823	\$85,753	\$0	\$80,520
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$100,652	\$0	\$18,527	\$13,021	\$0	\$69,104
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$419,748	\$0	\$171,350	\$98,774	\$0	\$149,624

DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$10,042	\$0	\$0	\$9,522	\$0	\$520
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$10,042	\$0	\$0	\$9,522	\$0	\$520

GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FUND REVENUES & FEES

GRAIN & WAREHOUSE LICENSES*	\$150,853	GROSS RECEIPTS TAX*	\$2,173,284
CHECK OFF AUDITS	\$12,450	APPLICATION FEES	\$250
INTEREST EARNED	\$2,433	INTEREST EARNED	\$23,360
TOTAL REVENUE	\$165,736	TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,196,894

*Includes Fines/Penalties

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back highlighting actions taken by the PUC during the 2023 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 2023.

AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY RATES	ELECTRIC Measurement per kWh, 2023	NATURAL GAS Measurement per thousand cubic feet, 2022
 SD South Dakota	12.17 cents	\$10.99
 ND MN SD IA NE KS MO West Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota)	12.83 cents	\$13.06
 USA United States	15.12 cents	\$14.75

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

RATE CHANGES & ADJUSTMENTS

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

The PUC approved an update to **Otter Tail Power Co.**'s phase-in cost recovery rider in August. The decision allowed the company to recover \$1,764,229 annually through two different rate structures: a percent of bill factor and per meter charge. Project costs approved to be recovered were associated with the Astoria Natural Gas Plant, Merricourt and Ashtabula III wind projects (North Dakota), load growth in the Lake Norden area, retirement of the Hoot Lake (Minnesota) Plant, and advanced grid infrastructure projects. For an average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month, the percent of bill change will result in a decrease of approximately \$2.67 on their monthly bill. The updated per meter rate for that same customer will result in a decrease of approximately \$0.62 bringing the total reduction to approximately \$3.29 per month compared to current rates. See docket EL23-015.

RATE CHANGES & ADJUSTMENTS CONTINUED...

The PUC approved **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.**'s annual update to its infrastructure rider in April. The update approved a 2023 Infrastructure Rider revenue requirement of \$751,132 associated with previously approved projects. The company did not propose to add any additional projects this year. As a result of the update, a typical residential customer using 853 kilowatt hours per month would see a decrease of \$1.05 per month, or \$12.60 annually. See docket EL23-006.

The commission processed several transmission cost recovery tariff requests in 2023 with these results:

- In February, the commission approved **Otter Tail Power Co.**'s updated TCR rider rate. The updated rate includes a \$2,968,042 revenue requirement associated with an update to the allocation factor used throughout the TCR tracker, one new project, four previously approved projects, and regional transmission expenses and revenues. As a result, an average residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month will see a monthly bill increase of \$2.25. See docket EL22-031.
- In March, **MidAmerican Energy Co.**'s updated TCR rider rate was approved by the commission. The updated rates are based on true ups to the actual over/under recovery in 2022, 2023 forecasted Midcontinent Independent System Operator transmission expense and the forecasted over/under recovery from January through March of 2023. The new rate, which went into effect March 1, 2023, resulted in a typical residential customer using 700 kWh per month seeing a \$0.59 per month decrease in their monthly bill. See docket EL23-003.
- In April, the PUC approved an updated TCR rider rate for **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** The updated rate included a revenue requirement of \$2,342,915 associated with five previously approved projects, MISO and Southwest Power Pool costs net of revenues, revenues associated with a new Rate 45 (high density contracted demand response) customer in North Dakota, projected 2023 MISO Schedule 26A charges and other operations and maintenance return credits. The approval resulted in a rate decrease of \$0.00102/kWh. For a typical residential customer using 853 kWh per month, that translates to an \$0.87 decrease on their monthly bill, or \$10.44 annually. See docket EL23-005.
- In November, **Xcel Energy**'s updated TCR rider rate was approved by the commission. The updated rate included costs associated with 24 transmission projects, made up of four new projects and 20 that had been previously approved, and costs associated with MISO's Schedule 26 expenses. The \$456,349 approved revenue requirement translates to approximately a \$0.44 monthly bill increase for a typical residential customer using 750 kWh per month. See docket EL23-026.

In June, the commission approved a settlement agreement, offered jointly by PUC staff and **Xcel Energy**, to grant the company an annual increase in base rates to recover a net revenue deficiency of approximately \$3.6 million. The docket's intervenor concurred with the settlement. When the base rate increase is combined with the 2023 Infrastructure Rider projects, the estimated overall revenue increase is approximately \$14.3 million, or an approximate 5.85% increase in retail revenues. Commissioners also voted unanimously to approve Xcel's interim refund plan. Xcel filed its application to increase revenue for electric service in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$44.1 million, or 17.9%, in June 2022. Due to the large amount of public interest in the docket, the commission held a public input meeting in Sioux Falls in November 2022. Based on the originally requested rate increase, the company estimated that a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of \$19.58 in their monthly bill. As a result of negotiations by PUC staff and Xcel Energy and the new rate approved by the commission, the same customer should expect a much lower increase of approximately \$4.67 per month. Xcel's last base rate increase was approved by the PUC in June of 2015. See docket EL22-017.

RATE CHANGES & ADJUSTMENTS CONTINUED...

NorthWestern Energy filed an application with the PUC in June, requesting approval to increase rates for electric service to its South Dakota customers by approximately \$30.9 million annually or approximately 16.32% based on NorthWestern's 2022 historic test year. The proposed change, which would affect approximately 64,680 customers, could result in a monthly bill increase of \$19.14 for a typical residential customer using 750 kilowatt hours per month. PUC staff continues to process NorthWestern's application. A final decision from the commission is expected in January of 2024. NorthWestern Energy's last base rate increase for electric customers was approved by the PUC in October of 2015 and went into effect the following January. See docket EL23-016.

In August, the commission received and began processing **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.**'s application for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$3.0 million annually. The company stated a typical residential electric customer using 900 kWh per month would see an increase of approximately \$20.00 per month or 17.6%. The PUC will make a decision in 2024. MDU's last electric rate increase was approved by the commission in June of 2016. See docket EL23-020.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. also filed an application in August to increase rates for its South Dakota natural gas customers. The application requests the commission allow the company to raise rates by approximately \$7.4 million annually or 11.2%. The company stated a typical residential natural gas customer using 66.3 dekatherms on an annual basis would see an increase of \$8.70 per month or 15.9%. PUC staff continue processing the docket, which may affect approximately 64,600 natural gas customers in MDU's South Dakota service territory. The commission is expected to make a decision in 2024. MDU's last natural gas rate increase request was approved in June 2016. See docket NG23-014.

In March, the commission approved a settlement stipulation for **MidAmerican Energy Co.** to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in its South Dakota retail service territory. The action came after a nearly year-long analysis of MidAmerican Energy's original request for approximately \$7.037 million in additional annual revenues. For MidAmerican's South Dakota customers, this request translated to a 23.4% increase in customer base rates, or approximately 6.4% increase in the average customer's total bill when purchased gas costs are included. Through settlement discussions, the parties settled on a final revenue requirement of \$5,946,541. This revenue requirement translates to an average 20.1% increase in base rates, or a 5.4% increase in the average total bill when purchased gas costs are included. The approved settlement also included bill credits that gradually decreased during 2023 as additional capital projects went into service and were added to MidAmerican's revenue requirement, ensuring that ratepayers did not pay for projects until they were in service. The approval marked MidAmerican's first base rate increase since June 2015. The company attributed the increase to a major effort in replacing an aging system and expanding infrastructure to serve growth in southeastern South Dakota, as well as inflation. See docket NG22-005.



Commissioner Hanson moderated a panel discussion about critical infrastructure at the 2023 Mid-America Regulatory Conference Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The forum attracted representatives of regulatory agencies and utility organizations from throughout a 14-state region.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The commission approved several updates to energy efficiency and conservation programs. In 2023, the estimated energy savings for all investor-owned utilities was 13,534 megawatt hours of electricity and 6,538 dekatherms of natural gas.

- The commission approved a revised conservation tracking adjustment rate of \$0.015 per dk for **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** in March, which is a decrease of \$0.010 per dk from the previously authorized CTA rate. As a result, the estimated annual decrease for a residential customer using 70 dk annually is \$0.70. MDU's conservation program provides incentives to residential customers for using high-efficiency heating equipment and programmable thermostats. The program also offers rebate options for commercial customers. See docket NG23-004.
- **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** filed an application for approval of its natural gas conservation portfolio plan for 2024 through 2026 and the commission signed off on the plan in December. MDU's plan proposed to continue its current program offerings, with one minor change to the programmable thermostat program for existing dwellings. In total, MDU's portfolio will include four programs that benefit residential customers and three programs benefitting commercial customers. See docket NG23-025.
- **Otter Tail Power Co.** continued its energy efficiency plan in 2023. In June, the commission approved the 2022 financial incentive, 2022 energy efficiency plan status report and updated the energy efficiency adjustment factor. The company's residential and commercial programs incentivize customers to use efficient lighting, heat pumps and smart thermostats among other energy-saving measures. As a result of the revised energy efficiency adjustment factor, an average residential customer using 927 kilowatt hours per month should see a decrease in their monthly bill of \$0.32. See docket EL23-012.
- **Otter Tail Power Co.** also filed a proposal to update and extend its most recent energy efficiency partnership triennial plan for 2024 through 2026. The plan, which was approved by the commission in November, included 10 programs that will continue to incentivize customers with efficient options in heating, cooling and lighting. All the programs are a continuation of the existing programs that have been implemented and will include four programs with direct impacts for residential customers and five with direct benefits for commercial customers. See docket EL23-019.
- In December, **Xcel Energy's** 2024 demand side management plan, 2024 cost adjustment factor, 2022 DSM status report, 2022 DSM tracker account, and the performance incentive earned in 2022 were approved by the commission. The 2024 DSM plan includes slight changes to the business lighting efficiency and residential home lighting programs to align with federal Energy Independence and Security Act backstop legislation. In addition to lighting programs, offerings also include incentives for water heating and enrollment in Xcel's Saver's Switch program, among others. 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 increase of \$0.01. See docket EL23-013.

SITING

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

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SITING PROJECTS

In October, the commission approved a motion by **Dakota Access Pipeline** to release the construction road bond and terminate the appointment of a public liaison officer with the PUC. Both items were conditions of the permit to construct the pipeline granted by the PUC in December 2015. Construction on the pipeline began in May 2016. The pipeline became operational on June 1, 2017. See docket HP14-002

NEW SITING APPLICATIONS

In January, the commission accepted a settlement stipulation brought by PUC staff and North Bend Wind Project LLC and granted a construction permit to **North Bend Wind Project**, a 200-megawatt wind energy facility in Hyde and Hughes counties. The permit contained 45 agreed upon conditions addressing a wide range of issues including land and road restoration, shadow flicker, noise levels, ice detection and ice throw, post-construction grouse lek monitoring and decommissioning. North Bend Wind Project LLC filed its application on June 23, 2021, starting the clock on a statutory nine-month review period that included a public input meeting held in Pierre in August 2021. In November 2021 and February 2022, the company filed requests to extend the deadline for a commission decision, thereby extending the statutory review period. Party status was granted to Judi Bollweg, individually and on behalf of the Tumbleweed Lodge and Bollweg Family LLLP and to Michael Bollweg, individually and on behalf of Bollweg Family LLLP, in September 2021 and was later withdrawn by the parties in January 2023. The North Bend Wind project will include up to 71 wind turbines and will span approximately 46,931 acres of land. Other components of the project will include access roads and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 230-kV collection substation, a 230-kV interconnection switching station, an aircraft detection lighting system and one permanent meteorological tower. See docket EL21-018.

On September 11, during the first day of a scheduled 13-day evidentiary hearing for **SCS Carbon Transport LLC's** application for a permit to construct and operate a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline, the commission voted unanimously to grant PUC staff's motion to deny the company's application. In its motion, staff argued SCS was no longer requesting preemption of county ordinances (having withdrawn that motion) and the proposed route violated county ordinances in four South Dakota counties. SCS filed its application Feb. 7, 2022. Soon after filing, Commissioner Kristie Fiegen recused herself from the docket due to a familial relationship with a landowner along the proposed pipeline route and Gov. Kristi Noem appointed State Treasurer Josh Haeder to serve as acting commissioner for the docket. The proposed project planned to span five states and include approximately 2,000 miles of pipelines, including 469 miles of pipeline within South Dakota, for the transportation of CO₂ from more than 30 ethanol plants. In March 2022, the PUC held public input meetings in Onida, Sioux Falls, De Smet, Redfield and Aberdeen. The events were collectively attended by more than 1,000 people. The PUC granted party status to 423 intervenors to formally participate in the docket. In May 2022, SCS filed a motion to extend the deadline, which the commission granted in part. SCS filed updated route maps in August 2022 and an updated application in October 2022. In February 2023, the commission granted SCS's motion to set Nov. 15, 2023, as the definitive date for the final decision and order for the docket. See docket HP22-001.

SITING CONTINUED...

On September 6, the commission voted unanimously to deny **Navigator Heartland Greenway, LLC's** application for a permit to construct and operate a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline in South Dakota. The project was proposed to transport CO₂ from more than 21 ethanol and fertilizer plants across five states, including three ethanol plants in South Dakota, for permanent and secure underground sequestration in Illinois and/or to off-take facilities for commercial/industrial use. Navigator's proposed project included 112.6 miles of carbon dioxide pipeline in South Dakota that would cross Brookings, Moody, Minnehaha, Lincoln and Turner counties. Navigator estimated the total cost of the proposed project in South Dakota to be \$154 million. The company filed its application with the PUC on Sept. 27, 2022, starting the clock on the one-year period during which the commission is bound by state law to establish its findings and issue a decision. During that period, the PUC reviewed thousands of pages of filings, read hundreds of written comments and listened to testimony during the evidentiary hearing that spanned 12 days in July and August. The PUC also held public input meetings in Canton, Flandreau and Sioux Falls in November 2022 that drew more than 400 attendees collectively. The commission granted party status to 140 intervenors to formally participate in the docket. Prior to voting on the company's overall application, the commission addressed the issue of pre-empting county ordinances. Navigator filed a motion to preempt county ordinances in Minnehaha and Moody counties in late June that became the subject of the final two days of the docket's evidentiary hearing. Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the company's request finding that the ordinances did not meet the criteria of being unreasonably restrictive. See docket HP22-002.



Commissioners Kristie Fiegen, top left, Gary Hanson, top right, and Chris Nelson, bottom left, listened to testimony and gave careful consideration to Navigator Heartland Greenway's proposed carbon capture pipeline project during a 12-day evidentiary hearing in July and August. PUC staff (bottom right) including left to right, Logan Schaeftbauer, Amanda Reiss, Darren Kearney, Jon Thurber and Kristen Edwards also actively participated in the hearing.



FORMAL COMPLAINTS

In August, the commission issued its final decision in **Venture Communications Cooperative's** complaint against **AT&T Mobility**, finding that AT&T Mobility failed to pay for local interconnection facilities ordered by AT&T Mobility in Access Service Requests at the rate set forth in Venture's price list. The commission further ordered AT&T Mobility to pay all unpaid interconnection charges and late payment charges thereon, pay pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on all unpaid balances and not pay Venture's costs and expenses. It further found that Venture did not improperly bill AT&T Mobility for DS1 services under its pricing catalog, should not refund the amounts paid by AT&T Mobility, should not pay all pre-judgment and post-judgment interest for all claim amounts and should not pay AT&T Mobility costs and expenses including attorney's fees. Venture Communications filed its complaint with the PUC in May 2020. A two-day evidentiary hearing was held in April 2023. See docket CT20-001.

In October, the PUC dismissed, with prejudice, a formal complaint against **Crowned Ridge Wind LLC** regarding project sound level compliance after complainants, **Amber Christenson, Linda Lindgren and Timothy Lindgren**, failed to appear at the October 11 evidentiary hearing in the South Dakota State Capitol. Based on the absence of the complainants, the company made a motion to dismiss the complaint stating that the complaining party bore the full burden of proof and had failed to meet that burden. The commission unanimously granted the dismissal. The complaint, filed in September 2022, alleged that Crowned Ridge failed to comply with conditions of the permit issued by the PUC and alleged deficiencies in sound testing previously conducted by the company. See docket CE22-001.



Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen, along with Commission Attorney Kristen Edwards, visited the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. in October to emphasize their stance on FCC WC Docket No. 22-277, a docket evaluating if a telecommunications carrier is required to obtain a certificate of service from state regulators when seeking interconnection with a rural incumbent telephone company to provide wholesale interconnection services.

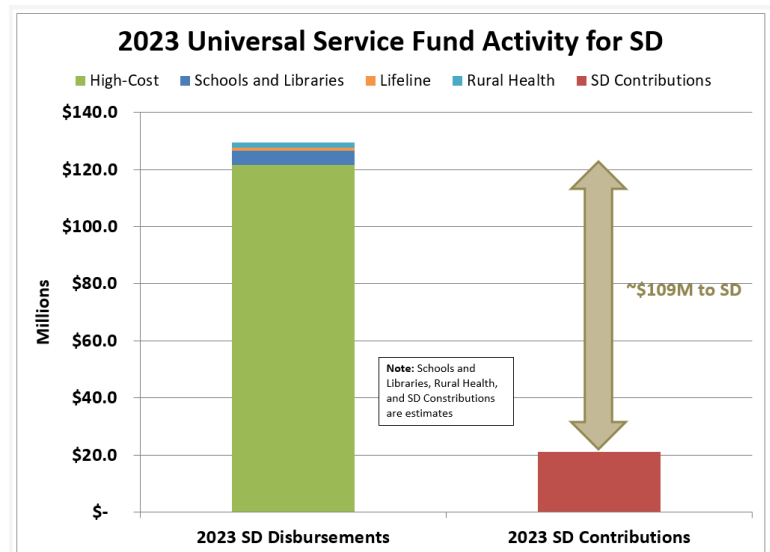
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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 2023.

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 million in High-Cost Support and Lifeline and Link-Up monies to South Dakota companies.



Source: USAC Open Data (<https://opendata.usac.org/>)

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Commissioner Nelson, Commissioner Fiegen and Commission Attorney Kristen Edwards met with **Federal Communications Commission** members and staff in October in Washington, D.C., for *ex parte* discussions regarding the FCC's WC Docket No. 22-277. The docket, filed with the FCC in July 2022, is Midcontinent Communications' petition that the FCC issue a declaratory ruling affirming that a telecommunications carrier authorized to provide any telecommunications service in a state may seek interconnection with any other telecommunications carrier under section 251(a) of the Communications Act for the purpose of providing wholesale interconnection services for the exchange of local traffic, without the need to obtain additional authority from a state regulator, including a certificate of authority to provide local exchange service. Midcontinent asserts that the PUC's ruling in PUC docket TC21-124, that Midcontinent is not entitled to interconnection with a rural incumbent telephone company to provide wholesale interconnection services until Midcontinent obtains a certificate of authority to provide local exchange service in the exchange where Midcontinent is seeking to provide the services, is inconsistent with section 251(a) and FCC precedent. The PUC filed comments about the matter with the FCC in 2022. In September, the PUC submitted written *ex parte* communication to the federal agency and followed up with personal visits to emphasize to the FCC its position of fairness and authority.

SDTA-PUC FORUM

Telecommunications professionals from across South Dakota gathered in December for the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission/South Dakota Telecommunications Association Educational Forum in Sioux Falls to collaborate, communicate and connect. Discussion topics included broadband funding, emerging issues and consumer-driven technology.

Photos, top to bottom, left to right:

Commissioner Chris Nelson chatted with Ross Petrick of Alliance Communications, Denny Law of Golden West Communications and Ryan Taylor of Cutler Law Firm.

Eric Paulson, Patrick Steffensen, Jon Thurber, Logan Schaefbauer, Patricia Van Gerpen and Joe Rezac were among the PUC staff members that attended the forum.

Steve Meyer, Swiftel Communications, enjoyed a catch-up with Commissioner Gary Hanson and Commissioner Kristie Fiegen.

Mike Waldner, South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development, shared some insight into the state broadband program with Commissioner Chris Nelson.

Commissioner Gary Hanson, Mikaela Burma of Vantage Point and Brian Ford from NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, enjoyed conversation between sessions.



LEGISLATION

The annual **PUC Briefing for Legislators** in January provided an opportunity for Commissioners Fiegen, Hanson and Nelson to share current information with lawmakers about PUC hot topics such as telecommunications, broadband, siting, energy regulation, regional transmission organizations, and grain warehouses. It also gave commissioners a chance to brief legislators on legislation the PUC had proposed during legislative session.

Occasionally, the commission finds that current South Dakota laws are in need of modification or clarification and makes efforts to update legislation. The legislature approved House Bill 1005, the PUC's legislation to update the **pipeline safety** chapter to properly cite current federal regulations regarding pipeline safety inspections.

Senate Bill 11, the PUC's legislation to update certain application fees for actions related to energy transactions in **utility chargeback dockets**, was passed. The update increased the investigative/chargeback fee for general rate case dockets. Two contributing factors were pointed out as the impetus for the needed changes: chargeback dockets are complex and litigious cases that consume more staff time and costs related to retaining independent expert witnesses and consultants are rising.



Commissioner Gary Hanson talked with Rep. Greg Jamison during the PUC's annual Open House for Legislators.



PUC Chairperson Kristie Fiegen and Finance Manager Cindy Kemnitz appeared in front of the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee to present the agency's budget and answer questions from the committee, while Executive Director Patricia Van Gerpen lends support from the audience.

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

Commissioners selected **Commissioner Kristie Fiegen** to serve as PUC chairperson and **Commissioner Gary Hanson** to serve as vice chairman.

Commissioner Chris Nelson took the oath of office in January to begin his third term on the commission. Nelson will serve in the elected post until 2029.



Photo Credit: Campea Photography

Commissioner Chris Nelson took the oath of office, administered by South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven R. Jensen on January 7, 2023. He was joined on stage by his wife, Penny.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Commissioner Fiegen regularly shared her passion for public service and dedication to education by engaging with students of all ages throughout the year. She made multiple visits to Sioux Falls' Jefferson High School, meeting with students from the Project Based Learning Academy and Jobs for America's Graduates program to discuss renewable energy, the national electric grid, and careers in government. She spent time in the Capitol with Chamberlain Middle School students, legislative interns and pages as well as JAG students from throughout the state offering a glimpse of government in action. Encouraging STEM careers and leadership was the theme when Fiegen met with students from Pierre's Georgia Morse Middle School and Tri-Valley High School. Fiegen encouraged interest and understanding of government as a leader of the Citizenship Forum at South Dakota Girls State and as a speaker at South Dakota State University's LeadState program. She also connected with middle and high school students at her alma mater in Parker.

Commissioner Fiegen kept various utility industry groups up to date about topics like broadband, electric reliability, the Southwest Power Pool regional transmission organization and general PUC happenings. These groups and events included the Black Hills Electric Cooperative annual meeting, South Dakota Rural Electric Association managers, South Dakota Telecommunications annual and board meetings, and the Mid-America Regulatory Conference commissioners' education forum. Fiegen was also a featured speaker at the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association and South Dakota Federation of Labor annual meetings.

Commissioner Hanson moderated a panel regarding siting critical infrastructure for an audience of utility companies and utility regulator colleagues at the annual meeting of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference.

Commissioner Nelson shared his expertise as a speaker, panelist and moderator at events hosted by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Center for Public Utilities, South Dakota Telecommunications Association, South Dakota Municipal League, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships, and South Dakota agriculture groups. Topics included telecommunications, broadband funding and technology, universal service fund, and PUC processes. He connected with Brandon residents and legislative interns as well as students at Boys State and from Newell, Chamberlain and Pierre, offering insight about public service.

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen was appointed chairperson of the Southwest Power Pool's Resource and Energy Assurance Leadership team. REAL is tasked with assessing SPP's current resource adequacy construct and anticipated challenges resulting from resource mix changes, extreme weather impacts, increased demand and evolving consumer behaviors. The group provides guidance, prioritization, and policy recommendations to increase assurance that energy can be continuously and cost-effectively provided within the SPP balancing authority area and will address applicable recommendations from the Future Grid Strategy Advisory Group and initiatives identified in the SPP resource adequacy roadmap.



Top Left: Commissioner Fiegen spoke to South Dakota Girls State delegates about being a good citizen, emphasizing the importance of building relationships, integrity and being genuine.

Top Right: Commissioner Fiegen delivered the keynote speech at Black Hills Electric Cooperative's annual meeting.

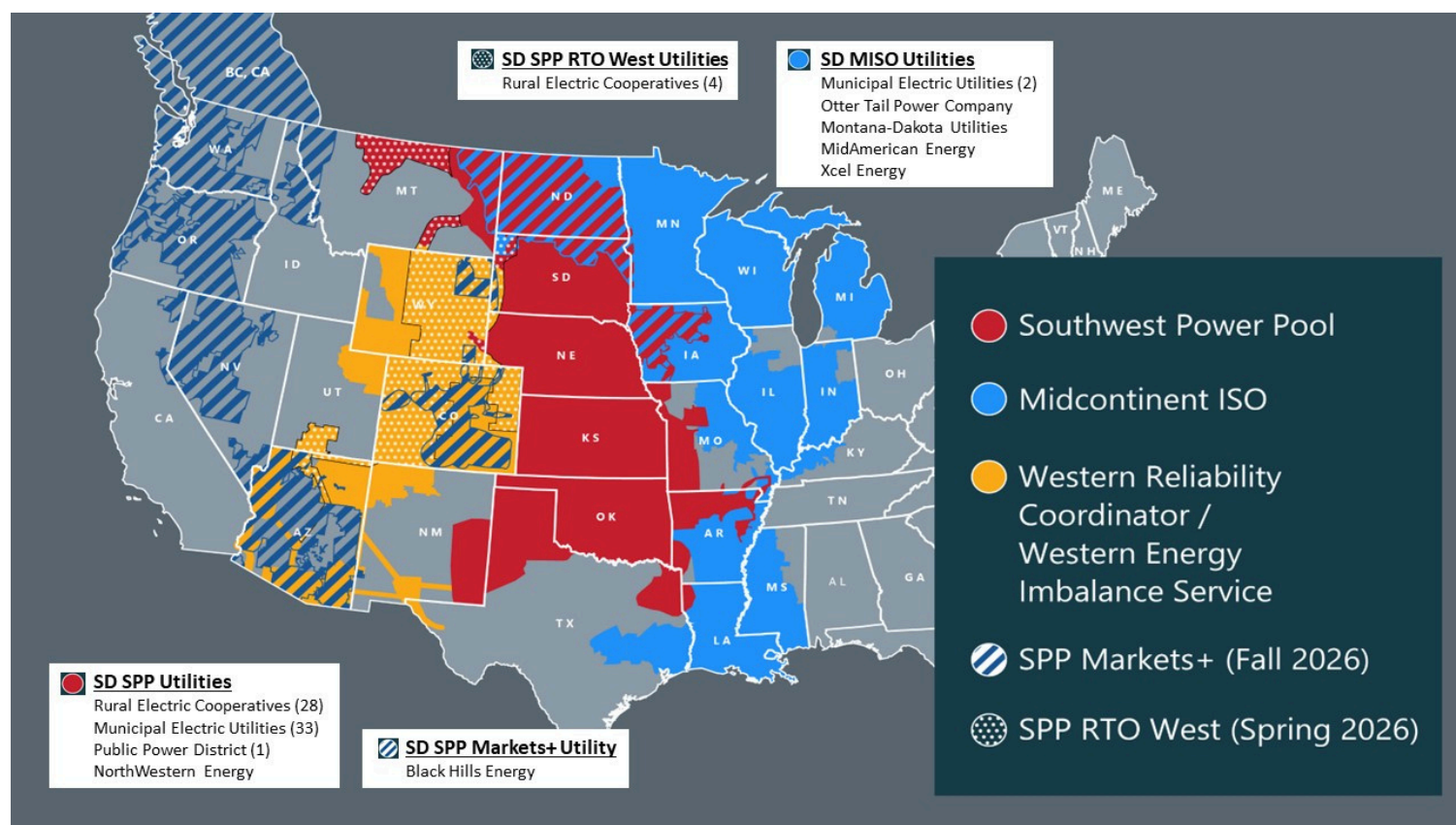
Middle: Commissioners Fiegen and Nelson, both South Dakota State University graduates, showed their school spirit with Supreme Court Justice Mark Salter and Governor Kristi Noem.



Bottom: Commissioner Chris Nelson conferred with Greg White and Chris Mele of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and Judge Jehmal Hudson of the Virginia State Corporation Commission at a meeting of NARUC's Washington Action Program representatives. Commissioner Nelson is the co-chairman of the group that monitors federal activities related to NARUC's efforts.

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 for the purpose of promoting economic efficiency, reliability, and non-discriminatory 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. RTOs also operate competitive wholesale electricity markets, where electricity generators bid their supply into the market and the lowest-cost bids are dispatched first. Here is a look at the regional transmission organizations and markets that affect South Dakota and the utility companies that participate in each.

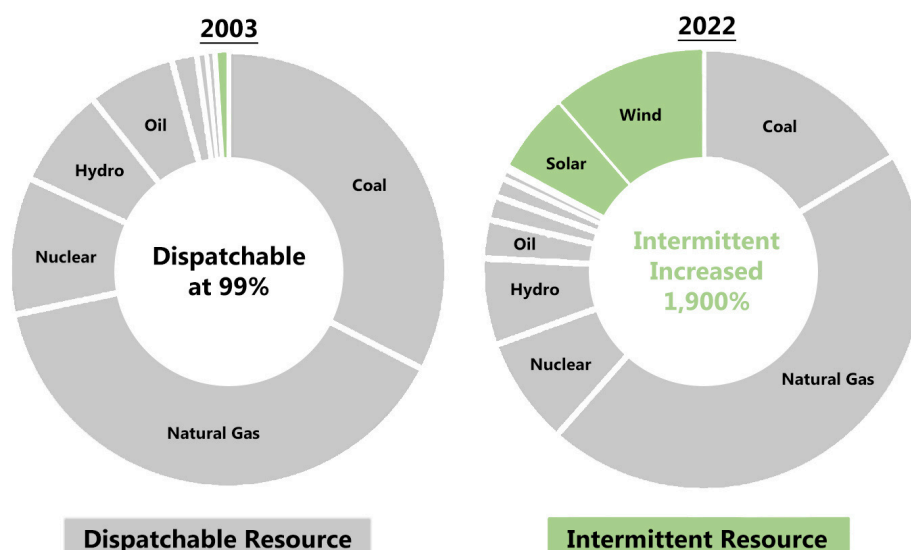


RTOs use a stakeholder process for decision making and policy setting, and state public utilities commissions have a crucial seat at the stakeholder table. The PUC actively participates in the SPP and MISO stakeholder processes to advocate on behalf of South Dakotans and the state's electric utilities as issues arise. This participation is time consuming, with commissioners and staff devoting many hours of their day to work on RTO issues. The table on the next page demonstrates the PUC's involvement in the RTO stakeholder process.

Regional Transmission Organization Involvement	
Organization of MISO States (OMS) Board of Directors	Nelson - Treasurer
OMS Staff Workgroups (various)	Staff
MISO Committees/Workgroups (various)	Nelson, Staff
SPP Regional States Committee (RSC)	Fiegen - Member
SPP Cost Allocation Work Group (CAWG)	Staff
SPP Improved Resource Availability Task Force (IRATF)	Fiegen - Chair
SPP RSC/OMS Seams Liaison Committee (SLC)	Fiegen - Member
SPP Resource and Energy Adequacy Leadership Team (REAL)	Fiegen - Chair
SPP REAL Resource Adequacy Subgroup	Fiegen - Chair
SPP Regional Allocation Review Task Force (RARTF)	Fiegen - Chair
SPP West Markets+ State Committee (MSC)	Fiegen - Member
SPP West Markets+ Committees/Workgroups (various)	Staff

Within the RTO 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. Intermittent resources are generating resources that depend on the weather in order 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. The chart below shows how intermittent resources have grown on the power grid since 2003.

United States Resource Mix Capacity



As more and more intermittent resources are added to the grid each year, it is the PUC's view that the electric industry needs to be thoughtful about investment in new transmission and the retirement of dispatchable resources to ensure the appropriate types of resources are on the grid to maintain reliability and affordability. Commissioners advocate for a cost-effective, orderly transition of the electric industry at RTO workgroup meetings, where regional transmission expansion plans, cost allocation of new transmission, resource accreditation, wholesale market reforms, and bulk power system reliability needs are a few of the hot topics.

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 1,400 occasions with issues and complaints related to electric, natural gas, telecommunications (including wireless), pipeline siting, energy efficiency, and other utility-related topics.

Complaints Resolved Within a Month

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, 2023

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, 2023

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, 2023

South Dakota telephone numbers on Do Not Call Registry: 712,219 (0.78% increase)

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 3,800 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: Commissioner Gary Hanson and PUC staff members Jason Schuchard and Deb Gregg spoke with consumers to increase awareness about avoiding scam calls and give producers an opportunity to “Ask an Inspector” any grain questions they might have at the PUC booth at the Black Hills Home Show in Rapid City.

Bottom: PUC staff members Jason Schuchard and Deb Gregg stopped by Black Hills Energy while in Rapid City for the Black Hills Home Show.



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 2023.

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, 2023

Inspections: 470 (369 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, 2023

- Class A Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that use voluntary credit sale contracts and exceed \$5,000,000 in annual purchases): 124 entities with 296 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): 69 entities with 73 locations.
- State Warehouse Licenses (entities that store grain for hire): 44 entities with 63 locations.
- Federal Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the USDA to store grain for hire): 29 entities with 146 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, 2023

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.

COMPLAINT

In July 2023, the commission resolved a complaint brought by PUC staff in January against **Banghart Properties LLC** that, among other allegations, alleged Banghart had operated as a grain buyer without a license. Banghart was denied a Class A grain buyer license in early April and the commission held an evidentiary hearing regarding the complaint that month. In early May, the commission found good cause for staff to deny Banghart’s Class A license for FY23. In June, the commission held a second hearing to consider a new application by Banghart for a FY24 Class B grain buyer license while also determining if the company had operated as a grain buyer without a license or violated state law by failing to pay a producer within 30 days. Following the second hearing, the commission resolved the docket, finding that the company did not purchase grain without a license, did fail to comply with state law that requires payment to a producer within 30 days, and granted Banghart’s FY24 Class B grain buyer license application with conditions. See docket GW23-001.

PRODUCER PROTECTION

PUC staff wrapped up a docket addressing concerns related to the licensing and financial status of **Roslyn Elevator**. Roslyn’s grain buyer license was suspended in February 2022 after it was determined the company had fallen out of compliance with financial licensing requirements. The company’s change in financial status was largely attributed to the high number of voluntary credit and deferred payment contracts on its books and a modification to the company’s revolving credit agreement note by its bank. Between mid-February and late-June 2022, company representatives worked closely with PUC staff to improve Roslyn’s financial position. During this time, staff determined moving forward with revocation proceedings could pose hardship to producers in the area and would not serve the interest of producers or the public. As a result, the commission followed staff’s recommendation to waive the financial licensing requirement and granted Roslyn a grain buyer license, subject to conditions, on July 1, 2022. On June 26, 2023, Roslyn Elevator notified the commission that due to the retirement of the elevator’s owners and planned liquidation of company assets, it would not seek renewal of either its grain buyer or warehouse licenses for the 2023–2024 license year. All but two producers, whose voluntary credit sales with Roslyn were not subject to bond claims, were paid in full. See docket GW22-002.



Grain Warehouse Inspector Justin Blais, seated, met with Steve Lias, manager of the Farmers Elevator Company of Humboldt, during an inspection. State law requires that every facility licensed by the state must be inspected at least once a year.

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: 5,367 miles

South Dakota natural gas intrastate transmission lines: 304 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, 2023

Inspections: 144.75 days (136 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, 2023

Evaluations score: 100% (25 out of 51 state and territory programs received a score of 100%)



Commissioners Fiegen and Nelson are pictured with Central Electric Cooperative director Mark Hofer at the Central Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

A listing of the companies regulated by the PUC in 2023

2023 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 COMPANIES

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

Electric and Natural Gas Companies	\$ 1,564,292
Telecommunications Companies	\$ 476,667

INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS COMPANIES

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

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

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES

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

#	Alliance Global Networks LLC
800 Response Information Services LLC	AmeriVision Communications Inc. dba Affinity 4
	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
	BCN Telecom Inc.
	BEK Communications Cooperative
	BIF IV Intrepid OpCo LLC
	Blackfoot Communications Inc.
	Boldyn Networks US LLC fka Mobilitie LLC

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

B continued...

Broadband Dynamics LLC
Broadsmart Global Inc.
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC
Broadwing Communications LLC
Bullseye Telecom Inc. (*cancelled COA 09/23*)
Business Network Long Distance Inc. (*cancelled COA 06/23*)

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
ComTech 21 LLC
Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services Inc.
Consolidated Communications Networks Inc.
Consolidated Telecom Inc. (*withdrew COA 06/23*)
Consumer Telcom Inc.
Convergia Inc.
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
Crown Castle Fiber LLC
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

D

DeltaCom LLC
dishNET Wireline LLC

E

Easton Telecom Services LLC
Education Networks of America Inc.
Electric Lightwave LLC dba Allstream
Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba ECG LLC
EnTelegent Solutions Inc.
Express Communications Inc.

F

FiberComm LC
First Choice Technology Inc.

F continued...

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 fka Intrado Communications LLC

I

IDT America Corp.
InContact Inc.
Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions
Integrated Services Inc. (*cancelled COA 06/23*)
Intrado Safety Communications Inc.

J

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

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 Inc.
dba MetTel
Midcontinent Communications
Middle Mile Infrastructure LLC
Midstate Communications Inc.
Motorola Solutions Connectivity Inc.
Multiline Long Distance Inc. (*cancelled COA 06/23*)

N

National Access Long Distance Inc. (*cancelled
COA 06/23*)
Nationwide Long Distance Services Inc. (*cancelled
COA 06/23*)
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
Network Innovations Inc.
NetworkIP LLC dba Elite Telecom
Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC
New Horizons Communications Corp.
NextGen Communications Inc.
NGA 911 LLC
North Dakota Long Distance LLC
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co.
Northern Valley Communications LLC
NOS Communications Inc. dba International Plus dba
011 Communications dba Internet Business
Association dba Iwantage Network Solutions dba
Blueridge Telecom Systems
NOSVA Limited Partnership

O

Onvoy LLC
Opex Communications Inc.

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 dba Inc. vCom Solutions
Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

R

RC Technologies
Reduced Rate Long Distance LLC
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.
Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
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.
Total Holdings Inc. dba GTC Communications Inc.
dba GTC
TouchTone Communications Inc.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

U

Uniti 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

W

Wide Voice LLC
WiTel 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
ZP Better Together LLC fka CSDVRS 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
Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured Technologies Inc. (withdrew COA 06/23)
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

P

PayTel 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

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

#

321 Communications Inc.

A

ACN Communication Services LLC
Airespring Inc.
Airus Inc.
ANPI Business LLC
ANPI LLC
AT&T Corp.
ATV Holdings LLC dba Mitchell Telecom

B

Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC
BCN Telecom Inc.
BEK Communications Cooperative
BIF IV Intrepid OpCo LLC
Blackfoot Communications Inc.
BlueBird Communications SD LLC
Boldyn Networks US LLC fka Mobilitie LLC
Broadsmart Global Inc.
Broadview Networks Inc.
Broadvox-CLEC LLC
Bullseye Telecom Inc. (cancelled COA 09/23)

C

CBTS Technology Solutions LLC
Celerity Networks 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
COMTECH 21 LLC
Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services Inc.
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.
Crown Castle Fiber LLC

D

dishNET Wireline LLC

E

Easton Telecom Services LLC
Education Networks of America Inc.
Electric Lightwave LLC dba Allstream
eNetworks LLC
EnTelegent Solutions Inc.
ExteNet Systems Inc.

F

FiberComm LC
France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC
Fusion Cloud Services LLC

G

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

H

Hypercube Networks LLC fka Intrado Communications LLC

I

IDT America Corp.
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 Inc.
dba MetTel
Midcontinent Communications
Midstate Communications Inc.
Motorola Solutions Connectivity Inc.

N

Native American Telecom - Pine Ridge LLC
Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications Inc.
NetFortris Acquisition Co. Inc.
Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC
New Horizons Communications Corp.
NextGen Communications Inc.

COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

N continued...

NGA 911 LLC
Northern Valley Communications LLC
NOS Communications Inc.

O

Onvoy LLC

P

Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC

Q

Quantumshift Communications dba Vcom Solutions

R

RC Technologies

S

Simwood Inc.
South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN Communication
Spectrotel of the West fka Spectrotel Inc.
SQF LLC
Standard Tandem LLC

T

Teleport Communications America
Time Clock Solutions LLC

U

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

WIRELESS COMPANIES

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

A

AFNET LLC
Air Voice Wireless LLC
Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.
Alltel Corp.
American Messaging Services LLC
AmeriVision Communications Inc. dba Lifeline
Communications dba Affinity 4
Approved Contact LLC
Assurance Wireless USA LP
Atlantic Mobile US LLC dba Angel Mobile

B

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

C

Cintex Wireless LLC dba SFone Wireless
Clear Mobile LLC dba Clear Wireless
Cliq Communications LLC dba Cliq Mobile

Comcast OTR1 LLC
Comlink Total Solutions Corp.
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
Flash Wireless LLC

WIRELESS COMPANIES CONTINUED...

G

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

H

Hello Mobile Telecom LLC
Hoop Wireless LLC

I

IDT Domestic Telecom Inc. (Brand name: Boss Wireless)
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
Locus Telecommunications LLC
Lux Mobile USA Inc.
Lycamobile USA Inc.

M

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

N

Native Wireless LLC
New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC dba AT&T Mobility LLC
NewPhone Wireless LLC
Nextel West Corp. dba Nextel (*withdrew 11/23*)
Nextiva
Nexus Communications Inc. dba Reachout Wireless
North American Local LLC
Nova Labs Inc.
NPCR Inc. dba Nextel Partners (*withdrew 11/23*)

O

OnStar LLC
Onvoy Spectrum LLC
Orbic North America LLC (*withdrew 10/23*)

P

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

Q

Q Link Wireless LLC

R

Ready Wireless LLC
Red Pocket Inc.
Rocstar Wireless LLC
Rocket Mobile LLC
Rural Cellular Corp.

S

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

T

TDS Long Distance Corp.
Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone
Telefonica USA Inc.
Tempo Telecom LLC
The Light Phone Inc.
Ting Inc.
T-Mobile Central LLC dba T-Mobile USA Inc.
TouchTone Communications Inc.
TracFone Wireless Inc.
Troomi Wireless Inc.
TruConnect Communications Inc.
Truphone Inc.
Tube Incorporated dba Reach Mobile

T

TruConnect Communications Inc.
Truphone Inc.
Tube Incorporated dba Reach Mobile

U

Unity Wireless Inc.
U.S. Mobile LLC
UVNV Inc.

V

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

W

WaveNation LLC
Welncentivize LLC dba ChosenWireless
Western Communications Inc.
Whoop Connect Inc.
Wing Tel Inc.
Wizie Mobile LLC
Working Assets Funding Service Inc. dba Credo Long
Distance
Wrizzle Inc.

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 Vast Broadband

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.

LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES CONTINUED...

FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPANIES

C

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota
LLC
Consolidated Telcom Inc.

D

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative

F

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.

G

Great Plains Communications LLC

H

Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa

N

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co.

Q

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

R

Red River Rural Telephone Association
RT Communications Inc. dba Range

T

Three River Telco

V

Valley Telephone Co.

W

West River Telecommunications Cooperative

OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

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

S

South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN Communications



Some of South Dakota's elected officials took a moment to celebrate together at the 2023 Capitol Ball in the South Dakota State Capitol. Left to right: PUC Commissioner Chris Nelson, Attorney General Marty Jackley, Commissioner of School and Public Lands Brock Greenfield, PUC Commissioner Kristie Fiegen, Secretary of State Monae Johnson, State Treasurer Josh Haeder, State Auditor Rich Sattgast and PUC Commissioner Gary Hanson.

DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

A look at all of the dockets filed with the PUC in 2023

Type	Filed	Completed	Pending as of Jan. 1, 2024
Administrative Items	1	1	0
Electric	33	25	8
Gas & Electric	3	2	1
Grain Warehouse	1	0	1
Natural Gas	25	24	1
Pipeline Safety	1	1	0
Rulemaking	1	0	1
Telecommunications	59	44	15
TOTALS	124	97	27

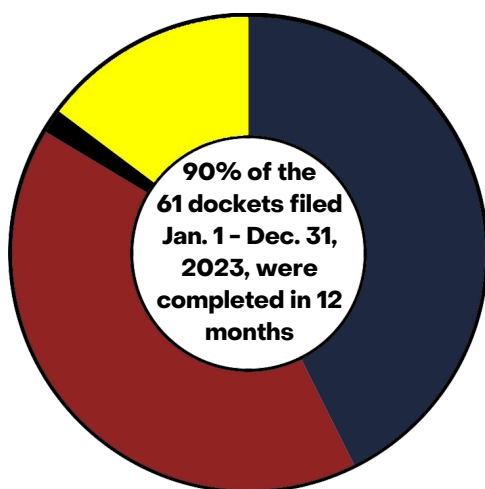
Dockets closed between Jan. 1, 2024, and the publication date of this report (Spring 2024) are noted in parentheses.

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

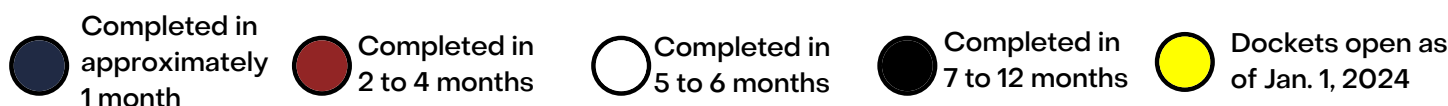
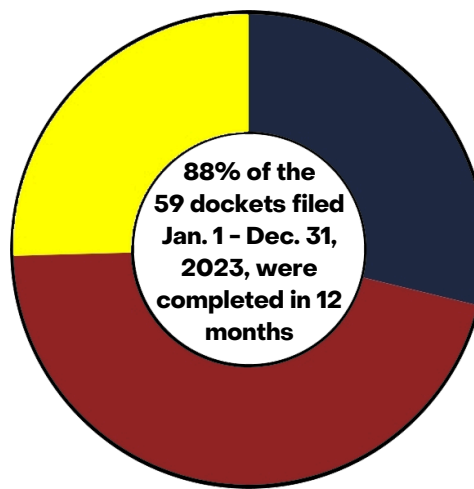
COMPLETED DOCKETS

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

Electric and Natural Gas Dockets



Telecommunications Dockets



ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

AA23-001 – Establishment of the Gross Receipts Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2024

Date Filed: 03/16/23 ♦ Completed: 05/11/23

ELECTRIC DOCKETS

EL23-001 – In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rates for Small Power Production and Cogeneration

Date Filed: 01/30/23 ♦ Completed: 03/31/23

EL23-002 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its Power Plant Study Costs Regulatory Asset

Date Filed: 02/08/23 ♦ Completed: 03/01/23

EL23-003 – In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Its 2022 Transmission Cost Recovery Reconciliation and 2023 Transmission Cost Recovery Factors

Date Filed: 02/15/23 ♦ Completed: 03/31/23

EL23-004 – In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its 2022 Economic Development Report and 2023 Economic Development Plan

Date Filed: 02/28/23 ♦ Completed: 04/17/23

EL23-005 – In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of the Annual Update to Its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate

Date Filed: 03/01/23 ♦ Completed: 04/19/23

EL23-006 – 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 Infrastructure Rider Rate

Date Filed: 03/01/23 ♦ Completed: 04/19/23

EL23-007 – In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Territory Boundary Change between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Date Filed: 03/14/23 ♦ Completed: 04/18/23

EL23-008 – In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2022 Economic Development Activities and 2023 Budget

Date Filed: 03/15/23 ♦ Completed: 04/17/23

EL23-009 – In the Matter of the Request by Lloyd Companies for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for The Grove at Ellis Crossing in Sioux Falls

Date Filed: 03/23/23 ♦ Completed: 04/17/23

EL23-010 – In the Matter of the Request by Lloyd Companies for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for Jefferson Village Apartments II in Sioux Falls

Date Filed: 03/23/23 ♦ Completed: 04/17/23

EL23-011 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2023 Economic Development Plan and 2022 Economic Development Report

Date Filed: 03/30/23 ♦ Completed: 05/24/23

ELECTRIC DOCKETS CONTINUED...

EL23-012 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's 2022 South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report and 2023 Annual Filing to Update the Energy Efficiency Adjustment Rider
Date Filed: 05/01/23 ♦ Completed: 06/20/23

EL23-013 – In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2022 Demand Side Management Report and 2024 Proposed Demand Side Management Plan
Date Filed: 05/01/23 ♦ Completed: 12/19/23

EL23-014 – In the Matter of the Petition by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Extension of Test Period
Date Filed: 05/19/23 ♦ Completed: 06/08/23

EL23-015 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of Rate Schedule, Section 13.09, Phase-In Rider
Date Filed: 06/01/23 ♦ Completed: 08/30/23

EL23-016 – In the Matter of the Application of NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates
Date Filed: 06/15/23 ♦ (Completed: 01/17/24)

EL23-017 – 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: 07/18/23 ♦ Completed: 11/16/23

EL23-018 – In the Matter of the Request by RPG Energy Group on behalf of Elmington Capital Group, LLC for a Variance from the Individual Metering Requirement in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for a 200-Family Unit and 49-Senior Unit Project in Rapid City, SD
Date Filed: 07/19/23 ♦ Completed: 09/05/23

EL23-019 – In the Matter of the filing by Otter Tail Power Company regarding its 2024-2026 Energy Efficiency Partnership Triennial Plan
Date Filed: 08/01/23 ♦ Completed: 11/09/23

EL23-020 – In the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates
Date Filed: 08/15/23 ♦ Pending

EL23-021 – In the Matter of Approval of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of a Bill Redesign and Modifications to General Rules and Regulations, Rate Schedule Section 1.05
Date Filed: 08/18/23 ♦ Pending

EL23-022 – In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Application for Approval of Administrative Tariff Changes in Rate Schedules 14.02 and 14.03
Date Filed: 08/23/23 ♦ Completed: 09/28/23

EL23-023 – In the Matter of the Joint Service Exception Agreement between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 08/23/23 ♦ Completed: 10/25/23

ELECTRIC DOCKETS CONTINUED...

EL23-024 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Approval of an Amended Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between West River Electric Association, Inc. and Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy
Date Filed: 09/01/23 ♦ Completed: 10/25/23

EL23-025 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2024 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update
Date Filed: 09/01/23 ♦ Pending

EL23-026 - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2024 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment
Date Filed: 09/01/23 ♦ Completed: 12/01/23

EL23-027 - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Facilitate Implementation of New Advanced Grid Infrastructure (AGI) Projects
Date Filed: 09/08/23 ♦ Completed: 12/14/23

EL23-028 - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Modification to the Service Reconnection Charge
Date Filed: 09/15/23 ♦ Completed: 12/15/23

EL23-029 - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Territory Boundary Change between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 09/20/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/23/24)

EL23-030 - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rates for Rate 95 and Rate 96
Date Filed: 10/12/23 ♦ Completed: 12/05/23

EL23-031 - 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: 10/23/23 ♦ Completed: 11/09/23

EL23-032 - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Proposed Tariff Modifications to the Controlled Air Conditioning and Water Heater Rider (Residential & Commercial)
Date Filed: 10/27/23 ♦ Pending

EL23-033 - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate
Date Filed: 11/01/23 ♦ (Completed: 03/01/24)

GAS & ELECTRIC DOCKETS

GE23-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of a Revised Customer Information Welcome Booklet
Date Filed: 06/26/23 ♦ Completed: 08/01/23

GAS & ELECTRIC DOCKETS CONTINUED...

GE23-002 – In the Matter of the Application of NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation for Approval of an Order Authorizing It to Issue Up to \$350 Million of Securities
Date Filed: 10/30/23 ♦ Completed: 12/20/23

GE23-003 – In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of an Updated Customer Information Welcome Booklet
Date Filed: 12/20/23 ♦ (Completed: 01/26/24)

GRAIN WAREHOUSE DOCKETS

GW23-001 – In the Matter of PUC Staff’s Complaint Against Banghart Properties, LLC, Gettysburg, South Dakota
Date Filed: 01/30/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/29/24)

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS

NG23-001 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its Natural Gas Tariff Revisions Regarding Revised New Service Connection Fee
Date Filed: 01/19/23 ♦ Completed: 03/15/23

NG23-002 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Brookings Biogas LLC
Date Filed: 01/20/23 ♦ Completed: 03/02/23

NG23-003 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Hamlin RNG LLC
Date Filed: 01/26/23 ♦ Completed: 03/03/23

NG23-004 – 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: 01/27/23 ♦ Completed: 04/12/23

NG23-005 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Dakota Protein Solutions, LLC
Date Filed: 01/30/23 ♦ Completed: 03/02/23

NG23-006 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with POET Biorefining – Chancellor, LLC
Date Filed: 02/15/23 ♦ Completed: 03/02/23

NG23-007 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with NuGen Energy, LLC
Date Filed: 02/15/23 ♦ Completed: 03/02/23

NG23-008 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Schneck Farms Inc.
Date Filed: 03/02/23 ♦ Completed: 07/12/23

NG23-009 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with POET Biorefining – Groton, LLC
Date Filed: 03/16/23 ♦ Completed: 04/18/23

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

NG23-010 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2023 Economic Development Plan and 2022 Economic Development Report
Date Filed: 03/30/23 ♦ Completed: 05/24/23

NG23-011 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Clark 2 RNG LLC
Date Filed: 05/17/23 ♦ Completed: 07/12/23

NG23-012 - In the Matter of the Petition by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Extension of Test Period
Date Filed: 05/19/23 ♦ Completed: 06/08/23

NG23-013 - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Its 2022 Economic Development Activities and 2023 Proposed Budget
Date Filed: 07/05/23 ♦ Completed: 08/17/23

NG23-014 - In the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Authority to Increase its Natural Gas Rates
Date Filed: 08/15/23 ♦ Pending

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

NG23-016 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Global Biogas LLC
Date Filed: 08/28/23 ♦ Completed: 10/26/23

NG23-017 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its Gas Transportation Tariff Revisions Regarding Fuel Retention Percentage
Date Filed: 08/29/23 ♦ Completed: 09/26/23

NG23-018 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Hammink Biogas LLC
Date Filed: 09/01/23 ♦ Completed: 10/26/23

NG23-019 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Northern Sky Biogas LLC
Date Filed: 09/18/23 ♦ Completed: 10/26/23

NG23-020 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Brightmark Full Circle RNG LLC
Date Filed: 09/20/23 ♦ Completed: 10/26/23

NG23-021 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Valero Renewable Fuels Company, LLC
Date Filed: 09/21/23 ♦ Completed: 10/26/23

NATURAL GAS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

NG23-022 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with South Dakota Soybean Processors, LLC
Date Filed: 09/22/23 ♦ Completed: 10/26/23

NG23-023 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Northern Natural Gas Interim Rate Refund Method
Date Filed: 10/19/23 ♦ Completed: 11/22/23

NG23-024 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Refund Plan regarding Recovery of Manufactured Gas Plant Site Remediation Costs
Date Filed: 10/19/23 ♦ Completed: 11/28/23

NG23-025 - In the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Approval of Natural Gas Conservation Portfolio Plan for 2024 - 2026
Date Filed: 10/25/23 ♦ Completed: 12/08/23

PIPELINE SAFETY DOCKET

PS23-001 - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Partial Waiver from South Dakota Administrative Rule 20:10:37:18(1)
Date Filed: 06/06/23 ♦ Completed: 06/23/23

RULEMAKING DOCKET

RM23-001 - In the Matter of the Adoption of Administrative Rules
Date Filed: 12/07/23 ♦ Pending

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

TC23-001 - In the Matter of the Approval of the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC
Date Filed: 02/10/23 ♦ Completed: 03/15/23

TC23-002 - In the Matter of the Approval of the Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC
Date Filed: 02/17/23 ♦ Completed: 03/15/23

TC23-003 - In the Matter of the Approval of the Type 2 Wireless Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and James Valley Wireless, LLC
Date Filed: 03/02/23 ♦ Completed: 03/30/23

TC23-004 - In the Matter of SDTA's Petition for Waiver of Filing Deadline for the Commission's Annual USF Certification Process
Date Filed: 03/06/23 ♦ Completed: 03/29/23

TC23-005 - In the Matter of the Petition of GO MD USA LLC dba GO MD USA Mobile 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: 03/20/23 ♦ Pending

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC23-006 – In the Matter of the Petition of Dish Wireless L.L.C. dba Gen Mobile 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: 03/29/23 ♦ Pending

TC23-007 – In the Matter of the Petition of Fiber Ring Revenue-Pooling Association for Approval of a Tiered Rate Structure for Certain Traffic Classes

Date Filed: 05/11/23 ♦ Completed: 06/20/23

TC23-008 – In the Matter of the Filing of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Service Tariff

Date Filed: 05/19/23 ♦ Completed: 06/23/23

TC23-009 – In the Matter of Approval of the Wireless Mid-Span Meet POI Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and James Valley Wireless, LLC

Date Filed: 05/19/23 ♦ Completed: 06/23/23

TC23-010 – 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: 06/01/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-011 – 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: 06/01/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-012 – In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391654)

Date Filed: 06/06/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-013 – In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., fka SSTELECOM, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399013)

Date Filed: 06/06/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-014 – 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: 06/12/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-015 – In the Matter of the Filing of Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1

Date Filed: 06/15/23 ♦ Completed: 07/12/23

TC23-016 – 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: 06/20/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC23-017 - 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: 06/20/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-018 - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Wireless, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399014 and 839099)
Date Filed: 06/21/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-019 - In the Matter of the Request of Northern Valley Communications, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: 399017, 396340 and 839096)
Date Filed: 06/21/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-020 - 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 and 839095)
Date Filed: 06/21/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-021 - 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: 06/22/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-022 - 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: 06/22/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-023 - 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: 06/23/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-024 - In the Matter of the Filing of Airus, Inc. for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 06/26/23 ♦ Completed: 08/01/23

TC23-025 - In the Matter of the Filing of MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC dba Verizon Access Transmission Services for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 06/26/23 ♦ Completed: 08/18/23

TC23-026 - 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: 06/26/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-027 - 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: 06/27/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC23-028 - In the Matter of the Request of Midstate Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: ILEC-391670 and CLEC-399011)
Date Filed: 06/27/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-029 - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399005)
Date Filed: 06/28/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-030 - 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: 06/28/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-031 - In the Matter of the Request of RC Technologies for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391674)
Date Filed: 06/28/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-032 - 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: 06/28/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-033 - 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: 06/29/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-034 - 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: 06/29/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-035 - 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: 06/30/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-036 - In the Matter of the Filing by AT&T Corp. for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff
Date Filed: 06/30/23 ♦ Completed: 08/02/23

TC23-037 - 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: 06/30/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-038 - 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: 06/30/23 ♦ Completed: 09/29/23

TC23-039 - In the Matter of the Filing by Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Bluepeak Fiber for Approval of Revisions to Bluepeak Fiber fka Knology of the Plains' South Dakota Access Tariff No. 3 and Bluepeak Fiber fka Knology of the Black Hills, LLC's South Dakota Access Services Tariff No. 2
Date Filed: 07/10/23 ♦ Completed: 08/17/23

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC23-040 - In the Matter of the Filing of ATV Holdings, LLC dba Mitchell Telecom for Approval of Revisions to Its Switched Access Tariff No. 1
Date Filed: 07/11/23 ♦ Completed: 08/18/23

TC23-041 - In the Matter of the Petition of TERRACOM INC. dba Maxsip Tel 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: 08/04/23 ♦ Pending

TC23-042 - In the Matter of the Filing of Metropolitan Telecommunications of South Dakota, Inc. dba MetTel South Dakota for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff No. 3
Date Filed: 08/15/23 ♦ Completed: 09/11/23

TC23-043 - In the Matter of the Filing of TEMPO TELECOM, LLC's Application 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: 08/23/23 ♦ Pending

TC23-044 - In the Matter of the Approval of an ILEC-CLEC Mid-Span Meet POI Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and SSTELECOM, INC. dba ITC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 09/06/23 ♦ Completed: 10/12/23

TC23-045 - In the Matter of the Approval of a Single Point of Presence (SPOP) in the LATA Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and SSTELECOM, INC. dba ITC for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 09/06/23 ♦ Completed: 10/12/23

TC23-046 - In the Matter of the Petition of North American Local, LLC for Approval of Reclassification as a Facilities-Based Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Date Filed: 09/29/23 ♦ Pending

TC23-047 - 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: 09/29/23 ♦ Completed: 10/12/23

TC23-048 - In the Matter of the Application of Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless Seeking Partial Relinquishment of Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier on a Wireless Basis (Low-Income Only) in a Certain Service Area Previously Served by Underlying Carrier Verizon Wireless and Removal of Verizon Wireless as an Underlying Carrier
Date Filed: 10/17/23 ♦ Completed: 12/22/23

TC23-049 - In the Matter of the Filing by Intrado Communications, LLC for Approval of Replacement Access Tariff to Reflect Company Name Change
Date Filed: 11/07/23 ♦ Completed: 12/15/23

TC23-050 - In the Matter of the Application of EarthGrid PBC CORPORATION for Certificates of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/01/23 ♦ Pending

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS CONTINUED...

TC23-051 – In the Matter of the Application of Impact Telecom, LLC for Certificates of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/11/23 ♦ Pending

TC23-052 – In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Interconnection Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between Verizon Wireless and Midstate Communications Inc.
Date Filed: 12/14/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/08/24)

TC23-053 – In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Interconnection Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between Verizon Wireless and Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/14/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/08/24)

TC23-054 – In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Interconnection Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between Verizon Wireless and Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/14/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/08/24)

TC23-055 – In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Interconnection Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between Verizon Wireless and TrioTel Communications, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/14/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/23/24)

TC23-056 – In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of Amendment No. 4 to the Interconnection Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between Verizon Wireless and Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/14/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/23/24)

TC23-057 – In the Matter of the Approval of an Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) – Resale Forbearance Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Zayo Group, LLC (fka 360networks (USA) inc.) for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/18/23 ♦ (Completed: 03/14/24)

TC23-058 – In the Matter of the Approval of a FCC Modernizing Unbundling and Resale Requirements Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Zayo Group, LLC (fka 360networks (USA) inc.) for the State of South Dakota
Date Filed: 12/19/23 ♦ (Completed: 03/14/24)

TC23-059 – In the Matter of the Approval of the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Airus, Inc.
Date Filed: 12/22/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/07/24)

REOPENED DOCKETS

EL17-050 - In the Matter of the Application of Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC for a Facility Permit to Construct a 230 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities from Codington County to the Big Stone South Substation

Date Filed: 12/05/17 ♦ Closed: 11/21/18

Date Reopened: 03/29/19 ♦ Reclosed: 05/16/19

Date Reopened: 11/29/23 ♦ Pending

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

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

Date Reopened: 12/20/23 ♦ (Completed: 02/07/24)

HP14-002 - In the Matter of the Application of Dakota Access, LLC for an Energy Facility Permit to Construct the Dakota Access Pipeline

Date Filed: 12/15/14 ♦ Completed: 04/03/23

Date Reopened: 08/07/23 ♦ Completed: 10/31/23

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

Date Filed: 03/27/13 ♦ Completed: 06/25/13

Date Reopened: 03/07/14 ♦ Completed: 03/21/14

Date Reopened: 04/29/15 ♦ Completed: 12/29/15

Date Reopened: 03/07/17 ♦ Completed: 03/17/17

Date Reopened: 01/02/19 ♦ Completed: 02/22/19

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

Date Reopened: 03/01/23 ♦ Completed: 03/15/23



PUC Commissioners Gary Hanson, Kristie Fiegen and Chris Nelson, along with their spouses, kicked off the year by attending the 2023 Capitol Ball in January at the South Dakota State Capitol.

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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