

*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC  
UTILITIES  
COMMISSION**

**2018 Annual Report**



Oahe Dam near Pierre (photo courtesy of South Dakota Tourism)

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# ABOUT THE PUC

South Dakotans elect their three Public Utilities Commissioners to staggered, six-year terms. A dedicated staff of analysts, attorneys, consumer representatives and other professionals work with the commissioners to carry out the duties of the PUC. The PUC's website, [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov), contains a wealth of information including audio webcasts and recordings of meetings and hearings.

## UTILITY REGULATION

The commission regulates investor-owned electric, natural gas and telephone utilities. The PUC ensures utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable service and that investor-owned companies do so with just and reasonable rates. It plays a more limited regulatory role with respect to telecommunication companies and cooperative, independent and municipal utilities.

## SITING AUTHORITY

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

## OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

## ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

The commission advocates for smart energy and telecommunications policy at state and federal levels and works hard to educate consumers about ways to save energy and money.

## 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!** That's the theme of a new section on the PUC's website that was rolled out in the summer of 2018. Right from the PUC's homepage, folks can access a plethora of tips and hints about how to avoid falling victim to a phone scam. The best defense? If you don't know the number that's calling you, don't answer the phone! Check it out at [www.puc.sd.gov/scamcalls](http://www.puc.sd.gov/scamcalls).

**Life. Uninterrupted.** The site, [www.SDDoNotCall.com](http://www.SDDoNotCall.com), dispenses advice about how consumers can add their personal phone numbers to the national Do Not Call Registry to reduce the amount of telemarketing calls they receive. The site also describes how telemarketing companies doing business in South Dakota need to comply with applicable statutes and rules.

**Be Energy Wise.** Saving energy and saving money are tops on most consumer's "All Things Good" list. The PUC website, [www.SDEnergySmart.com](http://www.SDEnergySmart.com), is a guide for South Dakota consumers to become more energy efficient. The site includes links to the state's utility providers that are partners in the South Dakota Energy Smart initiative.

## INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

The commission's main website, [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov), is chock-full of information ranging from utility company phone numbers to summaries of regulatory filings. The commission offers live audio webcasts of dozens of proceedings, including commission meetings and hearings. All audio files are archived for later reference and convenience. The website also contains a comprehensive docket system that encompasses thousands of pages frequently used by PUC commissioners, staff and the public. The website is a valuable resource to utilities, attorneys, consultants and citizens interested in the work of the PUC.



# CHAIRPERSON KRISTIE FIEGEN

Kristie Fiegen served as chairperson of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in 2017 and 2018. She was appointed to the PUC by Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Aug. 9, 2011, to fill a vacancy on the commission. Kristie was then elected to the commission in November 2012 and re-elected in November 2018. She previously served as vice chairperson of the PUC in 2012, 2015 and 2016. She is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Gas and Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety. She is also vice president of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee. Kristie provides guidance related to the interests of the public and gas consumers to the Gas Technology Institute as a member of GTI's Public Interest Advisory Committee.



**Appointed 2011  
Elected 2012, 2018  
Term ends 2025**

Prior to joining the PUC, Kristie was the president of Junior Achievement of South Dakota for 17 years and was recognized as the top Junior Achievement USA President in 2008. Under Kristie's leadership, participation in Junior Achievement increased from 2,400 to more than 44,000 students annually and her team was named among the top eight franchises in the country nine times. Kristie's career also includes serving as the South Dakota area manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for nine years and as a sales representative for Monsanto Company.

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

She has been active in Rotary, the United Way and Toastmasters, and is an active member of Central Baptist Church.

Kristie earned a bachelor's degree in commercial economics and agricultural business from South Dakota State University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of South Dakota. She grew up on her family's farm near Chancellor and is a graduate of Parker High School. Kristie and her husband, Tim, live in Sioux Falls and have two sons, Alexander and Jackson.



Commissioner Kristie Fiegen was re-elected by South Dakota voters in November of 2018. Her new, six-year term began with the oath of office, administered by South Dakota Supreme Court Justice Janine Kern, on Jan. 5, 2019. Fiegen was joined on stage by her husband, Tim, who held the Bible that belonged to the commissioner's mother, Evelyn Olson.

## VICE CHAIRMAN GARY HANSON



**Elected 2002, 2008, 2014**  
**Term ends 2021**

Gary Hanson was vice chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in 2017 and 2018. He was elected to the PUC in 2002 and re-elected in November 2008 and November 2014. He served as the commission's chairman in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013 and 2014. Gary is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Electricity. He served on the executive committee and as treasurer of the Organization of MISO States, is the vice president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference, and represented NARUC on the steering committee of the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative and is a member of the Advisory Council for New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities.

Gary has served as chairman of the South Dakota Underground Pipeline Task Force, as a member of Gov. Mike Rounds' Task Force on Wind Development, South Dakota's Energy Task Force, and Gov. George S. Mickelson's Cumulative Environmental Evaluation of Black Hills Mining

Task Force. He served three terms in the South Dakota Senate, was chairman of the committees of Bonding and of Government Audit and Operations, and vice chairman of the Taxation Committee.

A Sioux Falls native, Gary was twice elected the city's mayor and oversaw multiple departmental operations of more than 1,200 employees. Prior to serving as mayor, Gary was Sioux Falls' utilities commissioner for six years and was responsible for the development and day-to-day activities for three municipal utilities. He owned several businesses before elected to office and is a licensed real estate auctioneer, appraiser, and broker.

As a regional and industry leader, Gary is co-founder, past president, chairman, and often referred to as the father of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System. He was chairman of the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance, and president of the Sioux Falls Board of Realtors. He has served on the boards of directors of Lutheran Social Services Credit Counseling Advisory Board, DAV Arthur H. Muchow Independent Living Center, Sioux Falls Jaycees, Northern State University Foundation, Minnehaha Metro Communications Systems, South Dakota Water Congress, and Sister Cities Association. Gary was instrumental in the founding of the Multicultural Center in Sioux Falls, Community Drug Concerns Task Force, the Great Plains Waicipi, as well as endowments for the Sioux Falls Pavilion and the Great Plains Zoo.

Awards and honors received by Gary include being named Distinguished Alumnus of Northern State University, Sioux Falls' City Father of the Year, YMCA Tri-State Hall of Fame, International Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellow, Outstanding Young Citizen of South Dakota, Habitat for Humanity's Hat's Off Award, Spirit of Downtown Sioux Falls Award, White Cane Safety Award, Multiple Sclerosis Society Chapter's Mayor of the Year, Children's Care Hospital Wings of Love Award, DAV's Outstanding Legislator Award, and Life Member of Lions Club Sight and Service Foundation.

He has regularly shared his passion for athletics as a volunteer coach for a variety of youth sports. Gary actively pursues a number of interests including astronomy, carpentry, car engines, birding, genealogy, hunting, fishing, skydiving, SCUBA diving, spelunking, camping, history and sports.

Gary and his wife, Sandy, live in Sioux Falls and Pierre. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

# COMMISSIONER CHRIS NELSON

Chris Nelson was appointed to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission on Jan. 8, 2011, by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to fill a vacancy. He was elected by South Dakota voters in November 2012 to continue his service for the remaining four years of the term. He was re-elected to a full term in November 2016, garnering the highest electoral percentage ever for a contested statewide race. Chris served as the PUC's chairman in 2012, 2015 and 2016 and as vice chairman in 2011, 2013 and 2014.

He's a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners serving on the association's board of directors, co-chairs the Washington Action Program, and is a past chairman of its Committee on Telecommunications. He has been appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, representing the interests of NARUC as state chairman of the board. Chris is on the board of directors for the National Regulatory Research Institute.



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

Previously, Chris served as South Dakota's secretary of state, having been elected in the 2002 general election. Chris was unopposed for re-election in 2006, which was the first time the office was unopposed in the history of South Dakota.

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

As secretary of state, Chris received the 2010 Excellent Service to South Dakota County Officials award from the South Dakota County Officials Association, the 2004 Hazeltine/Taylor award from South Dakota Kids Voting, and the 2003 Excellence in South Dakota Municipal Government award from the South Dakota Municipal League. In 2005, Chris was appointed as a National Governors Association representative on the United States Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

Under Chris' leadership the secretary of state's office was awarded the Election Center's 2009 Professional Practices Program State Award. This annual award is given as recognition for the most outstanding election administration professional practice in the nation. The award recognizes the 2008 development and implementation of a new central election reporting system for the state.

Following graduation from White Lake High School, Chris earned a bachelor's degree in animal science, with highest honors, from South Dakota State University in 1987.

Chris is involved in his church and counts agriculture and hunting as two areas of personal interest. He maintains a part-time cattle operation. Chris and his wife, Penny, reside in Pierre. Their daughter, Rebekah, is a nurse in Sioux Falls.

# PUC STAFF

The PUC's 28 staff members perform a variety of duties on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota and in support of the commission.

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

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

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

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

Advising the commissioners are **commission attorneys Karen Cremer and Adam de Hueck** and **commission advisor Greg Rislov**. The attorneys also serve as hearing examiners and represent the commission in state and federal courts and before federal regulatory agencies. Greg provides policy and technical consultation and research support regarding major regulatory issues.

**Administrative staff** members perform a variety of support services including handling incoming phone calls and mail and greeting guests. Each staff member has specific duties that keep the PUC running smoothly. **Tina Douglas** is the web specialist with primary responsibility for maintaining the PUC electronic docket system as well as each of the websites the commission operates. **Kaitlyn Baucom**, administrative specialist, schedules and coordinates meeting logistics, travel and training. **Joy Lashley**, administrative specialist, assists with the preparation of orders, handles meeting minutes, distributes meeting agendas and weekly filings, and coordinates mailings.

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



# PUC STAFF



PUC commissioners and staff listened to comments at the Dakota Range III wind energy facility public input meeting held in Summit.

**Kristen Edwards** and **Amanda Reiss** are **staff attorneys** with practical experience in administrative law, trial procedure, and business management principles. They review filings by utilities and represent the staff in proceedings before the commission. They work closely with staff analysts to develop recommendations for policy, rate, siting and enforcement matters. They coordinate the presentation of the staff's case and cross-examine other parties who submit testimony. Amanda also served as the staff attorney assigned to South Dakota One Call matters for which legal support was needed in 2018.

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 **Todd Knoll** 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.



# FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

## FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budget	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Encumbrance	Budget Not Expended
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Personal Services	\$1,184,977	\$345,033	\$15,252	\$795,379	\$0	\$29,312
Operating Expenses	\$185,654	\$0	\$0	\$138,149	\$14,045	\$33,460
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$1,370,631</b>	<b>\$345,033</b>	<b>\$15,252</b>	<b>\$933,529</b>	<b>\$14,045</b>	<b>\$62,772</b>
<b>GRAIN WAREHOUSE</b>						
Personal Services	\$274,286	\$184,172	\$0	\$86,731	\$0	\$3,383
Operating Expenses	\$80,481	\$52,564	\$0	\$7,348	\$3,548	\$17,022
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$354,767</b>	<b>\$236,736</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$94,079</b>	<b>\$3,548</b>	<b>\$20,405</b>
<b>FIXED UTILITY (Informational Budget)</b>						
Personal Services	\$1,373,537	\$0	\$680	\$1,210,285	\$0	\$162,573
Operating Expenses	\$459,226	\$0	\$0	\$302,341	\$13,745	\$143,140
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$1,832,763</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$680</b>	<b>\$1,512,626</b>	<b>\$13,745</b>	<b>\$305,713</b>
<b>PIPELINE SAFETY (Informational Budget)</b>						
Personal Services	\$213,219	\$0	\$153,061	\$45,767	\$0	\$14,391
Operating Expenses	\$87,498	\$0	\$10,261	\$18,030	\$989	\$58,219
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$300,717</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$163,321</b>	<b>\$63,797</b>	<b>\$989</b>	<b>\$72,610</b>
<b>ONE CALL NOTIFICATION (Informational Budget)</b>						
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$861,943	\$0	\$34,988	\$832,252	\$0	-\$5,297
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$861,943</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$34,988</b>	<b>\$832,252</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$5,297</b>
<b>DO NOT CALL REGISTRY</b>						
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$43,141	\$0	\$0	\$10,769	\$0	\$32,372
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$43,141</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,769</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$32,372</b>
<b>GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FUND REVENUES &amp; FEES</b>						
Gross Receipts Tax*	\$2,043,420	Grain and Warehouse Licenses*				\$97,650
Application Fees	\$1,500	Check Off Audits				\$7,950
Interest Earned	\$39,141	Interest Earned				\$2,102
<b>TOTAL GRT REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,084,060</b>	<b>TOTAL GRAIN WAREHOUSE REVENUE</b>				<b>\$107,702</b>
		*Includes Fines/Penalties				

# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

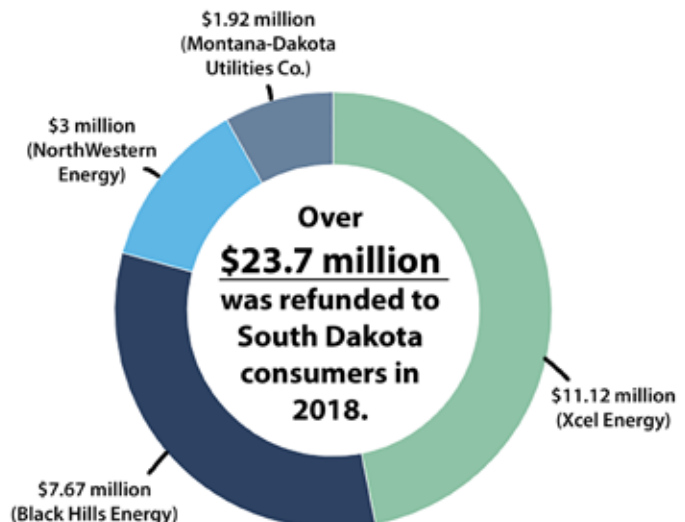
## ELECTRIC & NATURAL GAS

The commission continued its evaluation of the effect of the **Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** on the rates paid by utility customers of the state's investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities. The PUC voted to approve several settlement stipulations between PUC staff and regulated utility companies that resulted in a net savings for the year 2018 of over \$23.7 million to South Dakota consumers as well as ongoing benefits.

- **Xcel Energy** customers were refunded approximately \$11.12 million collectively with the average residential customer receiving a one-time credit of approximately \$55.73. The company also agreed to a two-year rate moratorium, ensuring South Dakota customers will not see an increase in their base electric rates until at least Jan. 1, 2021.
- **Black Hills Energy** agreed to refund \$7.67 million to customers for the year 2018. The average residential customer received a credit of approximately \$50. Customers also saw a decrease in their variable charges and a slight increase in their monthly fixed charges, resulting in an ongoing annual net decrease to base rates of about \$9 million beginning in January 2019.
- **NorthWestern Energy** agreed to refund a total of \$3 million to the company's electric and natural gas customers. The average residential electric customer saw a one-time refund of about \$18 while the average residential natural gas customer was refunded approximately \$9. The company also agreed to a two-year rate moratorium ensuring customers will not see a rate increase until at least Jan. 1, 2021.
- **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** refunded approximately \$1.33 million to natural gas customers and approximately \$0.59 million to electric customers. The average residential natural gas customer received an estimated \$14.05 refund while the average residential electric customer received a credit of approximately \$41.84. The PUC approved an ongoing reduction of the company's base rates of approximately \$0.076 million for its South Dakota electric customers and approximately \$0.34 million for the company's South Dakota natural gas customers, effective January 2019.

## FEDERAL TAX CUTS & JOBS ACT REFUNDS

Over **\$23.7 million**  
returned to consumers



# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



Commissioner Gary Hanson details current items of interest at the PUC's annual briefing for legislators.

## LEGISLATION

The commission introduced legislation revising **grain buyer statutes** to strengthen protection for grain producers. The new law requires class A grain buyers to submit quarterly balance sheets for review by PUC staff, lowered the maximum allowed annual purchase amount for class B grain buyers, and clarified the process of calculating bond amounts for new grain buyers.

Legislation was passed to enable the **South Dakota One Call Board** to provide their own administrative support, including fiscal and legal services, that had previously been provided by PUC staff. The board remains attached to the PUC for budgetary purposes only.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The commission approved updates to energy efficiency and conservation programs. In 2018, the estimated energy savings for all investor-owned utilities were 15,682 megawatt hours of electricity and 27,026 dekatherms of natural gas.

- **Xcel Energy's** 2019 Demand Side Management plan included adjustments to LED-related rebates for residential and business lighting programs.
- **Black Hills Energy** eliminated the Energy Star LED Fixtures portion of the residential lighting program in its Energy Efficiency Solutions plan.
- **Otter Tail Power Co.** continued its Energy Efficiency Plan in 2018 and the commission approved a budget increase for 2019.

# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ELECTRIC

The commission received a complaint from **Energy of Utah, LLC** against **Black Hills Energy** pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 regarding a determination of avoided cost for a planned 80-megawatt solar facility in Fall River County.

In January, the commission determined **Lookout Solar Park I**, a proposed 110-megawatt solar facility to be constructed on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala Lakota County, meets the definition of an energy conversion facility under South Dakota law and a permit to construct is required. Lookout Solar submitted its notice of intent to submit a permit application for an energy conversion facility in February; the company's permit application was received in December.

Approved an annual update to **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s** infrastructure rider rate in April. The update approved a 2018 revenue requirement of \$644,935 and authorized Montana-Dakota to charge a revised infrastructure rider rate of \$0.00432 per kWh.

PUC staff began processing a request received in April from **Otter Tail Power Co.** to increase its electric base rates. Otter Tail proposed a net annual revenue increase of \$3,358,574, or approximately 10.10 percent. The company also proposed an additional \$629,107 or 1.72 percent step increase be effective Jan. 1, 2020. The commission will make a decision in 2019.

The PUC received an application for a facility permit application from **Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC** to construct a 7-mile, 230-kV generation tie line and associated substation facilities in Codington County. A public input meeting was held in Waverly in May.

In May, the commission approved an amendment to the settlement agreement approved in 2017 for **Black Hills Energy's** transmission facility and environmental improvement adjustments. The amendment was brought by the company and PUC staff to provide clarity. The amendment specified the company's obligation to file a comprehensive proposal for addressing the impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, including revising base rates as well as provided that customers be entitled to receive a credit as a means in sharing in the positive performance of the company's South Dakota utility operations, to the extent the company achieves an average return on equity over the moratorium period above an agreed upon benchmark.

In June, the PUC granted a construction permit with 40 conditions to **Crocker Wind Farm**, a 400-megawatt wind energy facility and associated 345-kV transmission line in Clark County. The wind farm, which began construction in the fall of 2018, will include up to 120 wind turbines and 5.2 miles of overhead transmission. The company filed its application in December of 2017. A public input meeting was held in February in Clark and an evidentiary hearing took place in Pierre in May.

The commission approved the construction of the **Astoria Station** project in Deuel County in July by accepting a settlement stipulation between Otter Tail Power Co. and PUC staff. The 250-megawatt simple-cycle natural gas fired electricity generating facility will serve as a peaking plant to provide electricity during times of high demand or when other generating sources are not available, will receive natural gas from the Northern Border Pipeline and will transmit its generated electricity to the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345-kV electric transmission line. The PUC held a public input meeting in Toronto in November 2017.



# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ELECTRIC continued

A permit to construct the **Dakota Range Wind Project** in Grant and Codington counties was granted by the PUC in July. The project will be capable of producing up to 302.4 megawatts of energy and include up to 72 turbines across approximately 44,500 acres and will interconnect to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator regional grid via the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line, which crosses the project. The commission received Dakota Range's application in January, hosted a public input meeting in Waverly in March and held a three-day evidentiary hearing in Pierre in July. Apex Energy has entered into a power purchase and sale agreement with Xcel Energy, an agreement that will make Xcel Energy the project owner upon the completion of the project and the acquisition of an energy facility permit from the commission. Twelve intervenors were part of the docket. In August the commission's decision was appealed to the **South Dakota 3rd Circuit Court** by intervenors Teresa Kaaz and Kristi Mogen; the circuit court dismissed the case in November. Kaaz appealed the circuit court's decision to the South Dakota Supreme Court. *(In March of 2019, Kaaz filed a motion to dismiss the appeal, which was granted by the state Supreme Court.)*

The commission received a permit application in October for the **Dakota Range III** project in Grant and Roberts counties. The project is proposed to include an 8-mile, 345-kV transmission line and an up to 151.2-megawatt wind energy facility. The wind portion of the project will be spread across an 18,717-acre area and include up to 42 turbines. A public input meeting was held in December in Summit.

**Flying Cow Wind, LLC** submitted an application to the PUC in October to construct a 10-mile, 345-kV overhead transmission line, substation and associated facilities in Deuel County. A public input meeting was held in Toronto in December.

In November, the commission approved a permit, with 42 conditions, for the construction of **Prevailing Wind Park**. The 219.6-megawatt wind energy facility will include up to 61 wind turbines in a 50,364-acre area spread across Bon Homme, Charles Mix and Hutchinson counties. Other components of the project will include access roads, underground collector lines, an operation and maintenance facility and four permanent meteorological towers. Prevailing Wind Park filed its application with the PUC on May 30, 2018. A public input meeting was held in Avon in July and an evidentiary hearing was held in Pierre in October. Eight intervenors were active participants in the proceeding and evidentiary hearing. In December, intervenors Gregg and Marsha Hubner appealed the commission's decision to the South Dakota 1st Circuit Court.

In November, the commission approved the transfer of the construction permit for **Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility** in Butte County from original applicant Wind Quarry Operations LLC to successor Willow Creek Wind Power LLC. Turbine and layout changes were also approved. Willow Creek's original construction permit was granted by the commission in 2015.

In November, the PUC accepted a settlement agreement from **Crowned Ridge Wind** and PUC staff for a permit to construct a 34-mile, 230-kV **transmission line** in Codington and Grant counties and entered an order granting a permit to construct the transmission facility. The project is anticipated to deliver power from two proposed Crowned Ridge wind farms. A public input meeting was held in Milbank in January.

# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ELECTRIC continued

The commission received a permit application for **Deuel Harvest North Wind Farm** in Deuel County in November. The project is proposed to include a 310.1 megawatt wind energy facility and 345-kV transmission line with a 345-kV interconnection substation and has a total project area of approximately 48,730-acres.

Approved an update to **Xcel Energy's** infrastructure rider factor in December. The change would add an approximate \$1.25 to an average residential customer's monthly bill and allow Xcel Energy to recover the cost of six previously approved projects plus one new one.

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

- In February, **Otter Tail Power Co.'s** updated TCR rider rate was approved by the commission. The updated rate allows for recovery of more than \$1.7 million related to eight previously approved transmission projects, SPP Schedule 9 and Schedule 11 expenses, and Midcontinent Independent System Operator Schedule 26 expenses. A residential customer using 1,000 kwh per month saw a monthly bill decrease of approximately \$1.00.
- In March, the commission approved an update to **MidAmerican Energy's** TCR rate that covers allowed costs related to the MISO's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Transmission Rate Schedules 10, 26, 26-A. The \$358,241 approved revenue requirement translates roughly to a \$0.04 monthly bill increase for a typical residential customer's bill averaging 700 kWh per month.
- In April, an updated TCR rider rate for **Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.** was approved. The updated rate reflects the 2018 recovery period that includes transmission service costs for the MISO and Southwest Power Pool and revenue from the use of company's facilities in MISO and SPP markets. The monthly increase for an average residential customer using 853 kWh per month was approximately \$0.91.
- In December, the commission approved **Xcel Energy's** request for an update to its TCR rate to allow recovery of over \$6.4 million related to 15 transmission projects and costs associated with MISO's Schedule 26 expenses. An average residential customer using 750 kWh per month saw a monthly decrease on their bill of approximately \$0.07.

The commission approved **stray voltage training programs** offered by the University of Wisconsin and the Midwest Rural Energy Council as required by the stray voltage rules the commission adopted in 2017.

The commission approved a request from STAR Energy Services LLC to approve three **stray voltage testing professionals** for conducting stray voltage investigations in South Dakota.

Processed 17 electric service **territory boundary agreements** to verify electric territory mapping data for conversion to electronic format and use in a geographic information system database. The GIS territory mapping project that began in 2011 has resulted in the approval of nearly 150 territory boundary agreements. The updated maps provide a more precise depiction of territory boundaries than the former editions.

# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

## PUBLIC OUTREACH & CONSUMER ASSISTANCE

Visited with nearly 4,030 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**.

Developed the “Don’t Know? Don’t Answer.” promotion that offered tips to discourage consumers from falling victim to numerous telephone scams.



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

Increased the total amount of South Dakota telephone numbers on the **Do Not Call registry** to 680,944.

## NATURAL GAS

In June, the PUC approved a settlement stipulation to reduce **South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Co.’s natural gas rates**. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., SDIP’s sole customer at the time of the case, and Ringneck Energy, a future SDIP customer, participated in the docket adding unique circumstances to the case. The approved settlement considered Ringneck’s future operational costs and was designed to ensure those costs are not solely borne by Montana-Dakota, but rather are properly shared by both parties. As a result of the case, SDIP’s annual revenues were reduced by approximately \$279,000 and SDIP agreed to a three-year rate case moratorium.

## WIRELESS

Monitored the actions and results as **new wireless telecommunications sites** were launched by companies at a number of locations including those in or near Belle Fourche, Blunt, Burke, Carpenter, Colome, Eagle Butte, Enning, Faulkton, Gregory, Groton, Hayes, Highmore, Hitchcock, Howes, Langford, Midland, Milesville, Mobridge, Mud Butte, Newell, Onaka, Onida, Philip, Roscoe, Seneca, Sturgis, Winner and Wolsey. Wireless companies also made numerous network enhancements throughout the state.



PUC commissioners and staff met with Federal Communications Commissioner Brendan Carr in Sioux Falls to discuss the Rural Health Care Program component of the Universal Service Fund. Pictured are PUC Chairperson Kristie Fiegen; Fred Sluneka and Deb Fischer-Clemens, Avera Health; FCC Commissioner Carr; PUC Commissioner Chris Nelson; PUC Staff Analyst Darren Kearney; and Deanna Larson, Avera eCARE.

# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Thirty-two telecommunications carriers were deemed eligible to collectively receive millions of dollars in high cost support from the **federal Universal Service Fund** for maintaining, upgrading and building out their voice and broadband networks in South Dakota. The Universal Service Administration Co. estimates South Dakota carriers invested over \$108 million in USF monies in South Dakota in 2018.

The PUC participated in the FCC's **Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process**, to review coverage data submitted by the state's wireless providers to identify areas eligible for MF-II support. MF-II incentivizes 4G LTE deployment in primarily rural areas by providing up to \$4.53 billion in support over 10 years through reverse auction. Of the areas the PUC reviewed, it found coverage was overstated by 30 percent. The findings were shared with the FCC in an effort to establish a more accurate depiction of the un- and under-served areas of South Dakota and encourage these areas be identified as eligible for support.

## GRAIN WAREHOUSE

Issued grain licenses to 169 entities with 331 locations and performed 446 inspections at 267 facilities.

Following the 2017 revocation of H & I Grain of Hetland's grain buyer license, the PUC distributed H & I Grain's \$400,000 bond to 40 claimants. The PUC petitioned the 3rd Circuit Court to be allowed to take receivership of H & I Grain for the sole purpose of selling the corporation to a consortium of individuals and entities who had not been fully paid for grain sold to the company. CHS Hedging intervened and requested the court dismiss the case, which was granted by the court. In December, the PUC petitioned the 3rd Circuit Court to appoint an independent receiver. However, upon notification that H & I Grain had filed for bankruptcy and a trustee had been appointed, the PUC withdrew that petition.

Hosted the **2018 Association of Grain Regulatory Officials Annual Conference** in Sioux Falls in July for grain industry representatives from 19 states and one Canadian province. Presentation topics included grain marketing strategies, grain surety bonds and risk reduction through inspections. Conference sessions also included a tour of the Earth Resources Observation and Science Data Center, an electronic data interface lab for inspectors, and a grain entrapment, technical rope rescue and dust explosion demonstration presented by Agtegra.

## PIPELINE SITING, SAFETY & INSPECTION

PUC staff completed 129 days of **pipeline safety** inspections.

In June, the **South Dakota Supreme Court** determined the **South Dakota 6th Circuit Court** lacked jurisdiction to hear the underlying appeal of the commission's acceptance of the certification by TransCanada that the **Keystone XL Pipeline** in South Dakota continues to meet the conditions upon which the permit was issued. Due to this lack of jurisdiction, the high court vacated the circuit court's decision and dismissed the appeal. Parties in the appeal included Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Yankton Sioux Tribe and Dakota Rural Action.



# 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

## LEADERSHIP

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

**Commissioner Chris Nelson** was reappointed to the board of directors for the **National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners** and continued his role on the board of the **National Regulatory Research Institute**. He was appointed co-chair of the Washington Action Program, which provides a framework for improving the credibility, visibility and effectiveness of NARUC before Congress, the executive branch, the media and with other stakeholder organizations. Nelson also serves on NARUC's Committee on Telecommunications.

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

**Commissioner Kristie Fiegen** remained active in gas and pipeline advisory roles. She serves on NARUC's Committee on Gas and Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety and on the Gas Technology Institute's Public Interest Advisory Committee.

**Commissioner Kristie Fiegen** was named treasurer of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee. The committee provides state regulatory agency input related to the development and operation of regional bulk electric transmission in 14 states in the central U.S. PUC staff support the RSC's efforts as members of the Cost Allocation Working Group.

**Commissioner Gary Hanson** continued to serve on NARUC's **Committee on Electricity** alongside utility commissioners from across the country.

**Commissioner Kristie Fiegen** was re-elected in November to serve on the PUC until 2025.



PUC Chairperson Kristie Fiegen and Finance Manager Cindy Kemnitz present the PUC budget to the legislative appropriations committee while Commissioner Chris Nelson and other PUC staff stand by to answer questions.

# TOP PRIORITIES

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission focuses on the state's utility ratepayers and producers, managing its responsibility with the long-term public interest in mind. Accordingly, the priorities listed on the following pages are those that the commission examines to evaluate the fulfillment of its responsibility.




## ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS

The commission looks after the interests of South Dakotans as related to electric and natural gas issues. Actions taken by the commission strive to ensure reliable service and reasonable rates from investor-owned utilities as well as fair service territory boundaries for all utilities. The commission follows guidelines prescribed by South Dakota law when siting energy conversion and 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 a number of ways to measure the agency's effectiveness at handling these issues.

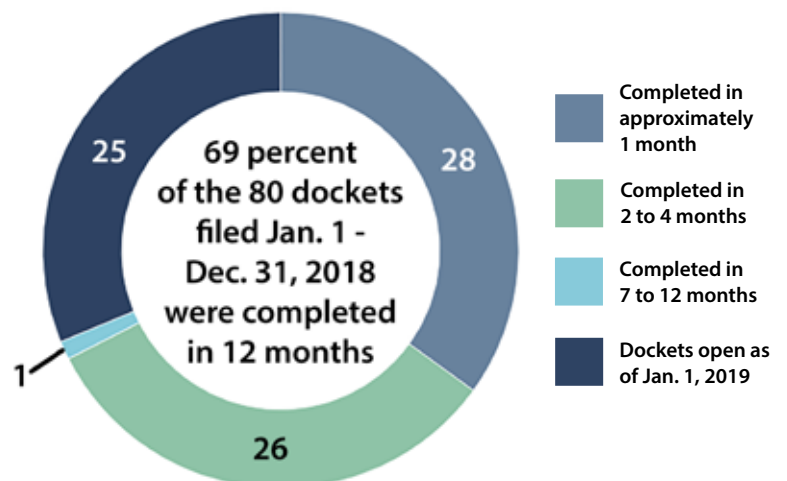
### RATES

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

AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY RATES	Electric Measurement per kWh, 2018	Natural Gas Measurement per thousand cubic feet, 2017
 <b>SD</b> <i>South Dakota</i>	<b>\$8.18</b>	<b>11.62 cents</b>
 <i>West North Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota)</i>	<b>\$9.55</b>	<b>12.00 cents</b>
 <b>USA</b> <i>United States</i>	<b>\$10.91</b>	<b>12.89 cents</b>

## COMPLETED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS DOCKETS

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



## AFFIRMED OR REVERSED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS DECISIONS

Parties that file requests or applications with the PUC and intervenors to those dockets have the right to challenge the commission's decision in circuit court. The number of decisions affirmed or reversed by judicial order is an assessment of the manner by which the commission perceives and uses its regulatory authority.

*Measurement, 2018*

Affirmed decisions: None

Reversed decisions: None

## ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

The electric utility industry uses indices to track and benchmark performance reliability. Companies use this data to evaluate and improve upon their response to outages, handling of customer complaints and system integrity. Though electric utilities in South Dakota are not required to report these scores to the PUC, the companies discuss the information with the commission and a comparison to national scores is ascertained.

## INDICES

- **System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI):** The average amount of time a customer's service is interrupted during the reporting period
- **System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI):** The average number of interruptions that a customer would experience
- **Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI):** The average outage duration that any given customer would experience. CAIDI can also be viewed as the average restoration time.

### *Measurement*

### South Dakota 2018 scores compared to National 2017 median score

Fifteen of the 18 scores provided to the PUC by South Dakota's six investor-owned utilities were better than the median. Analyzing the scores with relation to customer base and other factors reveals that the utilities have a high degree of electric reliability performance.



Commissioners and staff listened to comments from various viewpoints at the public input meeting for the Prevailing Winds wind energy facility project. The meeting was held in the Avon school gym in July.

## GRAIN WAREHOUSE

Monitoring the South Dakota grain industry is a significant responsibility of the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC Warehouse Program licenses and inspects state-licensed grain storage warehouses; federally-licensed grain storage warehouses holding state grain-buyer licenses; and grain buyers licensed as processors and non-storage facilities. Grain brokers and truck-based grain buyers are also licensed but not inspected because they do not maintain grain handling facilities in South Dakota.

The staff works to reduce producer risk by reviewing grain buyer and grain warehouse financial statements throughout the year and by performing regular on-site inspections. The PUC uses three main categories to measure its effectiveness in the grain industry.

### 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 agency's review process. State law requires that each licensed facility receive one inspection each year. The current PUC inspection process typically results in each facility being inspected once every six to nine months.

#### *Measurement, 2018*

Grain warehouse and grain buyer inspections: 446 inspections at 265 licensed facilities

### LICENSES

The PUC issues licenses for grain buyers and grain warehouses doing business in the state. Each licensed entity is required to apply for renewal annually. As part of the licensing and renewal process, the commission analyzes grain buyers' financial ability to pay grain producers and suppliers. The number of licenses handled by the PUC depicts the wide scope of the commission's monitoring of the industry.

#### *Measurement, 2018*

- Class A Grain Buyer Licenses (entities that use voluntary credit sale contracts or exceed \$5,000,000 in annual purchases): 116 entities with 279 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): 53 entities with 55 locations.
- State Warehouse Licenses (entities that store grain for hire): 50 entities with 69 locations.
- Federal Warehouse Licenses (entities that are licensed by the USDA to store grain for hire): 32 entities with 148 locations; five out-of-state locations maintain a South Dakota grain buyer license.
- Processors (entities that purchase grain for the purpose of processing it into other products): 24 entities with 37 locations; seven out-of-state locations maintain a South Dakota grain buyer license.
- Non-storage (entities that operate a grain handling facility but do not hold a state or federal warehouse license): 16 entities with 19 locations; one out-of-state location.
- Truck (entities that are primarily trucking companies with no grain handling facility but purchase grain for the purpose of resale): Eight entities with eight locations.
- Brokers (entities that purchase grain but do not take physical possession of the grain): 39 entities with 43 locations.



## LICENSE REVOCATIONS

When a licensed grain warehouse fails to perform its duties or carry out its obligations to its producers, the PUC follows prescribed laws and administrative rules to investigate, audit or take other necessary action to limit damage to the public. The number of license revocations, excluding circumstances beyond the commission's authority, can be an indicator of the commission's level of diligence in overseeing the industry.

*Measurement, 2018*

License Revocations: None



Agtegra Cooperative representatives demonstrated a grain engulfment, technical rope rescue and dust explosion for grain industry representatives from across the nation at the Association of Grain Regulatory Officials Annual Conference hosted by the PUC in Sioux Falls in July. The hands-on presentation was designed to highlight some of the safety concerns and dangers impacting the grain industry and teach participants the proper way to react to these situations in real life.

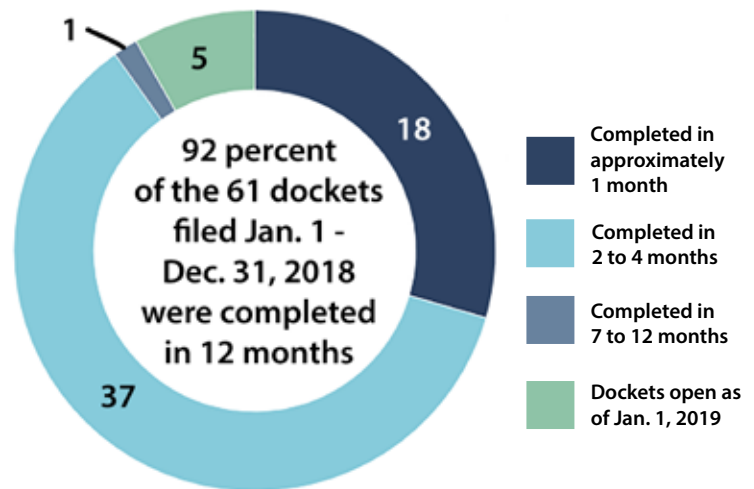
## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The commission has varied regulatory authority over telecommunications providers and services in South Dakota. The PUC issues certificates of authority to certain providers; approves switched access rates for local exchange carriers; designates providers as eligible telecommunication carriers and certifies carriers as eligible to receive federal high-cost support; approves interconnection agreements between providers; and arbitrates disputes between providers. In addition, the commission serves as a resource on emerging issues.

The commission continually assesses its performance in dealing with telecommunications issues, with specific attention paid to these measurements:

### COMPLETED TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

The number of telecommunications dockets filed and completed each year reveals the agency's ability to manage its duties and workload. The measurement also assists agency officials in managing the process by which dockets are assigned, analyzed and acted upon by staff and commissioners. The number can also act as a meter of the amount of activity, within the commission's jurisdiction, by telecommunications providers in the state. The commission seeks to process 90 percent of its annual telecommunications dockets within 12 months of a docket being filed.



### AFFIRMED OR REVERSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS DECISIONS

Parties that file requests or applications with the PUC and intervenors to those dockets have the right to challenge the commission's decision in circuit court. The number of decisions that are affirmed or reversed by judicial order is an assessment of the manner in which the commission perceives and uses its regulatory authority.

*Measurement, 2018*

Affirmed Decisions: None

### ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND, HIGH COST PROGRAM

A number of telecommunications carriers have been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers by the commission. Carriers that have been designated as ETCs receive high cost support from the federal Universal Service Fund for maintaining, upgrading, and building out their voice and broadband networks in South Dakota. Each year, the commission must certify to the Federal Communications Commission that the ETCs are using the funds for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Dollars invested are a reflection of the strengthening and expansion of telecommunications infrastructure, to enhance system reliability and enable more service options to more customers, particularly in rural areas.

*Measurement, 2018*

South Dakota carriers invested \$108,351,007



## BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

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

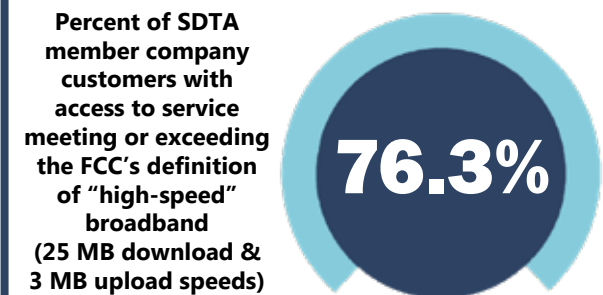
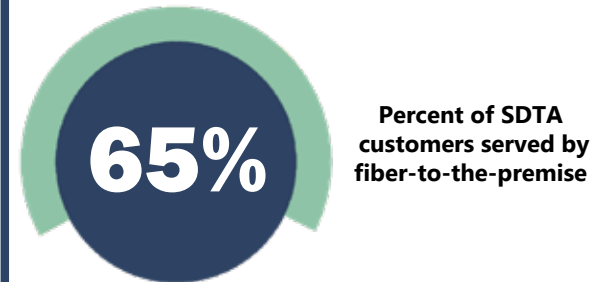
*Measurement, Jan. 1, 2018*

New census blocks that meet 10 mbps download speed: 6,312

New census blocks that meet 25 mbps download speed: 6,621

## BROADBAND IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Information courtesy of the 2018 South Dakota Broadband Report from the South Dakota Telecommunications Association.



Commissioner Chris Nelson (center) meets with TrioTel Communications and Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. General Manager Bryan Roth and Kennebec Telephone Co. General Manager Rod Bowar to review the South Dakota Telecommunications Association's Rural Broadband report and discuss rural broadband expansion across South Dakota. Nelson is recognized as an expert in telecommunications policy across the nation, has testified on telecom issues in front of Congress and continues to be a leader in telecommunications initiatives through his roles in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

## PIPELINE SAFETY

The PUC has responsibility to regulate natural gas intrastate pipelines, which includes ensuring the public is provided safe and dependable gas service. As part of its duties, commission staff inspects and investigates natural gas pipeline operators for compliance with statutes and administrative rules.

The commission uses the following measurement tools to establish that it is appropriately handling its role with regard to pipeline safety.

### INSPECTIONS

PUC pipeline safety inspectors regularly inspect natural gas pipeline operators to determine compliance with state and federal regulations. Inspections occur in the areas of records, field, construction, drug and alcohol, public awareness, incident investigation, operator qualification, and integrity management. The number of inspection hours logged by the safety inspectors is an indicator of the agency's thoroughness in this area. The PUC's certification agreement to administer this program for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration specifies that a minimum of 127 inspection days are required annually.

*Measurement, 2018*

Inspections: 128.5 days (127 days required)

### FEDERAL AUDIT

South Dakota's pipeline safety program is field audited annually by PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety (Central Region). The agency reviews inspections conducted and citations issued by the PUC and evaluates the commission's adherence to its pipeline safety procedures plan. The result of the federal review indicates the PUC's ability to carry out its obligations related to pipeline safety. PHMSA also reviews and scores South Dakota's annual certification document submittals.

*Measurement, 2018*

Audit score: 100 percent

### FEDERAL CERTIFICATION

PUC staff members involved in pipeline safety inspection are required to complete seven training courses to become a certified pipeline safety inspector. Additional training is required for certification to conduct specialty inspections for control room management, distribution integrity management programs, public awareness, and transmission integrity management. The courses are taught by the federal Pipeline Safety Office of Training and Qualifications and are designed to educate federal and state pipeline safety inspectors in the application of compliance requirements, inspection techniques and enforcement procedures.

*Measurement, 2018*

PUC inspectors are fully certified to conduct all inspections.



Pipeline Safety Program Inspector Boice Hillmer walks Commissioner Kristie Fiegen through an intrastate natural gas pipeline facility inspection.



## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The PUC provides a number of services for consumers. The agency's consumer affairs staff is trained to assist consumers with issues related to their electric, natural gas or telecommunications service, including wireless. They provide educational information about energy efficiency, consumer protection and making wise utility choices. They offer guidance and referrals for consumers who may have difficulty paying their utility bills. The commission also administers the South Dakota Do Not Call Registry, registering telephone solicitors, helping to enroll consumers on the registry, and investigating violations against consumers who are on the registry.

The commission evaluates its performance related to consumer affairs by examining the following areas:

### COMPLAINTS RESOLVED WITHIN A MONTH

Consumer complaints are received by the commission via phone, mail, email and, occasionally, are delivered in-person by the complainant. The PUC strives to quickly and fully investigate each incident by analyzing both sides of the complaint and working with the affected parties to informally reach a resolution. The number of complaints completed within a month reveals the commission's effectiveness in responding to consumers. The goal is 90 percent completed within a month.

*Measurement, 2018*

Complaints resolved within a month: 97 percent

### FORMAL CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

When a consumer and utility cannot reach a resolution through the informal process, one of the parties may file a formal complaint. A formal complaint is entered into a docket and, unless settled, may result in a hearing before the commission. The commission endeavors to affect complaint resolutions informally and therefore strives for a low number of formal complaints. This measurement is also an assessment of the PUC staff's negotiation and mediation skills.

*Measurement, 2018*

Formal consumer complaints: None

### DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

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

*Measurement, 2018*

South Dakota telephone numbers on Do Not Call Registry: 680,944 (2.42 percent increase)

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

The commission has territory, complaint and quality of service authority over all natural gas, electric and telecommunications utilities operating within South Dakota. Certain utilities are exempt from the commission's rate regulation. They include municipal, rural electric cooperatives and small, independent and cooperative telephone companies. The commission retains the switched access rate making authority for all telecommunications companies providing local service, including small, independent and cooperative companies.

## GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ASSESSMENT PAID BY REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

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

Electric and Natural Gas Companies	\$1,201,350
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Telecommunications Companies	\$ 565,431
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## INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS COMPANIES

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

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

## LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANIES

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

### #

365 Wireless LLC  
800 Response Information Services LLC

### A

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

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## Long Distance Telephone Companies (continued)

### B

Bandwidth.com CLEC LLC  
BCN Telecom Inc.  
BEK Communications Cooperative  
Birch Communications Inc.  
Blackfoot Communications Inc.  
Broadband Dynamics LLC  
Broadview Networks Inc.  
Broadvox-CLEC LLC  
Broadwing Communications LLC  
BullsEye Telecom Inc.  
Business Discount Plan Inc. (*revoked 01/18*)  
Business Network Long Distance Inc.  
Business Telecom LLC dba Earthlink Business

### D

Deltacom LLC EarthLink Business  
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
dishNet Wireline LLC

### E

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

### C

Callcatchers Inc. dba Freedom Voice Systems  
CBTS Technology Solutions LLC  
Central Telecom Long Distance Inc.  
CenturyLink Communicationa LLC  
CenturyLink Public Communications Inc.  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone  
Authority  
City of Faith Telephone Co. dba Faith  
Municipal Telephone Co.  
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband  
Comcast Phone of South Dakota LLC dba  
Comcast Digital Phone  
Communications Networks Billing Inc.  
COMTECH21 LLC  
Consolidated Communications Enterprise  
Services Inc.  
Consolidated Communications Networks Inc.  
Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured  
Technologies Inc.  
Consumer Telcom Inc.  
Convergia Inc.  
Correct Solutions (*withdrew COA 02/18*)  
CSDVRS LLC  
CTC Communication Corp dba EarthLink  
Business (*withdrew COA 11/18*)  
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

### F

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

### G

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

### H

Heartland Telecommunications Company  
of Iowa

### I

IDT America Corp.  
inContact Inc. dba UCN Inc.

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## Long Distance Telephone Companies (continued)

### I continued

iNetwork Group Inc. (*revoked 01/18*)  
Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions  
Integrated Services Inc.

### J

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

### K

KDDI America Inc.

### L

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

### M

MAGICJACK SMB Inc.  
Magna5 LLC  
Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business  
Technologies, Trinsic Communications,  
VarTec Telecom, Excel Telecommunications,  
Impact Telecom, Americatel  
MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC  
MCI Communications Services Inc. dba Verizon  
Business Services  
MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp.  
dba Verizon Access Transmission Services  
McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services LLC  
dba PaeTec Business Services  
Metropolitan Telecommunications of South  
Dakota Inc. dba MetTel

### M continued

Midcontinent Communications Inc.  
Midstate Communications Inc.  
Mitel Cloud Services Inc.  
Mobilitie LLC  
Momentum Telecom Inc. (*withdrew COA 02/18*)  
Multiline Long Distance Inc.

### N

National Access Long Distance Inc.  
Nationwide Long Distance Services Inc.  
Native American Telecom LLC  
Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications  
Inc. (NT&T)  
NECC Telecom Inc. (*revoked 01/18*)  
Netwolves Network Services  
Network Billing Systems LLC  
Network Communications International Corp.  
dba NCIC Inmate Communications  
Network Innovations Inc.  
Network Service Billing Inc.  
NetworkIP LLC dba Elite Telecom  
Neutral Tandem-South Dakota LLC  
New Horizons Communications Corp.  
NextGen Communications Inc.  
NobelTel LLC (*withdrew COA 11/18*)  
North Dakota Long Distance LLC  
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co.  
Northern Valley Communications LLC  
NOS Communications Inc.  
NOSVA Limited Partnership dba CierraCom  
Systems

### O

ONLINE SAVINGS INC. (*withdrew COA  
04/18*)  
Onvoy LLC  
Operator Service Co. LLC  
Opex Communications Inc. dba TCI Long  
Distance



# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## Long Distance Telephone Companies (continued)

### P

PaeTec Communications Inc. dba TCI Long Distance  
 Pay Tel Communications Inc.  
 Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC  
 PNG Telecommunications Inc. dba PowerNet Global Communications dba CrossConnect and dba Thr!ve  
 Premier Communications Inc. dba Premier Communications  
 Public Communications Services Inc.

### S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba TruConnect  
 Sancom dba Mitchell Telecom (*withdrew COA 06/18*)  
 Santel Communications Cooperative  
 SBC Long Distance LLC dba AT&T Long Distance  
 Securus Technologies Inc.  
 Spectrotel Inc. dba OneTouch Communications dba Touch Base Communications  
 Stratus Networks Inc.

### Q

QuantumShift Communications Inc. dba Vcom Solutions

### R

RC Technologies  
 Reduced Rate Long Distance LLC  
 Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.  
 Reliant Communications Inc.  
 Residential Long Distance Inc. (*withdrew COA 03/18*)

### T

Talk America Services LLC  
 TDS Long Distance Corp.  
 Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer Telephone  
 Televergence Solutions Inc.  
 Telrite Corp. dba Life Wireless  
 Three River Telco dba Three River Long Distance  
 TIME CLOCK SOLUTIONS LLC  
 Toly Digital Networks Inc.  
 Total Holdings Inc. dba GTC Communications  
 Touchtone Communications Inc.



Commissioner Gary Hanson's pre-PUC public service career was celebrated in October with the dedication of a three-million gallon water tower on the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System in his honor. Hanson was a key leader in the birth of the project in the late 1980s that secured abundant, clean drinking water for areas in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa.

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## Long Distance Telephone Companies (continued)

### U

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

### V

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

### W

West Safety Communications Inc.  
West Telecom Services LLC  
Wide Voice LLC  
WilTel Communications LLC  
WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services  
Windstream Communications Inc.  
Windstream KDL Inc.  
Windstream Norlight Inc.  
Windstream NTI LLC  
Working Assets Funding Service Inc. dba Credo  
Long Distance

### X

X2Comm Inc. dba DC Communications  
XO Communications Services LLC

### Z

Zayo Group LLC

## OPERATOR SERVICE COMPANIES

*An operator service provider is a telecommunications company that provides, by contract, a connection to long distance or local services from such places as hotels, motels, hospitals, correctional facilities and campuses. The following operator service providers are authorized to do business in South Dakota.*

### C

Consolidated Telecom Inc. dba Secured  
Technologies Inc.  
Correct Solutions LLC (withdrew COA 02/18)  
Custom Teleconnect Inc.

### G

Global Tel\*Link Corp.

### I

Inmate Calling Solutions LLC dba ICSolutions

### L

Legacy Long Distance International Inc.

### N

Network Communications International Corp.  
dba NCIC Inmate Communications

### O

Operator Service Co. LLC

### P

Pay Tel Communications Inc.

### R

Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## Operator Service Companies (continued)

### S

Securus Technologies Inc.

### V

Value Added Communications Inc.

### W

WiMacTel Inc. dba Intellicall Operator Services

## COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANIES

*A CLEC is a local exchange carrier providing local telephone service in competition with the incumbent local exchange carriers (ILEC). Some companies can be both a CLEC and an ILEC (see page 34) in different service areas. The following CLECs are certified by the PUC to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota*

### #

321 Communications Inc.  
365 Wireless LLC

## Competitive Local Exchange Companies (continued)

### A

Access Point Inc.  
ACN Communications Services Inc.  
Airespring Inc.  
Airus Inc.  
ANPI Business LLC  
Associated Network Partners Inc. (ANPI)  
AT&T Corp.  
ATV Holdings LLC dba Mitchell Telecom

### B

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

### C

CBTS Technology Solutions LLC  
CenturyLink Communications LLC  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority  
Clarity Telecom LLC dba Vast Broadband  
Common Point LLC  
COMTECH21 LLC



PUC Commissioners Chris Nelson, Kristie Fiegen and Gary Hanson take a moment between meetings to pose for a photo.

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## C continued

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services Inc.  
Crexendo Business Solutions Inc.  
Crown Castle NG Central LLC

## D

dishNet Wireline LLC

## E

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

## F

FiberComm LC  
France Telecom Corporate Solutions LLC

## G

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

## I

IDT America Corp.  
inContact Inc. dba UCN Inc.  
iNetworks Group Inc. (*revoked 01/18*)  
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC)

## L

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

## M

MAGICJACK SMB Inc.  
Matrix Telecom LLC dba Matrix Business Technologies, Trinsic Communications, VarTec Telecom, Excel Telecommunications, Impact Telecom, Americatel  
MCC Telephony of the Midwest LLC  
MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corp. dba Verizon Access Transmission Services  
McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services LLC dba Paetec Business Services  
Metropolitan Telecommunications of South Dakota Inc. dba MetTel  
Midcontinent Communications Inc.  
Midstate Communications Inc.  
Mitel Cloud Services Inc.  
Mobilitie LLC  
Mobilitie Management LLC  
Momentum Telecom Inc. (*withdrew COA 02/18*)

## N

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

## O

Onvoy LLC

## P

Peerless Network of South Dakota LLC



# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## Q

QuantumShift Communications dba Vcom Solutions

## R

RC Technologies dba RC Communications

## S

Sage Telecom Communications LLC dba TruConnect  
Sancom Inc. dba Mitchell Telecom (*withdrew COA 06/18*)  
South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN Communications  
Spectrotel Inc. dba OneTouch Communications dba Touch Base Communications  
Sprint Communications Co. LP  
SQF LLC

## T

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

## V

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

## W

West Safety Communications Inc.  
West Telecom Services LLC  
Wide Voice LLC  
Windstream KDL Inc.  
Windstream NTI Inc.

## X

XO Communications Services LLC

## Y

YMax Communications Corp.

## Z

Zayo Group LLC



In September, the PUC facilitated a meeting with CenturyLink customers from the Valentine, Nebraska, telephone exchange who live in South Dakota. The meeting, held at the Littleburg School in rural Todd County, provided a forum to discuss potential future improvements to the CenturyLink telephone system and provision of broadband internet service in the area. Pictured are Commissioners Chris Nelson, Gary Hanson and Kristie Fiegen; and staff members Karen Cremer and Deb Gregg.

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## WIRELESS COMPANIES

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

### #

365 Wireless LLC

### A

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

### B

Boomerang Wireless LLC dba enTouch Wireless  
Brookings Municipal dba Swiftel  
Communications

### C

CampusSims Inc.  
China Unicom (Americas) Operations Limited  
ComApp Technologies LLC  
Comcast OTR1 LLC  
CommNet Cellular Inc. fka Cellular Inc.  
Network Corp. dba Verizon Wireless  
Consumer Cellular Inc.  
Cricket Wireless LLC

### E

Enhanced Communications Group LLC dba  
ECG LLC and Boom Mobile  
Excellus Communications LLC

### F

Flash Wireless LLC

### G

Global Connection Inc. of America  
Golden West Technologies Inc. (*withdrew 01/18*)

## G continued

Google North America Inc. dba Project Fi by  
Google  
Granite Telecommunications LLC

### I

IM Telecom dba Infiniti Mobile  
Iowa Wireless Serviced dba iWireless  
i-wireless LLC

### J

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

### K

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

### L

Lunar Labs Inc. dba Lunar Wireless  
Lycamobile USA

### M

Midstate Communications Inc.  
Mitel Cloud Services Inc.

### N

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

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## O

OnStar LLC  
Onvoy Spectrum LLC

## P

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

## Q

Q LINK MOBILE LLC

## R

Ready Wireless LLC dba Affinity Cellular and  
dba Club Charter  
Republic Wireless Inc.  
ROK Mobile Inc.  
Rural Cellular Corp. dba UniceL

## S

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

## T

T C Telephone LLC dba Horizon Cellular  
Telecom Management Inc. dba Pioneer  
Telephone  
Tempo Telecom LLC  
The Peoples Operator USA LLC

## T continued

Ting Inc.  
T-Mobile Central LLC dba T-Mobile USA Inc.  
Tracfone Wireless Inc.  
Truphone Inc.

## U

U.S. Mobile LLC  
UVNV Inc.

## V

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

## W

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



Commissioner Gary Hanson and Association of Grain Regulatory Officials Secretary Eric Hanson of Wisconsin take a moment to network at AGRO's annual conference in Sioux Falls.

# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## 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 29) in different service areas.*

### Independents

#### C

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

#### F

Fort Randall Telephone Co.

#### J

Jefferson Telephone LLC dba Long Lines Ltd.

#### K

Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc.

#### Q

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

### Municipals

#### B

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

#### F

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

## Cooperatives

#### A

Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc.

#### G

Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative  
dba Golden West Telecommunications

#### I

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC)

#### J

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co. dba  
James Valley Telecommunications

#### M

Midstate Communications Inc.

#### R

RC Technologies dba RC Communications

#### S

Santel Communications Cooperative

#### T

TrioTel Communications Inc.

#### V

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative  
Association Inc.  
Venture Communications Cooperative

#### W

West River Cooperative Telephone Co.



# 2018 REGULATED UTILITY COMPANIES

## Foreign Exchange Carriers

**C**

Citizens Telecommunications Company of  
Minnesota Inc.  
Consolidated Telcom Inc.

**D**

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative

**F**

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.

**G**

Great Plains Communications LLC fka Great  
Plains Communications Inc.

**H**

Heartland Telecommunications Company of  
Iowa

**N**

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co.

**Q**

Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC

**R**

Red River Rural Telephone Association  
RT Communications Inc.

**T**

Three River Telco dba Three River Long Distance

**V**

Valley Telephone Co.

**W**

West River Telecommunications Cooperative



Commissioners Kristie Fiegen (left photo) and Gary Hanson (right photo) met with a group of FFA district officers while they visited the South Dakota State Capitol. Fiegen's son, Jackson, was a member of the organization that aims to prepare its members for premier leadership positions, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

## MISCELLANEOUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

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

**F**

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.

**T**

Teleport Communications America LLC (TCAL)

**S**

South Dakota Network LLC dba SDN  
Communications

**Y**

YMax Communications Corp.



Commissioner Chris Nelson welcomes Sunshine Bible Academy students to Pierre and offers a brief overview of what the PUC does.



Commissioners Gary Hanson, Kristie Fiegen and Chris Nelson prepare for the PUC's annual Open House for Legislators. The yearly breakfast gives state senators and representatives the opportunity to stop by the PUC office and visit with commissioners and staff.

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

Type	Filed	Completed	Pending as of 12/31/18
Administrative Items	2	2	0
Civil	5	1	4
Electric	62	38	24
Gas & Electric	2	2	0
Grain Warehouse	5	4	1
Natural Gas	16	15	1
Pipeline Safety	2	1	1
Telecommunications	61	56	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>36</b>

Dockets closed between Jan. 1, 2019, and the publication date of this report (Spring 2019) are noted in parentheses.

Visit [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov) to check the current status of pending dockets.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

**AA18-001** - In the Matter of Clarification of the Commission's ETC Certification Process  
Date Filed: 03/12/18 • Completed: 04/05/18

**AA18-002** - Establishment of the Gross Receipts Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2019  
Date Filed: 04/03/18 • Completed: 05/02/18

## CIVIL DOCKETS

**CIV18-56** - In the Matter of Receivership of H & I Grain of Hetland, Inc.  
Date Filed: 08/09/18 • Completed: 10/03/18

**25CIV18-000070** - In the Matter of the Application by Dakota Range I, LLC and Dakota Range II, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant County And Codington County, South Dakota, for the Dakota Range Wind Project PUC Docket EL18-003  
Date Filed: 8/22/18 • (Completed: 03/11/19)

**38CIV18-000068** - In the Matter of Receivership of H & I Grain of Hetland, Inc.  
Date Filed: 12/12/18 • (Completed: 01/09/19)

**04CIV18-000084** - Gregg and Marsha Hubner vs. South Dakota Public Utilities Commission; Prevailing Wind Park, LLC; South Dakota Public Commission Staff; Paul Schoenfelder; Lisa Schoenfelder; Sherman Fuerniss; Kelli Pazour; Karen Jenkins; Charles Mix County, South Dakota  
Date Filed: 12/26/18 • Pending

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

**Supreme Court #28833** - In the Matter of the Application of Dakota Range I, LLC and Dakota Range II, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant County and Codington County, South Dakota, for the Dakota Range Wind Project  
Date Filed: 12/17/18 • *(Completed: 03/11/19)*

## ELECTRIC DOCKETS

**EL18-001** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between City of Pierre and City of Fort Pierre  
Date Filed: 01/05/18 • Completed: 02/15/18

**EL18-002** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Rates for Small Power Production and Cogeneration  
Date Filed: 01/19/18 • Completed: 03/02/18

**EL18-003** - In the Matter of the Application by Dakota Range I, LLC and Dakota Range II, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant County and Codington County, South Dakota, for the Dakota Range Wind Project  
Date Filed: 01/24/18 • *(Completed: 03/11/19)*

**EL18-004** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of a Proxy Pricing Proposal to Adjust Certain Fuel Clause Rider Power Purchase Costs  
Date Filed: 01/29/18 • Pending

**EL18-005** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its 2017 Transmission Cost Recovery Reconciliation and 2018 Transmission Cost Recovery Factors  
Date Filed: 02/15/18 • Completed: 03/23/18

**EL18-006** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between City of Fort Pierre and West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 02/23/18 • Completed: 03/23/18

**EL18-007** - In the Matter of the Filing by Lookout Solar Park I Project Regarding Its Notification of Intent to Apply for a Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility  
Date Filed: 02/23/18 • Completed: 04/04/18

**EL18-008** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Aurora Municipal Electric and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. dba Sioux Valley Energy  
Date Filed: 02/26/18 • Completed: 03/21/18

**EL18-009** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its 2017 Economic Development Report and 2018 Economic Development Plan  
Date Filed: 03/01/18 • Completed: 05/17/18



# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- EL18-010** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of the Annual Update to Its Infrastructure Rider Rate  
Date Filed: 03/01/18 • Completed: 05/09/18
- EL18-011** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group Inc., for Approval of the Annual Update to Its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate  
Date Filed: 03/01/18 • Completed: 05/02/18
- EL18-012** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Landlord Continuous Service Agreement  
Date Filed: 03/02/18 • Completed: 05/09/18
- EL18-013** - In the Matter of the Filing of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2017 Economic Development Activities and 2018 Budget  
Date Filed: 03/15/18 • Completed: 05/02/18
- EL18-014** - In the Matter of the Approval of Stray Voltage Qualified Testing Professionals  
Date Filed: 03/19/18 • Completed: 04/09/18
- EL18-015** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2017 Economic Development Plan and 2016 Economic Development Report  
Date Filed: 03/23/18 • Completed: 05/09/18
- EL18-016** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 03/26/18 • Completed: 05/09/18
- EL18-017** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between MidAmerican Energy Company and Union County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 03/28/18 • Completed: 05/09/18
- EL18-018** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Madison Municipal Electric and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. dba Sioux Valley Energy  
Date Filed: 04/09/18 • Completed: 05/16/18
- EL18-019** - In the Matter of the Application of Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC for a Facility Permit to Construct a 230 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Codington County  
Date Filed: 04/11/18 • *(Completed: 02/05/19)*
- EL18-020** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Brookings Municipal Utilities and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. dba Sioux Valley Energy  
Date Filed: 04/18/18 • Completed: 05/16/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- EL18-021** - In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates  
Date Filed: 04/20/18 • Pending
- EL18-022** - In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's 2017 South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan Status Report and 2018 Annual Filing to Update the Energy Efficiency Adjustment Rider  
Date Filed: 05/01/18 • Completed: 07/12/18
- EL18-023** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2017 Demand Side Management Report and 2019 Proposed Demand Side Management Plan  
Date Filed: 05/01/18 • Completed: 12/19/18
- EL18-024** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between the City of Sioux Falls and Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy  
Date Filed: 05/16/18 • (Completed: 01/03/19)
- EL18-025** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc., and H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 05/21/18 • Completed: 07/16/18
- EL18-026** - In the Matter of the Application by Prevailing Wind Park, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Bon Homme County, Charles Mix County and Hutchinson County, South Dakota, for the Prevailing Wind Park Project  
Date Filed: 05/30/18 • Pending
- EL18-027** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Deferred Accounting for Certain Biomass Transaction Costs  
Date Filed: 05/31/18 • Completed: 07/09/18
- EL18-028** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Extension of Test Period  
Date Filed: 06/19/18 • Completed: 07/09/18
- EL18-029** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its Tax Cut and Jobs Act Proposal  
Date Filed: 06/29/18 • (Completed: 01/02/19)
- EL18-030** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to its Rates for Cogeneration and Small Power Production Facilities  
Date Filed: 07/02/18 • Completed: 08/09/18
- EL18-031** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Facilitate Implementation of a New Customer Information System  
Date Filed: 07/02/18 • Completed: 11/05/18  
Date Reopened: 12/21/18 • (Completed: 01/02/19)

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- EL18-032** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. and City of Pierre  
Date Filed: 07/06/18 • Completed: 08/10/18
- EL18-033** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. and City of Pierre  
Date Filed: 07/06/18 • Completed: 08/09/18
- EL18-034** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Small Qualifying Facility Rider (Rates 73 and 74)  
Date Filed: 07/20/18 • Completed: 09/24/18
- EL18-035** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 08/07/18 • Completed: 08/28/18
- EL18-036** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2019 Transmission Cost Recovery Eligibility and Rate Adjustment  
Date Filed: 08/31/18 • Completed: 12/18/18
- EL18-037** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between City of Hawarden and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 09/13/18 • Completed: 10/23/18
- EL18-038** - In the Matter of the Complaint of Energy of Utah, LLC and Fall River Solar, LLC Against Black Hills Power Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Determination of Avoided Cost  
Date Filed: 09/14/18 • Pending
- EL18-039** - In the Matter of the Application of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Facility Permit to Construct a 345 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Deuel County  
Date Filed: 09/27/18 • Completed: 11/05/18
- EL18-040** - In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Its 2019 Infrastructure Rider Project Eligibility and Factor Update  
Date Filed: 10/01/18 • Completed: 12/19/18
- EL18-041** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 10/04/18 • Completed: 10/22/18
- EL18-042** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 10/12/18 • Completed: 11/01/18
- EL18-043** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of a Revision to the Energy Efficiency Solutions Adjustment (EESA) Rates  
Date Filed: 10/15/18 • Completed: 11/30/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- EL18-044** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy and West River Electric Association, Inc.  
Date Filed: 10/17/18 • Completed: 11/16/18
- EL18-045** - In the Matter of the Application of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Facility Permit to Construct a 345 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Deuel County  
Date Filed: 10/24/18 • Pending
- EL18-046** - In the Matter of the Application of Dakota Range III, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility and a 345-kV Transmission Line in Grant and Roberts Counties  
Date Filed: 10/26/18 • *(Completed: 02/22/19)*
- EL18-047** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc. and Miller Municipal Electric  
Date Filed: 10/29/18 • Completed: 11/29/18
- EL18-048** - In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate  
Date Filed: 10/31/18 • *(Completed: 02/21/19)*
- EL18-049** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy and Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 11/15/18 • Completed: 12/13/18
- EL18-050** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Updates to Standard Residential Bill Form  
Date Filed: 11/27/18 • *(Completed: 01/02/19)*
- EL18-051** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Boundary Change between Clay Union Electric Corporation and City of Vermillion  
Date Filed: 11/29/18 • *(Completed: 03/06/19)*
- EL18-052** - In the Matter of the Filing by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Customer Service Forms  
Date Filed: 11/29/18 • *(Completed: 01/29/19)*
- EL18-053** - In the Matter of the Application of Deuel Harvest Wind Energy LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility and a 345-kV Transmission Line in Deuel County  
Date Filed: 11/30/18 • Pending
- EL18-054** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. and NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy  
Date Filed: 12/05/18 • *(Completed: 01/03/19)*



# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- EL18-055** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Otter Tail Power Company and Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.  
Date Filed: 12/07/18 • *(Completed: 01/03/19)*
- EL18-056** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 12/07/18 • *(Completed: 01/03/19)*
- EL18-057** - In the Matter of the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement between Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Cam-Wal Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 12/14/18 • *(Completed: 02/04/19)*
- EL18-058** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Boundary Change between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 12/14/18 • *(Completed: 03/22/19)*
- EL18-059** - In the Matter of the Application of Lookout Solar Park I, LLC for a Permit of a Solar Energy Facility in Oglala Lakota County  
Date Filed: 12/17/18 • Pending
- EL18-060** - In the Matter of the Filing by Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of a Renewable Ready Service Tariff and Tariff Revisions to Its Energy Cost Adjustment  
Date Filed: 12/17/18 • Pending
- EL18-061** - In the Matter of Randall Community Water District's Petition for a Declaratory Ruling Determining if South Dakota Law Would Allow Petitioner to Develop and Own Its Own Renewable Energy Generation System  
Date Filed: 12/19/18 • *(Completed: 02/06/19)*
- EL18-062** - 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: 12/28/18 • *(Completed: 02/21/19)*

## GAS & ELECTRIC DOCKETS

- GE18-001** - In the Matter of the Application of MDU Resources Group, Inc. for Authorization for Reorganization of Company Structure  
Date Filed: 01/31/18 • Completed: 02/28/18
- GE18-002** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its Reconciliation and Annual Report for 2017 and 2017 Reconciliation for the Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor  
Date Filed: 02/23/18 • Completed: 03/23/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

## GRAIN WAREHOUSE DOCKETS

**GW18-001** - In the Matter of the Grain Buyer License of Utica Grain, Inc. dba Upper Midwest Grain Elevator

Date Filed: 08/20/18 • Pending

**GW18-002** - In the Matter of the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement Between McIntosh-Watauga Equity and PUC Staff

Date Filed: 09/17/18 • Completed: 10/25/18

**GW18-003** - In the Matter of the PUC Staff's Request to Release Hartford Farmers Elevator's Grain Warehouse and Grain Buyers Bonds

Date Filed: 11/05/18 • Completed: 11/20/18

**GW18-004** - In the Matter of the PUC Staff's Request to Release Carthage Farmers Elevator, Inc.'s Grain Warehouse and Grain Buyers Bonds

Date Filed: 11/05/18 • Completed: 11/20/18

**GW18-005** - In the Matter of the PUC Staff's Request to Release Colton Farmers Elevator's Grain Buyers Bond

Date Filed: 11/07/18 • Completed: 11/20/18

## NATURAL GAS DOCKETS

**NG18-001** - 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: 01/29/18 • Completed: 02/28/18

**NG18-002** - In the Matter of the Filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Approval of Its Revised Conservation Tracking Adjustment

Date Filed: 01/31/18 • Completed: 03/07/18

**NG18-003** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Great Plains Ethanol, LLC

Date Filed: 02/05/18 • Completed: 02/28/18

**NG18-004** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Rate MMT – Monthly Metered Transportation Service

Date Filed: 02/09/18 • Completed: 03/07/18

**NG18-005** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions to Its Landlord Continuous Service Agreement

Date Filed: 03/02/18 • Completed: 05/09/18

**NG18-006** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its 2018 Economic Development Plan and 2017 Economic Development Report

Date Filed: 03/23/18 • Completed: 05/09/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- NG18-007** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with James Valley Ethanol, LLC dba POET Biorefining – Groton  
Date Filed: 03/30/18 • Completed: 05/07/18
- NG18-008** - 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: 04/25/18 • Completed: 06/01/18
- NG18-009** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Its 2017 Economic Development Activities and 2018 Proposed Budget  
Date Filed: 05/01/18 • Completed: 05/30/18
- NG18-010** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Dakota Ethanol, LLC  
Date Filed: 05/10/18 • Completed: 08/09/18
- NG18-011** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its 2017 Reconciliation and Revised Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor  
Date Filed: 06/14/18 • Completed: 07/17/18
- NG18-012** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations with Prairie AquaTech Manufacturing, LLC  
Date Filed: 08/17/18 • Completed: 09/26/18
- NG18-013** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Its Gas Transportation Tariff Revisions Regarding Fuel Retention Percentage  
Date Filed: 08/27/18 • Completed: 09/24/18
- NG18-014** - 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: 10/12/18 • Completed: 11/05/18
- NG18-015** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of its Refund Plan regarding Its Recovery of Manufactured Gas Plant Site Remediation Costs  
Date Filed: 10/30/18 • Completed: 11/29/18
- NG18-016** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Updates to Standard Residential Bill Form  
Date Filed: 11/27/18 • (Completed: 01/02/19)

## PIPELINE SAFETY DOCKETS

- PS18-001** - In the Matter of Staff's Request for Release to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company a Segment of Pipe Involved in a February 6, 2018 Incident  
Date Filed: 09/07/18 • Completed: 11/29/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

**PS18-002** - In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for a Waiver of 49 C.F.R. § 192.481(a)  
Date Filed: 11/21/18 • *(Completed: 01/14/19)*

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS DOCKETS

**TC18-001** - In the Matter of the Filing by Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC for Approval of Its Switched Access Services Tariff No. 1  
Date Filed: 01/16/18 • Completed: 02/28/18

**TC18-002** - In the Matter of the Complaint by Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. and West River Cooperative Telephone Company Against MCI Communications Services, Inc., dba Verizon Business Services Regarding Failing to Pay Intrastate Access Charges at the Rates Approved By the Commission  
Date Filed: 01/16/18 • Completed: 08/29/18

**TC18-003** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Matrix Telecom, LLC dba Excel Telecommunications (fka Comtel)  
Date Filed: 01/26/18 • Completed: 02/28/18

**TC18-004** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Matrix Telecom, LLC dba Matrix Business Technologies dba Trinsic Communications  
Date Filed: 01/26/18 • Completed: 02/28/18

**TC18-005** - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Service Tariff  
Date Filed: 02/09/18 • Completed: 03/07/18

**TC18-006** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Matrix Telecom, LLC dba VarTec Telecom (fka Comtel)  
Date Filed: 03/01/18 • Completed: 04/04/18

**TC18-007** - In the Matter of the Approval of Adoption of the Interconnection Agreement by Native Wireless, LLC of an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Onvoy Spectrum, LLC  
Date Filed: 03/01/18 • Completed: 04/09/18

**TC18-008** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC  
Date Filed: 03/07/18 • Completed: 04/09/18

**TC18-009** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Wide Voice, LLC  
Date Filed: 03/07/18 • Completed: 04/09/18



# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- TC18-010** - In the Matter of the Filing by Ionex Communications North, LLC dba Birch Communications for Approval of Its Access Service Tariff No. 7  
Date Filed: 03/09/18 • Completed: 06/20/18
- TC18-011** - In the Matter of the Application of Time Clock Solutions, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 04/24/18 • Completed: 06/19/18
- TC18-012** - In the Matter of the Application of Intermedia Voice Services, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 04/30/18 • Completed: 07/20/18
- TC18-013** - In the Matter of the Petition by the Department of Public Safety/9-1-1 Coordination Board for a Declaratory Ruling Determining Competitive Local Exchange Carrier Processes for Requesting 9-1-1 Traffic Delivery from Rural Local Exchange Carriers  
Date Filed: 05/11/18 • Completed: 08/30/18
- TC18-014** - In the Matter of the Application of SQF, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 05/16/18 • Completed: 07/12/18
- TC18-015** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC  
Date Filed: 05/17/18 • Completed: 07/09/18
- TC18-016** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Third Party Transit Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC  
Date Filed: 05/17/18 • Completed: 08/09/18
- TC18-017** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC  
Date Filed: 05/17/18 • Completed: 07/16/18
- TC18-018** - In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Service Tariff  
Date Filed: 05/23/18 • Completed: 06/20/18
- TC18-019** - In the Matter of the Request of Red River Rural Telephone Association dba Red River Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 381631)  
Date Filed: 05/30/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- TC18-020** - In the Matter of the Application of ComApp Technologies LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Long Distance Services as an Alternative Operator Service  
Date Filed: 06/04/18 • Completed: 08/09/18
- TC18-021** - In the Matter of the Request of Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 371576)  
Date Filed: 06/07/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-022** - In the Matter of the Application of Valley Communications, Inc. dba Valley FiberCom for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 06/07/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-023** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative 391654 and Stockholm Strandburg 391679)  
Date Filed: 06/12/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-024** - In the Matter of the Application of Education Networks of America, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 06/14/18 • Completed: 07/19/18
- TC18-025** - 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: 06/14/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-026** - 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: 06/14/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-027** - In the Matter of the Request of RC Technologies for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391674)  
Date Filed: 06/15/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-028** - In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., fka SSTELECOM, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399013)  
Date Filed: 06/18/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-029** - 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: 06/22/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

**TC18-030** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391664)  
Date Filed: 06/25/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-031** - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Wireless, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399014)  
Date Filed: 06/25/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-032** - In the Matter of the Request of Northern Valley Communications, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: 399017 and 396340)  
Date Filed: 06/25/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-033** - In the Matter of the Request of RT Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 512251)  
Date Filed: 06/25/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-034** - 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: 06/27/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-035** - In the Matter of the Request of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 391647)  
Date Filed: 06/28/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-036** - 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: 06/28/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-037** - 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: 06/28/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-038** - In the Matter of the Request of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 361123)  
Date Filed: 06/28/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-039** - In the Matter of the Request of Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: ILEC-391652 and CLEC-399006)  
Date Filed: 06/28/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

**TC18-040** - In the Matter of the Request of Midstate Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: 391670 and CLEC Service Area)  
Date Filed: 06/28/18 • Completed: 09/14/18

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- TC18-041** - In the Matter of the Request of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 395145)  
Date Filed: 06/28/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-042** - In the Matter of the Request of Venture Communications Cooperative for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas: Venture Communications Cooperative 391680 and Western Telephone Co. 391688)  
Date Filed: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-043** - 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: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-044** - 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: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-045** - In the Matter of the Request of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 361389)  
Date Filed: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-046** - 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: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-047** - In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 361495)  
Date Filed: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-048** - In the Matter of the Request of Alliance Communications Cooperative Inc. for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Areas 391405, 391642 and 391657)  
Date Filed: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-049** - 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: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-050** - In the Matter of the Request of Brookings Municipal Utilities dba Swiftel Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 399009)  
Date Filed: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-051** - 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: 06/29/18 • Completed: 09/14/18



# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

- TC18-052** - In the Matter of the Request of Jefferson Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area 391666)  
Date Filed: 07/02/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-053** - In the Matter of the Request of Midcontinent Communications for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 399005)  
Date Filed: 07/13/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-054** - In the Matter of the Application of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for an Amended Certificate of Authority  
Date Filed: 07/16/18 • Completed: 09/14/18
- TC18-055** - In the Matter of the Filing by Midcontinent Communications for Approval of Revisions to Its Access Services Tariff  
Date Filed: 07/18/18 • Completed: 08/09/18
- TC18-056** - In the Matter of the Application of LCRHUB Inc for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Service in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 07/23/18 • *(Completed: 01/04/19)*
- TC18-057** - In the Matter of the Application of Crown Castle Fiber LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota  
Date Filed: 09/10/18 • Completed: 12/19/18
- TC18-058** - In the Matter of the Application of Midcontinent Communications for an Amended Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Service in Defined Census Blocks Within Rural Areas in Moody, Davison, Minnehaha, Hanson, Beadle, Kingsbury and Codington Counties and for a Waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:15  
Date Filed: 10/22/18 • *(Completed: 02/01/19)*
- TC18-059** - In the Matter of the Petition of RC Technologies for Resolution of Disputed Railroad Crossing Application  
Date Filed: 11/02/18 • *(Completed: 01/29/19)*
- TC18-060** - In the Matter of the Approval of a Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Valley Communications, Inc. dba Valley FiberCom for the State of South Dakota  
Date Filed: 12/03/18 • *(Completed: 01/03/19)*
- TC18-061** - In the Matter of the Filing by Lingo Communications North, LLC fka Ionex Communications North, LLC dba Birch Communications for Approval of Its Access Services Tariff No. 8  
Date Filed: 12/14/18 • *(Completed: 01/03/19)*

# 2018 DOCKET STATUS REGISTER

## REOPENED DOCKETS

**EL11-011** - In the Matter of the Joint Request for an Electric Service Rights Exception between Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Date Filed: 05/23/11 • Completed: 07/08/11  
Date Reopened: 04/20/18 • Completed: 08/09/18

**EL14-106** - In the Matter of the Application of NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates  
Date Filed: 12/19/14 • Completed: 12/11/15  
Date Reopened: 09/10/18 • Completed: 09/26/18  
Date Reopened: 11/20/18 • Completed: 12/19/18

**EL15-020** - In the Matter of the Application by Wind Quarry Operations, LLC, for a Wind Energy Facility Permit for the Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility and Associated Facilities  
Date Filed: 05/27/15 • Completed: 11/17/15  
Date Reopened: 10/17/18 • Completed: 11/21/18

**EL16-020** - In the Matter of the Filing by Otter Tail Power Company Regarding its Proposed South Dakota Energy Efficiency Plan for 2017-2019  
Date Filed: 04/29/16 • Completed: 11/28/16  
Date Reopened: 06/21/18 • Completed: 12/12/18

**EL17-006** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of 2017 Transmission Facility Adjustment  
Date Filed: 02/15/17 • Completed: 06/20/17  
Date Reopened: 05/01/18 • Completed: 05/17/18

**EL17-008** - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval of Its 2017 Environmental Improvement Adjustment  
Date Filed: 02/15/17 • Completed: 06/20/17  
Date Reopened: 05/01/18 • Completed: 05/17/18

**GE17-001** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Its Reconciliation and Annual Report for 2016 and Revisions to Its Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Rate  
Date Filed: 02/17/17 • Completed: 04/04/17  
Date Reopened: 02/15/18 • Completed: 02/27/18

**NG17-011** - In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for the Approval of Tariff Revisions regarding Farm Tap Service  
Date Filed: 07/24/17 • Completed: 09/15/17  
Date Reopened: 10/10/17 • Completed: 10/31/17  
Date Reopened: 11/28/17 • Completed: 01/05/18  
Date Reopened: 09/28/18 • Completed: 11/20/18

## MISSION STATEMENT

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will serve and protect South Dakota's consumers by ensuring safe, reliable and high quality utility services. The commission will exercise its authority and influence to ensure that residential and business consumers have access to utility services at fair and reasonable rates.

The commission will be proactive and solutions-oriented in striving to maximize consumer utility value and education while working to enhance the economic and environmental well-being for citizens of the state of South Dakota.

*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**