

PSC DEPARTMENT DIGEST

Nebraska Public Service Commission

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PSC Begins Review of Black Hills Energy Rate Case Proposal

Black Hills Energy (BHE) has filed an application with the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) for a general rate increase. Filed on May 1, the rate review application requests \$34.9 million in new annual revenue, BHE says is needed to recover investments made in safety, reliability and systems integrity for natural gas services.

The filing is the first step in a process which includes an independent assessment of the application by Commission staff, virtual town hall meetings and a comprehensive review of the filing by the Public Advocate. Per state statute the Commission has eight months from the time of the filing to make a decision on the application.

BHE is allowed by state law to collect interim rates during the Commission's review of the application. Interim rates will take affect August 1. The interim rates are subject to refund upon completion of the rate case.

"This is a detailed process that along with a hearing, includes several ways for the public to weigh in on the proposed rate increase," said Nichole Mulcahy, Dir. PSC Natural Gas Dept.

BHE serves customers in more than 300 communities in Nebraska. The natural gas company's most recent rate increase was approved by the Commission in January 2021.

Detailed information about the [NG-124 Black Hills Energy Rate Case](https://psc.nebraska.gov/natural-gas/ng-124-black-hills-nebraska-gas-llc-dba-black-hills-energy-rate-case) including a public comment form and the procedural schedule can be found on the PSC website<
<https://psc.nebraska.gov/natural-gas/ng-124-black-hills-nebraska-gas-llc-dba-black-hills-energy-rate-case> >.



PSC Approves NorthWestern Energy Rate Increase

On June 6, 2024, NorthWestern Energy filed an application with the Commission seeking approval of a natural gas general rate increase. The application sought to increase rates to customers in the four Nebraska cities (Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte and Alda), serviced by the company.

In accordance with state statute (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1838) NorthWestern negotiated the rate increase directly with the cities involved reaching a settlement agreement.

A hearing on the settlement agreement was held before the Commission in May 2025, following which an Order ([NG-122](#)) was issued by the Commission in June approving the agreement.

Per the approved agreement, the residential customer charge will increase from \$8.00 to \$10.00, accompanied by increases in the per therm distribution charges beginning July 1, 2025. The average residential customer will see around a \$4.00 increase in their monthly bills.

Nichole Mulcahy, Dir. PSC Natural Gas Dept. said, "The process worked resulting in a successful negotiation and a good outcome for all involved."



Commission Approves Annual 911 Funding Order

Commissioners have approved the annual 911 funding Order ([911-019/PI-118](#)) for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The Order paves the way for allocations of funds to PSAPs for the 2025-2026 funding year.

For the second year in a row, the Commission was able to increase the amount of funds provided to PSAPs. In the 2024-2025 funding year, PSAPs received an additional one million dollars in funding. In its most recent funding Order, the Commission approved an increase of \$1.5 million.

"We are pleased to be able to provide this additional support," said Dave Sankey, State 911 Dept. Director. "The increase in support was made possible by the decrease in legacy costs as the transition to the Next Generation 911 (NG911) system continues."

More information about NG911 can be found on the PSC website < <https://psc.nebraska.gov/ng911-information-911-service-system-advisory-committee> >.



Transportation Dept. Reminders for Consumers on the Move

If you're planning a move anytime soon, our Transportation Department wants you to know there are currently 45 household goods movers licensed by the PSC to do business in Nebraska.

Household goods movers licensed by the PSC can provide intrastate (within Nebraska) services of personal effects or property to a dwelling. A license issued by the PSC is valid for one year from the effective date and services are provided statewide unless otherwise noted.

A [list of household goods movers](#) licensed in Nebraska and their companies effective date can be found under the Transportation tab of the [PSC website](#).

Household goods movers that provide interstate(outside of Nebraska) moving services are regulated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Dillon Keiffer-Johnson, PSC Transportation Dept. Director said, "It is especially important for consumers to do their homework when hiring an interstate moving service. Since they are regulated on the federal level and not licensed by the PSC there is very little the state can do, if a move doesn't go as planned."

The PSC encourages consumers needing an interstate moving company to visit the [protect your move page](#) of the [FMCSA website](#) and click on the safety tab for free resources and tools to help prepare for a move and to protect against fraud. The page also contains a database of Registered Movers.



PSC Employees Receive State Government Leadership Certificates

The PSC congratulates Maria Rowan, Steve Kelso, and Carrie Gans (not pictured), on receiving their State Government Leadership Certificates.

Led by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), the year-long Leadership Certificate program provides state employees in a supervisory role with a custom learning experience.

“Participation in the leadership program represents a substantial commitment on the part of our management team,” said PSC executive director Tom Golden. “We appreciate their desire to grow their leadership skills as they strive to make a more meaningful impact on those we serve.”

In the past two years the Commission has had five individuals receive their state leadership certificates.

Golden said, “We thank all of you for your dedication and look forward to the benefits your continued leadership will provide the Commission.”



Steve Kelso, Maria Rowan, Tom Golden

Rea & Hembree Join PSC Team

Shelly Rea and Skyler Hembree are the newest members of the Commission staff.

Shelly Rea brings 29 years' experience with the State of Nebraska, to the Telecommunications department as its new administrative assistant. Married with two children and four grandchildren, Shelly and her husband Dan enjoy boating, indoor and outdoor projects and their fur babies, Emmie and Rosie.

Skyler Hembree is the Commission's new law clerk. Originally from Leoti, Kansas, he has a B.A. in Business Administration from Bethany College, and a M.S. in Counseling and Student Development from Kansas State. Currently attending the UNL College of Law, Skyler spent the past two years as a residence hall director at Doane University. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, music, cars and collecting Def Leppard memorabilia.



PSC Hosts Girls State Participants

In June, the PSC played host to Cornhusker Girls State participants.

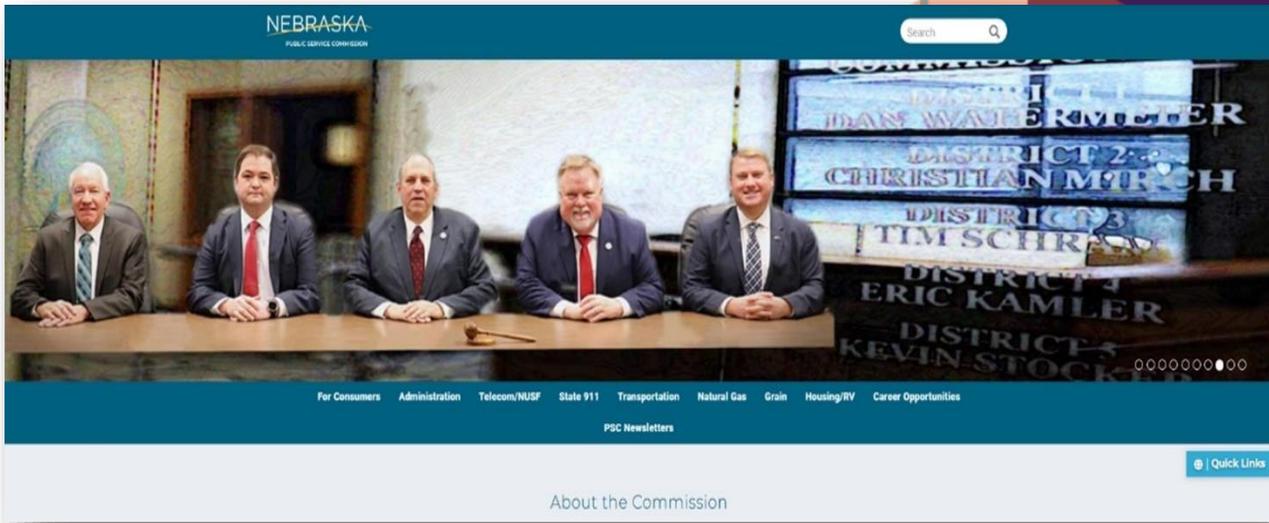
The seven ladies selected to serve as Public Service Commissioners through the programs' mock elections were given the opportunity to sit at the dais.

Commission Chair Tim Schram, painted a picture of the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner and directors and staff provided insight into their departments.

The ladies had great questions and provided us their perspective on the Commission and its duties.

We thank them for their interest in public service. To learn more about the Cornhusker Girls State sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary visit their website < <https://girlsstate.net/nebraska/wp/> >





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The Nebraska Public Service Commission regulates telecommunications carriers, natural gas jurisdictional utilities, major oil pipelines, railroad safety, household goods movers and passenger carriers, grain warehouses and dealers, construction of manufactured and modular homes and recreation vehicles, high voltage electric transmission lines, and private water company rates.

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