



NEVADA UTILITIES: Reliable Service & Cost Stability

Nevada's utilities are among the best in the nation in providing reliable electric service. They rank in the top quartile on the Average Service Availability Index, which means less time for service interruptions than most utilities nationwide, and more productive time for the state's businesses.

Utilities in Nevada work hard to stabilize electric rates, while still providing an ample supply of electricity. The companies employ hedging strategies and procurement of fuel for electric generation and resale is done at the least possible cost. Each company is investing in new and more efficient generation plants that use less natural gas to produce electricity.

Nevada's utilities are also diversifying their energy portfolios and building new power plants to reduce dependence on out-of-state suppliers. A new coal-fired electric generation plant is due for completion in Southern Nevada this year. Construction of another new coal plant in Eastern Nevada has been announced, along with plans to link Southern and Northern Nevada with a new transmission intertie line that will also enable renewable energy resources to reach electric customers.

Nevada's renewable energy policy will have the state's utilities devoting 20 percent of their energy portfolio to renewable energy by the year 2015. Nevada's utilities already have a good start on utilizing a diverse mix of energy sources to serve customers, most notably geothermal generation, and electricity generated by solar, wind, wood and hydro.

Recently Nevada's Energy Office endorsed and the state legislature adopted the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. This certification process for new buildings in Nevada allows a 50 percent property tax credit on LEED certified buildings built in the state.

Utility expertise in energy efficiency and cost-saving programs can be invaluable to the business community. Trained staff work with businesses to help hold their power bills in check. Through incentive programs, businesses are eligible for rebates on energy efficient lighting, motors, heating and cooling equipment and HVAC controls. Individuals, businesses and governments also receive rebates for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems, further reducing their energy needs.

Utilities are also reaching out to the business community with a series of training opportunities designed to increase energy conservation in the workplace. A statewide training and certification program for building engineers and facility operators is a collaborative with business and higher education. More energy efficiency initiatives and demand side programs are planned for the future.

Once again, Nevada is the fastest growing state in the country, for the 19th consecutive year. Nevada's utilities keep pace with the growth by completing a record number of new business and residential hook-ups each year. It also means an annual growth in demand for electricity. Nevada's utilities are meeting the challenge.

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