



Working for California

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CPUC

March 2023

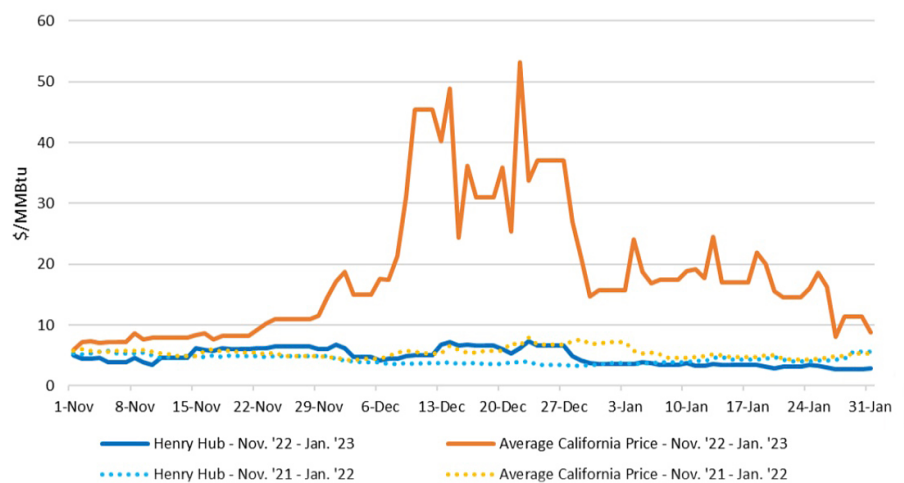
Produced by the CPUC News & Outreach Office | outreach@cpuc.ca.gov

CPUC Opens Public Inquiry on High Winter Natural Gas Prices

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has continued its work to examine the causes of recent high natural gas prices on the wholesale markets by launching a new proceeding to investigate the causes and impacts of the winter 2022- 2023 natural gas price spikes and the potential for recurrence; the impact of the price spikes on natural gas and electric prices and customer bills; the potential threats to natural gas and electric reliability and price volatility in summer 2023 and beyond, and potential mitigations; and utility communications to customers to determine whether they were sufficient or require modifications.

The wholesale price of natural gas in California, and throughout the Western U.S., has been extraordinarily high this winter, starting in late November 2022. In February 2023, natural gas prices trended downward but are still

California Natural Gas Prices for the Last Two Winters



high compared to February 2022. As a result, customers have seen higher bills from their utility company, which pass on the cost they pay for natural gas directly to the customer without a mark-up. High natural gas prices can

have an immediate impact to customers, and also a delayed impact when electric rates increase because the natural gas-related costs of running electric power plants are higher than earlier forecasts.

While the CPUC does not regulate natural gas prices or natural gas producers, given the impact of the high prices on utility customers, and given the role that natural gas plays in electricity production, upon seeing the price spikes in December 2022, the CPUC promptly took [several actions](#). One of

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Southern California Gets New 738 Area Code to Overlay 213/323

The CPUC has ensured that telephone numbers continue to be available to meet the demand in the geographic region served by the 213 and 323 area codes by approving a third area code (called an overlay) that will provide additional numbering resources while minimizing customer inconvenience. The new area code to overlay the 213 and 323 area codes is 738.

The 213/323 area code serves downtown Los Angeles, Alhambra, Bell, Bell Gardens, Beverly Hills, Commerce, Cudahy, Glendale, Hawthorne, Huntington Park, Inglewood, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, South Gate, South Pasadena, Vernon, West Hollywood, and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County. It is projected to run out of available prefixes (the first three numbers after the area code in a telephone number) by June 2025. The CPUC's action today approves the request of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, the neutral third-party area code relief planner for California, for an area code

overlay to provide additional numbering resources to meet the demand for telephone numbers.

An area code overlay adds an additional area code to the geographic region served by the existing area code(s). Therefore, multiple area codes co-exist within the same geographic region. Existing 213/323 customers will retain their area code and specific telephone number(s). Customers will continue to dial the three-digit area code for all calls to and from telephone numbers with the 213, 323, and 738 area codes. The price of a call will not change due to the overlay. Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 911, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, and 811.

Below are some tips to help prepare for the area code overlay:

- Contact security or alarm vendors to update dial-up numbers to avoid a break in security routines and contacts.
- Reprogram equipment or features, i.e., automatic dial, speed-dial, call

forwarding, modems for computer or Internet dial-up access, etc.

- Update items like stationery, checks, etc., to include your area code + telephone number.
- Provide your area code and telephone number, not just the telephone number, as needed.
- When asking for someone's number, remember to ask for the area code too.
- Remember that the previous area codes and the new area code will co-exist within the same geographic region.

The 213 area code was created in 1947 and was one of the original three area codes in California. The 213 area code was split five times between 1951 and 1991, creating the 714 area code in 1951, the 805 area code in 1957, the 818 area code in 1984, the 310 area code in 1991 and the 323 area code in 1998. In 2017, the CPUC approved an elimination of the boundary between the 213 and 323 area codes, creating the 213/323 overlay area codes. ■



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD:

Upcoming Public Forums

The CPUC will hold remote public forums to provide an opportunity for customers to offer their input on the following proceedings.



Foresthill and Kerman Telephone Companies

Customers of Foresthill Telephone Company and Kerman Telephone Company are encouraged to join us to offer comment on the companies' rate requests, as follows:

WHAT: A public forum that will begin with a brief overview of the rate requests of Foresthill and Kerman, then public comments will be heard via phone. At least one representative from Foresthill and Kerman will be available to customers during the public forum for individual service, including billing issues.

WHEN:

- April 17, 2023, 5 p.m.

WHERE: Remote access via webcast or phone:

- Live video broadcast with English or Spanish captions via webcast: www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc
- English: 800-857-1917, passcode: 1767567#
- Spanish: 800-857-1917, passcode: 3799627#

Participants who choose to participate via webcast will only have audio and video capabilities but will not be able to make verbal comments. If you would like to make a comment during the forum, please call in.

More information is available in the CPUC's [media advisory](#). ■



Telecommunications Service Quality

Telecommunication customers are encouraged to join us to offer comment on service quality, as follows:

WHAT: The CPUC is holding a second set of remote public forums for customers of various telephone, mobile voice, and Voice over the Internet Protocol (VoIP) service providers to offer their input to the CPUC regarding their quality of voice services.

WHEN:

- April 18, 2023: 2 - 4:30 p.m. AND 6 p.m.
- May 3, 2023: 2 - 4:30 p.m. AND 6 p.m.

WHERE: Remote access via webcast or phone:

- Live video broadcast with English or Spanish captions via webcast: www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc
- English: 800-857-1917, passcode: 1767567#
- Spanish: 800-857-1917, passcode: 3799627#

Participants who choose to participate via webcast will only have audio and video capabilities but will not be able to make verbal comments. If you would like to make a comment during the forums, please call in.

More information is available in the CPUC's [media advisory](#). ■

GET TO KNOW US:

Meet David Van Dyken

David Van Dyken has been an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at the CPUC since October 2022. David joined the CPUC in January 2020 in the Safety Policy Division, where he served as the CPUC's first Access and Functional Needs Coordinator and later as a Senior Analyst working on wildfire mitigation, utility Public Safety Power Shutoffs, and risk analysis and mitigation phase work. He is the current chair of the CPUC's internal Disability Advisory Committee and a member of the Rainbow Regulators.

David came to the CPUC with 19 years of professional transportation planning experience working with the California Department of Transportation, California Transportation Commission, California High-Speed Rail Authority, and the Tuolumne County Transportation Council. David has a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and master's degrees in Public Administration and Transportation Management. He lives in Sacramento, and recently shared more about himself in a Q&A:

QUESTION: Can you tell us about your childhood and growing up?

ANSWER: I was born in La Mesa and grew up in Spring Valley, which is east of San Diego. I went to Monte Vista High School, the same high school my dad went to. Growing up in San Diego County we went to the beach, but I would spend more of my time hiking and camping in the Laguna Mountains and in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Every year, my Boy Scout troop did a canoeing weekend in Mission Bay and a 2-day canoe and camping trip down the Colorado River. To this day I am still very good at handling a canoe.

Q: What kind of music do you enjoy? Who are your favorite musicians or groups? Do you sing or play an instrument?

A: My musical tastes are varied. I enjoy jazz, classical, classic rock, alternative rock, and 80s music. Some of my favorite groups are the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Radiohead, Pearl Jam, Pink Floyd, and Led Zeppelin. I don't play any musical instruments. You don't want to hear me sing either.

Q: What activities do you enjoy doing in your free time?

A: I enjoy bicycling, hiking, reading, and watching documentaries. For most of the past 12+ years, I've participated in historical reenactments at the Old Sacramento Historic Cemetery. In the two weekends prior to Halloween, visitors are led on a guided tour through the cemetery at night where they meet various people who are buried there. The spirits (actors) tell their stories of how they lived and died.

Q: Do you have a memorable travel story?

A: One of my goals in life is to visit every county and county equivalent in the U.S. (there are currently 3,143 and I've been to 620). In 2008 I was driving my pickup truck along US-50 through Nevada, nicknamed the "Loneliest Road in America." You can get a Loneliest Road passport, and if you get it stamped in each of the 5 towns on the route, you get a certificate from the governor of Nevada saying that you've survived the Loneliest Road, as well as a medal and keychain. Between Fallon and Austin, Nevada, I took a detour off US-50 to an even more remote highway called Nevada State Route 722. A few miles outside of Austin, I was joined



by several hundred head of cattle crossing the highway and walking along it. It took about 30 minutes to navigate through and past the cattle that were walking alongside and in front of my truck. When I finally made it to Austin, I found a very rustic but comfortable motel room. The bathroom was wallpapered with newspaper advertisements from the early 1900s. There was no closet but there was an antler on the wall to hang clothes.

Q: If you had to pick one book to recommend to a friend to read, what book would it be and why?

A: One book that kept my interest was "Skeletons on the Zahara," written by a maritime historian named Dean King. It is a true story of a group of American sailors who were shipwrecked off the coast of Africa's Sahara Desert in 1815. The author wrote the book in 2004 from biographical accounts of the survivors. It is recommended reading because, although some of the endurance stories are disturbing, it was an event that at one time was very well-known in the U.S. but has since slipped out of the American consciousness. ■

THE DOCKET:

Proceedings Filed at the CPUC February 2023

PROCEEDING NUMBER | FILED DATE | FILER

A2301017 | 1/17/2023 | VELOCITY COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Velocity Communications, Inc. (U-1653) Application for Rehearing of Resolution T-17766.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=501679009>

A2301018 | 1/30/2023 | ISLAND BOAT SERVICE

Application of Island Boat Service (VCC-80) For Authorization to Increase Passenger Fares on Its Vessel Common.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=501652366>

A2301019 | 1/31/2023 | BILL'S BUS INC.

Application of Bill's Bus Inc. (PSC18345) to Amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Increase its Zone of Rate (ZORF) fares for its existing route.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=501679121>

K2301021 | 1/25/2023 | ALI B. ZANJANI

Appeal of Ali B. Zanjani from Citation # T.23-01-001 on 1/3/2023 In the amount of \$5,000.00 issued by California Public Utilities Commission Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=501680080>

A2108011 | 8/13/2021 | SUBURBAN WATER SYSTEMS

Application for Order Authorizing Suburban Water Systems (U339W) to Purchase Sativa County Water District's Assets and for Related Approvals.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=501679126>

A1912008 | 2/9/2023 | ALJ/SEYBERT/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting compensation to Small Business Utility Advocates for substantial contribution to Decision 20-12-032.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201374>

A2208001 | 2/9/2023 | ALJ/O'ROURKE/ CPUC

Proposed Decision approving settlement regarding Pacificorp's 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allowance Program costs and climate credits.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201050>

A2208009 | 2/9/2023 | ALJ/WILSON/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting request for an all-services area code overlay in the 213/323 numbering plan area.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201371>

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PUBLIC INQUIRY ON HIGH WINTER NATURAL GAS PRICES continued from page 1

which was to hold a public En Banc on Feb. 7 at which important data was gathered. For example, the California Energy Commission (CEC) presented price comparisons between this winter and last winter, showing that natural gas prices for delivery on December 22, 2022, were nearly seven times higher compared to the same day in 2021. Additionally, the CEC showed that the price spikes were not unique to California and were experienced in other Western states.

The examination in the proceeding opened March 16, 2023 (formally called an [Order Instituting Investigation](#)), will include whether factors beyond normal market forces were at play, determine whether action by the CPUC may prevent or mitigate future price spikes, and consider whether other entities have jurisdiction to mitigate high natural gas prices.

The public can submit comment on the proceeding's [Docket Card](#).

In further actions, Governor Gavin Newsom and other elected representatives have written to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) asking it to investigate whether market manipulation, anticompetitive behavior, or other anomalies have contributed or are contributing to the high prices seen throughout the West this winter. In response, FERC stated that it is conducting surveillance to determine whether any market participants engaged in behavior that contributed to, or took advantage of, the high gas prices. ■

A2111013 | 2/10/2023 | ALJ/GLEGOLA/CPUC

Proposed Decision approving application of PROPSF, LLC to provide scheduled service between San Francisco and Treasure Island.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502200858>

R1407002 ET AL. | 2/9/2023 | ALJ/KAO/CPUC

Proposed Decision modifying incentives and eliminating incentive step-down methodology for the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing Program.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502200393>

R1502020 | 2/10/2023 | ALJ/ATAMTURK/CPUC

Proposed Decision closing Rulemaking 15-02-020.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201179>

R1909009 | 2/9/2023 | ALJ/RIZZO/CPUC

Proposed Decision adopting implementation rules for the Microgrid Incentive Program.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502200817>

A2302001 | 2/8/2023 | CENTRAL VALLEY GAS STORAGE, L.L.C., SOUTHERN COMPANY, AND CALICHE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS II, LLC

Joint application of Central Valley Gas Storage, L.L.C., Southern Company, and Caliche Development Partners II, LLC for approval of transfer of control of Central Valley Gas Storage, L.L.C. pursuant to section 854 of the California Public Utilities Code and for an order pursuant to sections 829 and 853 of the Public Utilities Code to ex-

empt from commission authorization the encumbrance of the assets of Central Valley Gas Storage, L.L.C. and the issuance of a corporate guaranty and security interest, or in the alternative for authorization under sections 830 and 851.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502086761>

(ECP) C2302002 | 2/10/2023 | ANGEL ALEXANDER TORRES

(ECP) Angel Alexander Torres, Complainant vs. Southern California Gas Company (U904G), Defendant. [Charging allegation is failure to provide bills.]

No Link Provided (Hard Copy Filing)

C2302003 | 2/10/2023 | JIM IRIZARRY

Jim Irizarry, Complainant vs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is failure to provide safe and reliable service.]

No Link Provided (Hard Copy Filing)

(ECP) C2302004 | 2/10/2023 | SUE SANG

(ECP) Sue Sang, Complainant vs. Southern California Edison (U338E) and Southern California Edison d/b/a Edison Carrier Solution (U6096), Defendants. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

No Link Provided (Hard Copy Filing)

A2107001 | 2/14/2023 | ALJ/KELLY/CPUC

Proposed Decision adopting partial settlement agreement, resolving remainder of disputed issues and authorizing Great Oaks Water Company's General Rate Increases for 2022-2024.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201145>

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BE YOU AT THE CPUC: JOIN OUR TEAM!

If you are looking for a rewarding career, consider joining our team at the CPUC!

We typically have opportunities at all levels available: leadership, supervisory, engineers, lawyers, Administrative Law Judges, analysts, specialists, administration, and more. You will join a team of individuals tackling issues related to the regulation of essential services in California. For more information on job opportunities and the CPUC's hiring process, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/careers or email CPUCRecruiter@cpuc.ca.gov.

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A2203002 | 2/17/2023 | ALJ/KELLY/ CPUC

Proposed Decision authorizing the purchase of water utility assets by California-American Water Company.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502375809>

A2208001 | 2/13/2023 | ALJ/O'ROURKE/ CPUC

Proposed Decision approving settlement regarding PacificCorp's 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allowance Program costs and climate credits.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502200892>

A2209002 | 2/14/2023 | ALJ/RIZZO/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting the Public Advocates Office of the California Public Utilities Commission motion to dismiss Sunnova Community Microgrids California, LLC's application.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502373025>

R1103012 | 2/16/2023 | ALJ/STEVENS/CPUC

Proposed Decision denying Airgas USA, LLC Petition for Modification and closing proceeding.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502375793>

A2302005 | 2/8/2023 | COUNTY OF FRESNO

Application of the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works, on Behalf of Van-G Logistics for an Order Authorizing the Construction of Two Proposed At-Grade Crossings, and Altering One Existing At-Grade Crossing Across DeWolf Avenue on Tracks Owned by Van-G Logistics at Railroad MP 0.10 for the Existing Track and at MP 0.20 and MP 0.30 for the Proposed Crossings in the County of Fresno, CA.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201214>

A2302006 | 2/6/2023 | BBH CONNECTIVITY, INC.

Application of BBH Connectivity, Inc. for Registration as an Interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502200773>

A2302007 | 2/10/2023 | THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK

Application of The Utility Reform Network for Award of Intervenor Compensation for Substantial Contributions to Resolution SPD-9.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201338>

(ECP) C2302008 | 2/14/2023 | MARION JARAMILLO AND SUSAN NEWTON

(ECP) Marion Jaramillo and Susan Newton d/b/a Firebells, Complainants vs. Havasu Water Company, Inc.(U352W), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

No Link Provided (Hard Copy Filing)

(ECP) C2302009 | 2/15/2023 | GARY CHAMBERLIN, CHARLES RAMSDEN AND SUSAN WILSON

(ECP) Gary Chamberlin, Charles Ramsden and Susan Wilson, Complainants vs. Havasu Water Company, Inc.(U352W), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502397824>

(ECP) C2302010 | 2/16/2023 | SANG HYEOK YIM

(ECP) Sang Hyeok Yim, Complainant vs. San Jose Water Company (U168W), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502372785>

(ECP) C2302011 | 2/16/2023 | DAVID CHOOLJIAN

(ECP) David Chooljian, Complainant vs. Southern California Edison Company (U338E) and Southern California Edison d/b/a Edison Carrier Solutions (U6096E), Defendants. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502372786>

A2111005 | 11/1/2021 | SIERRA TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

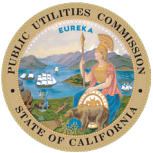
In the Matter of Application of Sierra Telephone Company, Inc. (U1016C) to Modify Intrastate Revenue Requirement and Rate Design and Adjust Selected Rates.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=502201117>

A2211011 | 11/8/2022 | KLOUD COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Application of Kloud Communications Inc. for Registration as an Interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation Pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=498526713>



California Public Utilities Commission

About this publication

This monthly newsletter is to keep you informed of proposals by the CPUC's Commissioners and Administrative Law Judges, as well as utility applications, and other issues and work of note. We also include a list summarizing the filings at the CPUC in the previous month.

We want to hear from you! If you have topics you'd like us to cover or if you'd like to make comment on our proceedings or work, please contact us at outreach@cpuc.ca.gov or call (855) 421-0400. You can find information about events we are having at www.cpuc.ca.gov/Events.

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