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26-03017

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
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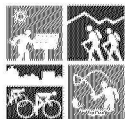
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Filed For: Nevada Conservation League

In accordance with NRS Chapter 719,
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by: /s Christi CabreraGeorgeson

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NEVADA CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Nevada Conservation League
PO Box 61378
Las Vegas, NV 89160

June 4, 2026

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 E. William St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Docket #: 26-03017

Dear Chair Williamson and Commissioners Cordova and Brown,

The Nevada Conservation League (NCL) is the independent political voice of Nevada's Conservation Community. We work to maintain and enhance Nevada's natural character and the quality of life for Nevadans through effective advocacy and collaboration with our state's leaders. As longtime advocates for local, clean energy, we know that our state can and must lead the nation into a clean energy future: one that delivers better air quality, a more robust economy, and reduced climate impacts.

Across the state, families continue to struggle to pay their utility bills and are often forced to choose between groceries and keeping the air conditioning on during Nevada's dangerous summer heat. At the same time, NV Energy continues to pursue repeated rate increases, higher profits, and policies that make it harder for customers to lower their bills, while its parent company, Berkshire Hathaway, paid its CEO more than \$22 million¹ last year. This makes the Commission's oversight of monopoly utilities more important than ever.

In recent years, PUCN staff and customer advocates have uncovered decades of overcharges, attempts to recover inappropriate costs from customers, repeated rate hike requests, and failures to deliver on key utility commitments. These are not isolated incidents and underscore the need for stronger oversight, customer protections, and utility accountability. NCL is also concerned that the overcharge investigation ultimately resulted in too few safeguards to prevent future wrongdoing. While customer refunds were necessary, they represented only the bare minimum, and the Commission missed an opportunity to pair refunds with stronger enforcement measures and meaningful deterrence.

NCL appreciates that NV Energy's 2026 Integrated Resource Plan includes major additions of renewable energy resources, particularly solar and battery storage, which are critical for Nevada's clean energy future, grid reliability, and long-term affordability. At the same time, the plan proposes 1,200 MW of new methane gas-burning power through the addition of three peaker plants, largely driven by data center demand growth. NV Energy projects that data centers

¹ Kim, J. (2026, April 21). *Utility CEO pay surges amid higher profits, customer struggles*. Energy and Policy Institute. <https://energyandpolicy.org/utility-ceo-pay-2025>

could account for 82% of total electricity sales in Northern Nevada by 2046. These gas plants are expected to cost customers roughly \$5–6 billion, while exposing customers to long-term financial risks tied to volatile fuel costs and the possibility of paying for power plants that were ultimately not needed.

Instead of doubling down on expensive gas systems, Nevada should aggressively scale demand response programs and customer-owned energy systems that are already installed in homes and businesses across the state. Smart thermostats, battery systems, rooftop solar, EV charging technologies, and other distributed energy resources can help reduce peak demand faster, more flexibly, and at far lower cost to customers. Nevada should invest in expanding these proven solutions instead of locking ratepayers into another generation of costly fossil fuel infrastructure.

Nevadans deserve clean energy that delivers better air quality and predictable, affordable energy bills. To get there, Nevada must meet its Renewable Portfolio Standard, reduce dependence on volatile methane gas, and continue expanding local, reliable energy resources. We urge the PUC to prioritize consumer protection and ensure that Nevada advances low-cost, clean energy and energy efficiency. We depend on you to protect Nevadans and pave the way for a cleaner, more affordable energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
/s Christi Cabrera-Georgeson
Deputy Director
Nevada Conservation League