

PUC Commissioners:

For the record, Carole Fineberg, 9325 Copper Mountain Circle, Reno

In the last year, there has been a personnel shake-up at the PUC. Let's start with the appointment of Stephanie Mullen as Executive Director last August, 2015. According to Nevada Revised Statutes, the person in this position must have extensive utilities knowledge and experience. The "must have" is not "should have" and there is very little wiggle room with this statement in the NRS. Ms. Mullen's background was directing Stanford Sierra Camp and Conference Center at Fallen Leaf Lake, CA and prior to that, another summer camp as a staffer. That doesn't sound like the NRS were exactly followed.

More recently, Gov Sandoval appointed General Counsel Joe Reynolds to serve as Chair of the PUC, replacing David Noble. And Leo Drozdoff replacing Alaina Burtenshaw, whose term that doesn't end until 2017.

So, does that mean that Drozdoff is a 'temp', just filling the vacancy until the term is up in 2017? It seems he just retired from the Conservation and Natural Resources just 2 weeks prior. Was he pulled out of retirement to fill this vacancy and we'll have another change in a few months? This revolving door might be OK for a department store, but it isn't OK for my utility company.

Joe Reynolds was former legal counsel to the Governor, which begs the question.... Are Reynolds and Drozdoff going to put their law licenses on "inactive" status, as did Burtenshaw and Noble?

Let's look at the Public Utilities Commission now.....

Paul Thomsen has been there not yet a year. And now two brand new Commissioners, without, it seems, a lot of utilities experience either.

Who is going to be training whom?

Will they be inheriting their predecessors' dockets?

Have they had time to bone up on those dockets?

Are they prepared to step in or will there necessarily be delays and postponements on those dockets?

And there is no representation on the PUC from southern NV, where the needs and diversification of power are very different than here in the north. No southern representation on the PUC is not fair.

Or are you all going to just be puppets of Governor Sandoval?

We have inexperience in our midst with the installations of thousands of Smart Meters. They were not tested for 30 years to determine the long-term affects to the health and wellbeing of ratepayers, rammed through by a PUC, eager to do the Governor's bidding.

The Smart Meter is a nasty radiation-emitting surveillance device that can be hazardous to your health, whether it is from the radio frequency radiation or the potential house fires. But we were told it is perfectly safe, when independent research and scientific studies have proven otherwise. We were told an independent investigation would be conducted into the many house fires that two Fire Chiefs in northern NV claimed were caused by the Smart Meter. Did that ever happen? What were the results?

We were told our rates would go down, when, in fact, they have been increased. But, of course, they increased. The carrot was dangled by the Feds of a PARTIAL funding of the Smart Meters, so rates had to necessarily go up to provide the funds for NVE to purchase and install all the Meters. We come to your hearings and your meetings and we speak out in Public Comment, only to be not answered, ignored and unheeded. Decisions were made without regard to public outcry.

So, PUC, in whose interests do you serve? It would appear the Public Utilities Commission perhaps should be renamed the Governor's Utilities Commission, which would be far more apt because you are not serving the public.