



INFORMATION ABOUT

Elko County Utilities

Electric

Nevada's utility rates are competitive with other major western states. Nevada Assembly Bill 366, passed in 1997, opened the electric utility industry to competition. An added benefit of the deregulation process is a three-year cap on rates to business and residential customers. As of 2000, consumers have the opportunity to select their power provider.

The state's utility companies make use of various sources for producing energy. Coal, hydropower, and natural gas combined with purchase agreements provide a variety of options for delivering highly dependable service at the lowest possible price. Power companies offer cost-based time-of-use rate schedules for commercial and industrial customers, helping them save on their energy costs by coordinating their heavy-load consumption.

Sierra Pacific would be happy to calculate a power estimate for your company.

Carlin, Wells, and West Wendover are served by Wells Rural Electric Co., 1322 Chestnut St., P.O. Box 706, Carlin, NV 89822, 775.754.6362

Geothermal

Alternative Energy: Geothermal Resources in Elko County: Within Elko County, there are several established geothermal sources, and many additional resources with high potential for development, according to the Geothermal Resource Assessment conducted by Converse Consultants of Elko, Nevada. Resources within Elko County include both surface water and ground water sources. Developed resources are utilized in the cities of Elko and Wells, and additional geothermal resources have been identified in Carlin, Jackpot, Ruby Valley and Tuscarora.

History of Geothermal Use in Elko County: The Elko area has a long history of geothermal water use and development, beginning with Native American use of water at the "Hot Hole" in southwestern Elko. Two active geothermal systems are in place in Elko - one private and one public. The Elko County School District and the Elko Heat Company operate geothermal district heating systems that provide hot water to municipal, residential and commercial establishments. The Elko Heat Company, one of Nevada's largest geothermal district heating systems, has provided service to Elko since 1982. In addition to space heating and winter ice-melting applications, a laundry service directly uses the 180° F water. Elko Heat Co. reports that they are at 20% capacity, and are able to readily expand their geothermal service to additional customers in the downtown and light industrial areas west of Elko.

Geothermal Data: According to Dean Alford, principal hydro geologist and managing officer with Converse Consultant's Elko, Nevada office, several geothermal wells have been drilled in the Elko area. The Elko Heat Company well was drilled in 1982 to a depth of 869 feet with hot water encountered beginning about 705 feet. Flow was reported to be 700 gallons per minute with a temperature of 175° F. Geothermal waters in the Wells area are reported at 200 to 230°F. The Wells Rural Electric Company well chemistry allows calculation of a geothermometer reservoir temperature of 232°F. The Carlin area reports a reservoir size at 0.79 cubic miles, with hot spring temperatures near boiling (212° F). Geothermometry calculations are reported in a range from 177° F to 244° F. Considerable study has been done regarding the feasibility of direct use heating systems in Carlin, based upon the temperature and yield of the Carlin Hot Springs area.

Gas

Southwest Gas
775.738.7138

Sewer

City of Elko
775.738.5176

Disposal

Elko Sanitation Company
775.738.3771

City of Carlin
775.754.6354

City of Wells
775.752.3355

Disposal (con't)

Ace Disposal
435.665.2302

City of Wendover
775.664.3081

Elko County Utilities

Telephone

Citizens Communications
775.738.0208

Propane

AmeriGas Propane
775.778.9444

Propane (con't)

Suburban Propane
775.738.3151

Wells Propane Inc
775.753.6788

Western States Propane
775.753.5950

Environmental Assistance

Nevada Small Business
Development Center
Business Environmental Program
775.689.6688

Public Health Environmental Control
775.887.2190

Water

Water Resources in the Elko Area: Municipal water supply in the bulk of Elko County is derived from groundwater resources, with Montello and Jarbidge being the exceptions. The Interstate-80 corridor communities derive their municipal supplies from groundwater, often tied to the Humboldt River and its tributaries as a recharge source. While most groundwater supplies are fully allocated through the water rights process, supplies in many areas are ready for development and beneficial use. For example, there is over 27,000 acre feet (an acre foot is 325,900 gallons, and supplies a family of four for one year) of groundwater is available and permitted in the Elko area, with the City of Elko holding over 18,000 acre-feet in water rights. In contrast, only 8,000-9,000 acre-feet are used annually within the basin. This allows plenty of room for residential and commercial growth in the City. The same story can be told for much of the rest of Elko County.

Water Quality: Overall water quality in most areas within the County is very good to excellent. One measure of quality often used by manufacturers is Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). EPA standard require TDS to be less than 1,000. Water in southern Nevada is often 700 to 800 TDS, where water in Elko is less than 350, and in Spring Creek, TDS is less than 275. Travelers to the area often remark upon how sweet tasting the water in the area is, compared to communities like Reno, LA, Las Vegas or Phoenix.

City of Elko
775.738.5176

City of Carlin
775.754.6354

City of Wendover
775.664.3081

Spring Creek Utilities
775.753.6880

City of Wells
775.752.3355

Telecommunications

Frontier Communications, Leading the Way on the Information Highway: Though Elko may seem rural, it is equipped with state-of-the-art Internet and data transport solutions through Frontier Communications, a Citizens Communications company. Frontier is one of the nation's largest independent telecommunications providers offering local, long distance, and Internet access services in 24 states over 2.4 million access lines.

High-Tech Capabilities: Elko's broadband offerings include ATM, Frame Relay, DSL, T-1, and Point-to-Point. These services range from low-speed 56-kilobit services all the way up to high-speed DS3 type circuits, which run at 50-megabit (millions of bits per second) speeds. In addition, Frontier offers direct fiber optic connectivity, which is the connection used at the Newmont mine site north of Carlin.

Switching Systems: The local switching systems consist of a Nortel-DMS100, which is capable of up to 100,000 access lines, of which 20,000 are presently being utilized. There are numerous remote digital switches located around Elko, Spring Creek, Lamoille, Ryndon and Osino. In addition, these digital services are offered to the cities of Wells, Carlin and Wendover.

Fiber Optics: The fiber optic network extends from west of Carlin to Elko, Spring Creek and Lamoille. There is also fiber connectivity all the way to Reno at an (Optical Circuit) OC-48 rate of speed or 2.4 gigabit, (a gigabit is billions of bits per second). This rate can be upgraded to an OC-192 if the need arises. The local fiber optic network consists of redundant optical rings, locally designed and implemented to protect the switching routes, and ultimately the customer's service. These redundant rings will automatically switch routing directions in case of a severed fiber.

Outstanding Service: According to Dan Hoover, engineering supervisor in the Mountain States Territory, Frontier Communications works very closely with their customers to serve individual needs and are always available to answer service availability questions. They can design customer networks and provide quotes for local customer required equipment depending on the specific customer needs. "With the continual advancement in telecommunications technology, Frontier is committed to providing the latest services and offerings available within the marketplace," Hoover said.

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