

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 5:15 PM  
**To:** 'Jim Jensen'  
**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. Jensen:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing the farm tap and natural gas supply for your home and farm operation. You will want to follow this docket as it is reviewed and new information is collected by the commission.

This Informational Guide may assist you in understanding why this docket was opened and the PUC's process:  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf>.

The commission held a hearing on Dec. 14 with testimony from Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy representatives and PUC staff. You can listen to the recording of the hearing by clicking on the link titled Recording under the Hearing heading in the docket, <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

PUC staff filed a letter on possibly resolving this matter, <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/ltr122016b.pdf>. As a commissioner, I will be voting on this docket. Therefore, your message and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket.

You are welcome to communicate with a PUC staff analyst or attorney working on this docket, and you may reach them by calling 1-800-332-1782 or 605-773-3201 or emailing [PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us).

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

000697

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**From:** John Mills

**Sent:** Tuesday, 03 January 2017 21:19:02 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

**To:** PUC

**Subject:** Submission for Docket Number NG16-014

PUC Commissioners,

I have done more research since my first inquiry about the "farm tap" issue and thought I would offer additional comment.

I read through several of the items on the docket. Of most interest were the Dec. 7 filings of the 2 parties 1) Northern Natural Gas (NNG) [12/07/16 - Initial Brief of Northern Natural Gas and Certificate of Service](#) and 2) Northwestern Energy (NWE) [12/07/16 - NorthWestern Energy's Brief in Response to Commission Staff's Petition for Declaratory Ruling](#) NNG's Brief is a bit hard to follow. NWE's Brief is much clearer. From my experience, clarity usually follows truth.

After reading both of these, my opinion is that Northern Natural Gas (NNG) is the one who has the on-going obligation to provide natural gas to farm tap customers. They are the ones who acquired the easement that included a provision to provide gas service - either directly or through their assigns. I received a copy of an easement from a constituent to verify that. It has pretty clear language and an on-going obligation from both parties to the easement for *"so long as such pipe lines, and appurtenances thereto, shall be maintained . . ."*

I think it should be NNG's responsibility to negotiate a continuation of service through NWE OR find a replacement for NWE. It's too bad these two companies are dragging end use customers into the fray when the issue seems to rest only with them.

I do not know what jurisdiction the PUC has in this matter, but to the extent you are able to do so, please insist on the continuation of the farm taps and needed gas service to those customers who were promised access to the pipeline and gas service for their farms as an inducement for agreeing to pipeline easements across their land.

Thanks,  
Representative Elect, John Mills, District 4

000698

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2017 10:22 AM

**To:** 'John Mills'

**Subject:** NG16-014

Representative-Elect Mills:

Thank you for your recent email message regarding the farm taps docket, NG16-014.

As you know, PUC staff filed a letter in the docket about meeting with Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy officials to discuss possible resolutions allowing continued natural gas service to the farm tap customers. I look forward to learning about the outcome of this meeting via the online docket and at the commission's next meeting on Jan. 17.

Your message and my response will be posted in the open, public docket at <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

000699

**From:** Crystal

**Sent:** Tuesday, 03 January 2017 17:04:43 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

**To:** PUC

**Subject:** NG16-014

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

Re: PUC Docket No. NG16-014

We are writing in regard to the above mentioned docket of the SD Public Utilities Commission.

Our concern is that service to our farm and home tap currently being provided by NorthWestern Energy is compromised because of their (NorthWestern Energy's) non-renewal of contract with Northern Natural Gas (NNG) and Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC).

If NNG does not pursue an alternative arrangement for us to continue to receive our natural gas services, our service will be discontinued as of December 31, 2017. Alternately, if NorthWestern Energy is allowed to give up a selection of farm taps, we will be without service for the intended natural gas usage at our farm and home that we've had available to us.

We prompt and encourage you to step in to assure there will be no interruption in our farm tap service.

Thank you for your help and attention to this matter.

Bob and Crystal Solomon

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Burbank, SD 57010

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*"Always leave the woodpile higher than you found it." ~ C.D. Miller*

000700

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2017 11:15 AM  
**To:** 'Crystal'  
**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. and Mrs. Solomon:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing the farm tap and natural gas supply for your home and farm. You will want to follow this docket as it is reviewed and new information is collected by the commission.

This Informational Guide may assist you in understanding why the PUC opened this docket and the commission's process: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf>.

The commission held a hearing on Dec. 14 with testimony from Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy representatives and PUC staff. You can listen to the recording of the hearing by clicking on the link titled Recording under the Hearing heading in the docket, <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

PUC staff filed a letter on possibly resolving this matter via a meeting with NNG and NW, <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/ltr122016b.pdf>. As a commissioner, I will be voting on this docket. Therefore, your message and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket.

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Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

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