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DEC 06 2016

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

To:

S. Dak. Public Utilities Commission

I am writing in regard to docket number NG16-014. My name is Ronald Schulz. Mailing address - [REDACTED] Fulton, S. Dak. 57340.

I am writing this since my mother ([REDACTED]) is currently in a nursing home. My son [REDACTED] is now living at [REDACTED] residence. He is the father of 2 girls age 16 + 8 yrs. of age. My son has custody of his 2 girls + they are living at the home that is being serviced by Northwestern Energy through Northern Natural Gas by their farm tap. This is there source of heat for the home.

Why are some of the farm taps being shut off, and some are not? Why would the S-Dak. Public Utilities Commission allow discontinuance of my utility service? Is it because we are small + don't use much gas? Shouldn't everyone small or large users of gas be treated equal? What if Walmart only sold to people spending ~~over~~ over 20⁰⁰ + not less? What if gas stations only sold gas if you bought more then 20⁰⁰? Aren't the cost of serving this farm tap in North Western Energy's rates?

By shutting some farm taps off and not all of them wouldn't this be discrimination? If we can't depend on you to help us small users of gas out, who can we depend on? I hope that you do the right thing + help everyone out, no just a select few. (con't)

000090

This notification of shutting of my mothers farm
tap by Dec. 31st 2016 in the middle of the winter
couldn't have come at a worse time, (right after Christmas also)
This natural gas is what my son + 2 children depend on for
heat. They live on a tight budget + if my mother comes
home from the nursing home, what do they do? A new
furnace + different source of heat is currently out of the question.

I hope you do your jobs + protect everyone from
the big companies not just a select few.

Thank you for your time + consideration

Sincerely

Ronald Schulz

Ronald Schulz

[REDACTED]
Fulton, S.D. 57340



S.Dak. Public Utilities Commission

500 E. Capitol Ave.

Pierre, S.Dak. 57501

5750135007 0012

000091



Chris Nelson, Chairperson
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
www.puc.sd.gov

Capitol Office
(605) 773-3201

Grain Warehouse
(605) 773-5280

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

Email
puc@state.sd.us

December 6, 2016

Ronald Schulz

[REDACTED]
Fulton SD 57340

Dear Mr. Schulz:

Thank you for your letter regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm taps and natural gas supply for your family's home. One important detail from your letter that must be corrected is that NorthWestern Energy's and Northern Natural Gas's contractual agreement ends on December, 31, 2017, not 2016 as your letter states. You can see NorthWestern's and Northern Natural Gas's letters filed in the online docket to verify this date.

I encourage you to follow along as this case is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. You can find the docket by going to the commission's home page at www.puc.sd.gov and clicking on Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Natural Gas Dockets, 2016 Natural Gas Dockets, and scroll down to docket NG16-014.

Since this is an open docket before the commission, your letter and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket for my fellow commissioners, the PUC staff analysts and attorney working on this docket, and others to read.

If you haven't already read it, the enclosed Informational Guide was prepared to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process and is posted on the commission's home page.

If you wish to communicate with a PUC staff member regarding this docket, please contact the commission by calling 1-800-332-1782 or 605-773-3201 or emailing PUC@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson

From: Chad Fennel

Sent: Monday, 05 December 2016 20:45:03 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC Docket Filings

Subject: Docket Number: ng16-014

Docket Number: ng16-014 Last Name: Fennel First Name: Chad Company: farm Address: [REDACTED]

Street City: Elk Point State: SD Zip: 57025 Phone: [REDACTED] Fax: Email:

[REDACTED] Comments: Docket NG16-014 To whom it may concern, I am writing you in response to the letters I received from Northern Natural Gas and Northwestern Energy wanting to discontinue the service to my farm tap. We ran the natural gas line over half a mile to our home, household appliances, corn dryer, and a shop. We depend on the reliability of the gas always being there for our family and business in time of need and warmth. Discontinuing the service would come at great stress and cost to our family and livelihood. Is it not a breach of contract to pull service from our farm tap? Please stand up for us on this issue, so that our service may not be discontinued. Help to broker a deal so that we may continue to benefit from the farm tap we paid for. Sincerely, Chad Fennel

000093

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 10:03 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: NG16-014

Mr. Fennel:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm taps and natural gas supply for your home and business. I encourage you to follow along as this case is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is a link to the online, public docket: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

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Chris Nelson, Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.sd.gov

000094

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 10:53 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: NG16-014

Mr. Evenson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm tap and natural gas supply. I encourage you to follow along as this case is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is a link to the online, public docket:

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

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Chris Nelson, Chairman

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

www.puc.sd.gov

000095



Chris Nelson, Chairperson
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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December 6, 2016

Terrill Folsland DPA
Kermit Folsland
[REDACTED]
Oldham SD 57051

Dear Folsland family:


Thank you for your letter regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm taps and natural gas supply for your home and farm. I encourage you to follow along as this case is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is the link to the online, public docket: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

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Sincerely,


Chris Nelson

000096

From: Shawn Sandnes

Sent: Tuesday, 06 December 2016 12:39:35 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: re: ng16-014 Steven Sandnes [REDACTED] Canton, SD

This farm tap service has been an extremely convenient service for our home. The pipeline provider laying service on our properties was also a convenience for the provider. The service agreed upon was that we would have tap service provided to our home and the gas line would be safe and warm under the ground that belongs to us. Providing customer service, customer care, billing and possibly some meter repair I would think be a minimal problem for yourselves or any new service provider as your gas line will still need to be serviced. My husband and I have discussed the steps we would be required to take to accommodate any new provider but here are thoughts on our side.

1. You will no longer provide this tap – we will request you move your line and service from our property.
2. You will no longer provide this tap – we will request monthly rent for your line on our property if you choose not to move.
3. You will no longer provide this tap- we request that you provide payment for all new hook ups required at our home and acreage for service from a tank.
4. You will no longer provide this tap- we will consider a class action law suit to determine just what further steps will be required not only for ourselves but all farm tap hook up owners that are receiving this information and decision making

The problem will taking something away that was promised is that the receiver usually has something that you need to keep your next

Promise to your next untruth.

We wish you well and look forward to more discussions on this issue

Steven & Shawn Sandnes

[REDACTED]
Canton, SD 57013

[REDACTED] - Steve

[REDACTED] - Shawn

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From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 2:19 PM

To: 'Shawn Sandnes'

Subject: NG16-014

Mr. and Mrs. Sandnes:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm taps and natural gas supply. I encourage you to follow along as this case is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is a link to the online, public docket:

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

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Chris Nelson, Chairman

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

www.puc.sd.gov

From: Mary Garry

Sent: Tuesday, 06 December 2016 15:39:59 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: Northwestern

Docket Number NG16-014

Stanley and Mary Garry

[REDACTED]

Colton, SD 57018

Stanley, [REDACTED]

Mary, [REDACTED]

These comments are in regards to the letters we received from Northwestern Energy and Northern Natural Gas notifying us our natural gas service could be discontinued in 2017. From what we understand, this is a contractual issue between those two parties that they cannot resolve on their own. Because they can't come to agreement, we and many more in South Dakota will suffer.

As we both approach retirement, the last thing we need is the added expense of converting from natural gas to propane or electric. When the easement across our land was granted, it was done for the betterment of all of South Dakota and it provided for a tap in any gas pipeline constructed upon our premises for domestic purposes. I am certain landowners at the time would not have granted the easements if they were not promised natural gas service. What other incentive would they have had? The monetary compensation was certainly not enough. I have attached a copy of that easement.

The PUC should honor the easement granted by Northern Natural Gas providing for access to natural gas on our property. It is the PUC's job to make sure customers are treated fairly and allowing our natural gas service to be discontinued is anything but. It is not fair to let either company wash their hands of the situation and simply discontinue service.

Pipestone, Minn.

Know All Men by These Presents:

9
18-75-42-2640

That

of the County of Minnehaha and State of South Dakota for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per lineal rod, receipt of One Dollar (\$1.00) of which consideration is hereby acknowledged and balance of which is to be paid when and as the location of pipe lines over and through the lands hereinafter described shall be established, surveyed and measured, and the further consideration of the performance of the covenants and agreements by the grantee, as hereinafter set out and expressed, do hereby GRANT, REMISE and RELINQUISH unto NORTHERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY, a Delaware corporation, its successors or assigns, the RIGHT, PRIVILEGE and EASEMENT to construct, maintain and operate pipe lines, and appurtenances thereto, over and through the following described lands and appurtenances thereunto belonging, including riparian rights, situated in the County of Minnehaha and State of South Dakota, to-wit:

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto said NORTHERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY, its successors and assigns, so long as such pipe lines, and appurtenances thereto, shall be maintained, together with the right of ingress to and egress from said premises, for the purpose of constructing, inspecting, repairing, maintaining and replacing the property of the grantee located thereon, or the removal thereof, in whole or in part, at the will of the grantee; it being the intention of the parties hereto that grantor s are hereby granting the uses herein specified without divesting grantor of the rights to use and enjoy said above described premises, subject only to the right of the grantee to use the same for the purposes herein expressed.

As a further consideration for this grant, the grantee herein agrees as follows:

- (1) That it will bury all line pipe laid upon said land to a sufficient depth so as not to interfere with the cultivation of the soil.
- (2) That it will pay to grantor any damages which may arise to growing crops, trees, shrubbery, fences or buildings from the construction, maintenance or operation of said pipe lines, said damages, if not mutually agreed upon, to be ascertained and determined by three disinterested persons, one of whom shall be appointed by the grantor, one by the grantee, and the third to be selected by the two appointed as aforesaid, and the written award of such three persons shall be final, conclusive and binding upon the parties hereto.
- (3) That grantee, upon written application by the grantor, will make, or cause to be made, a tap in any gas pipe line constructed by grantee upon the above described premises for the purpose of supplying gas to grantor, for domestic purposes only and not for re-sale, and for use upon the above described premises only. All connections required, shall be furnished and paid for by Grantor with the exception of the meter, which is to be furnished and owned by the Grantee. Said tap will be provided by grantee from a convenient point on its main line or some lateral as the grantee may determine, and gas to be taken under this provision shall be measured and furnished to the grantor at the rates and upon the terms as may be established by grantee, or by any vendee of grantee, from time to time.
- (4) That grantee will replace or rebuild to the satisfaction of grantors or of their representative any and all damaged parts of all drainage systems, the damage to which shall be occasioned by the construction of said pipe lines under and through the above described premises.

This instrument, and the covenants and agreements herein contained, shall inure to the benefit of and be binding and obligatory upon the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the respective parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands this 30th day of Jan, 19 58

[Signature]

Right of Way Agent.

From: PUC

Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 8:54 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: NG16-014

Mr. and Mrs. Garry:

Thank you for your message and easement regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm taps and natural gas supply. I encourage you to follow along as this case is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is a link to the online, public docket:

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Chris Nelson, Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
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