

I
Dear sons:

I received, in recent months, notices from "Northern Natural Gas" and from "Northwestern Energy"

Both appear to be an announcement that "Northwestern" wants to renegotiate contracts with farm customers - to provide farm gas service to any farmer, ^{owning the land through which their pipeline passed.} about a decade ago, I considered buying stock in Northwestern Energy. I quickly came to the conclusion that Northwestern Energy was not a good investment, so I did not pursue the matter. N.W. Energy appeared to lack good management.

Time passed, and apparently North Western Energy acquired the pipeline - or at least, acquired the farm customers on the Pipeline route.

For the 50 years + that I have had gas hookup with the pipeline, using it for house heating and also, occasional a natural gas fueled corn dryer.

As I was informed - some 50 years ago - every farm which was crossed by the pipeline was offered natural gas service when the farmer gave the pipeline company an easement allowing construction of the pipeline.

Now, it appears, a successor to Iowa Public Service & Mid America ^{Energy Co.} ~~Public Service~~ wants to renege on the agreement to service the farms through which the pipeline was laid.

This is infuriating. It violates the agreement between the farmers and the ~~gas~~ (original) supplier.

Clearly, this ^{action of ceasing service} would abrogate the responsibility of any successor company. I resent that NWE has decided to "Cease service" to me.

I suspect that they are gambling that every customer would be willing to continue

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gas service as before, but with a much higher rate than has been in effect from Day ONE of the easement.

Incidentally, when my farm's previous owner was approached by NWE to acquire from the landowner, permission to build a gas building on my property, the family, ^{who owned the farm,} in exchange for \$150, ~~the~~ would "borrow" the square footage needed, to construct the building, to the gas company.

I believe the agreement did not specify how long the land could be used.

If NWE wants to renegotiate the terms of the price of gas ("X" \$ per 1000 cubic feet) I will probably ~~ask~~ notify them that their permitted time of "borrowing" the use of my land upon which to build the needed building would be terminated, ~~at~~ within a similar amount of time.

THIS MATTER MUST BE DEALT WITH - USING COMMON SENSE ALL AROUND

It seems to me that ANY change in the original agreement would have to require every one's consent.

Sincerely Russell Graham

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THIS MATTER MUST BE DEALT WITH - USING COMMON SENSE ALL AROUND

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(OVER)

Sincerely Russell Graham

P.S. an afterthought:

It seems to me that the SD P.O.C. is perhaps not the medium wherein to litigate a dispute between a landowner & the entity providing natural gas service to farms through which the natural gas company's pipelines run. Maybe the responsibility to maintain the service rests with Warren Buffett and his Berkshire-Hathaway Corp. We might have to have a "class-action" lawsuit. 000951

P.P.S. I am in possession of the original "Abstract of Title" of my farm. It includes every entry up to the 1950s which would include entries re road easements; easement from the Nelson family, from whom I bought the farm; easement re the pipeline, the Gas building ~~re~~ which was constructed on my property (the building has control valves on pipeline heading toward Centerville.)

I want to attend any P.U.C. information meeting, in Pierre, Huron or elsewhere. If needed, I can offer some specific comments regarding the unique matters which are unique to my situation, yet perhaps pertinent to the overall matters.

Thank you

Russel Graham

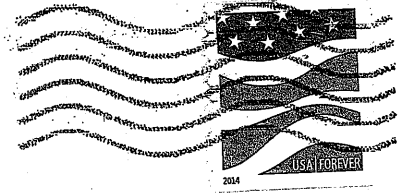
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FEB 21 2017
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Russel Graham

[REDACTED]
Beresford SD 57004

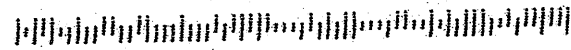
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S. D. Public Utilities Comm.
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre
S. D. 57501

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

February 21, 2017

Russel Graham

[REDACTED]

Beresford, SD 57004

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter regarding the farm taps matter which is an open case, referenced as docket NG16-014, before the commission.

I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm tap and natural gas supply.

Since this is an open docket before the commission and one on which my fellow commissioners and I will be voting, your letter and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket online for all commissioners, the parties involved in the docket, the PUC staff analysts and attorney working on this docket, and others to read. By visiting the PUC's website at www.puc.sd.gov, you can read the documents filed by Northern Natural Gas, NorthWestern Energy, the PUC staff, many farm tap customers, and others. Click on Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Natural Gas Dockets, 2016 Natural Gas Dockets, and then scroll down to NG16-014. You can listen to a recording of the hearing held Dec. 14, read the orders issued as well as several documents filed thus far by parties to the docket. The agendas for future commission meetings are also posted on the PUC's website, so I encourage you to monitor this so you can follow along by attending or listen via the webcast.

The enclosed Informational Guide was prepared to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process.

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

Sincerely,

Kristie Fiegen

Kristie Fiegen

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FEB 21 2017

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 15, 2017

Ms. Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson

Public Utilities Commission

Capitol Building, 1st Floor

500 E. Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. Fiegen,

I need your help.

I need the Commission's ruling on farm taps dated January 24, and it does not reassure me that I will have continued and uninterrupted gas service. It appears to declare Northwestern Energy as a regulated public utility, which is fine. But it lets Northern Natural Gas off the regulatory hook, even though they promised farm tap users natural gas service in exchange for easements. Further, Northwest stated in PUC testimony they were responsible to supply the farm tap users when asked directly.

We elect the members of the Public Utilities Commission to make sure consumers are protected and ensure safe, reliable utility service for consumers. Therefore, I am looking to you, Chairperson Fiegen, to tell me what steps you will take to ensure that my natural gas

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Service will not be interrupted.

The Public Utilities Commission obviously has the authority to require Northwestern and Northern to continue gas service to our homes. So please do it. Utilities have to be willing to serve every body, and it seems that Northwestern and Northern have forgotten that. You are the Public Utilities Commission, and you are there to make sure everyone has the utilities they need.

I look forward to hearing from you as to what happens now. Will you open a new docket concerning extending natural gas service for farm taps, negotiate with Northwestern, Northern or other gas supplier, or issue one or more orders to keep our natural gas service available? Will you ask the Attorney General to initiate litigation on our behalf?

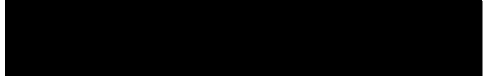
Lastly, let me know what I might do to assist you in this task.

Sincerely,


(LINDA LAWE)


Mission Hill, SD 57046


Love



Mission Hill SD
57046

LOS ANGELES CA 900

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Ms. Kristie Frazier, Chairperson
PUC
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501

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February 15, 2017

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FEB 21 2017
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. Gary Hanson, Vice Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I need your help.

I need the Commission's ruling on farm taps dated January 24, and it does not reassure me that I will have continued and uninterrupted natural gas service. It appears to declare Northwestern Energy as a regulated public utility, which is fine. But it lets Northern Natural Gas off the regulatory hook, even though they promised the farm tap users natural gas services in exchange for easements. Further, Northern stated in PUC testimony they were responsible to supply the farm tap users when asked directly.

We elect the members of the Public Utilities Commission to make sure consumers are protected and ensure safe, reliable utility service for consumers. Therefore, I am looking to you, Vice Chairman Hanson, to tell me what steps you will take to ensure that my natural gas service will not be interrupted.

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The Public Utilities Commission obviously has the authority to require Northwestern and Northern to continue natural gas service to our homes. So please do it. Utilities have to be willing to serve everybody, and it seems that Northwestern and Northern have forgotten that. You are the Public Utility Commission, and you are there to make sure that everyone has the utilities they need.

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Lastly, let me know what I might do to assist you in this task.

Sincerely,
JMS

(LINDA LAKE)

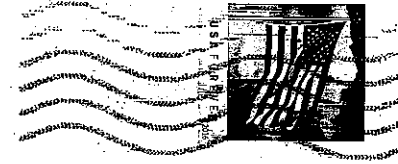
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Mission Hill, SD 57046

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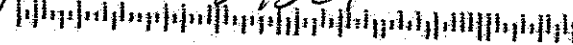
Mr. Gary Hanson, Vice Chairman
PAC

Capitol Building, 1st Floor

500 E Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

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February 15, 2017

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FEB 21 2017

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. Chris Nelson, Commissioner
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1ST Floor
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Nelson

I need your help.

I read the COMMISSION'S ruling on farm taps dated January 24, and it does not reassure me that I will have continued and uninterrupted natural gas service. It appears to declare Northwestern Energy as a regulated public utility, which is fine. But it lets Northern Natural Gas off the regulatory hook, even though they promised the farm tap users natural gas service in exchange for assessments. Further, Northern stated in PUC testimony they were ~~unable~~ possible to supply the farm tap users when asked directly.

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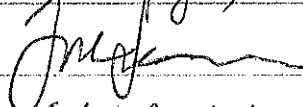
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Sincerely,

(LINDA LANE)

Missouri, Hall, SD 57046

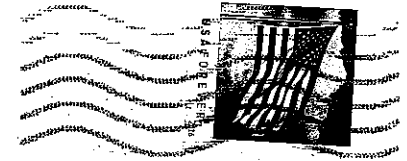

Love



Mission Hill, SD
57046

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15 FEB 2017 PM 3 L



Mr. Chris Nelson, Chairman
PUC
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
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