
From: [REDACTED]
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To: PUC Docket Filings
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Docket Number: NG16-014

Date: November 28, 2016 To: SD Public Utilities Commission From:
Steve and Donelle DeRaad [REDACTED] Alcester SD 57001

Subject: NG16-014 Farm Tap

We are writing in regards to NG16-014 Farm Tap. Let me tell you that my wife and I were highly upset when we read that as of December 31, 2017 this may no longer be the case, and is very disturbing. Does not NorthWestern's Pipeline farm tap service qualify them as a public utility, and make them subject to the Commission's authority? Is it fair that NorthWestern Energy keep some of it's customers and not others? I read my own meter, so how is that a cost to NorthWestern Energy?

To give you a little history of what happened in May 2016 when NorthWestern Energy informed us that we had a leak in the gas line that went from the meter to the house. NorthWestern Energy shut off the service that day to us and our neighbors house. Intern we paid about \$6000.00 dollars to replace the line and upgrade the system. My Wife talked to the person at NorthWestern Energy because we needed to decide if we needed to get Propane installed we were freezing. He insured my wife that the gas company was not going anywhere because they were the ?Gas Company?.

We believe that whether the farm tap pulls from the gathering system or transmission lines, it is regulated by the Commission as a public utility. For the Commission to come to any other conclusion is wrong and would allow a public utility with a gas gathering system to escape regulation. We believe that the farm tap service is indeed a public utility service, and subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission.

This issue is a good example of what happens when Utility Companies, or large corporations, are allowed to control the market. It gets thrown out of kilter because of corporate political influence and greed. When decisions are made not on the basis of the people, or the state's needs, but only on the bottom line it no longer serves the people. We need to follow the example set by the Montana Public Service Commission. The Havre Pipeline Co ., largely owned by ?NorthWestern Energy?, must continue to supply its rural customers with natural gas. Link to Montana Ruling <http://psc.mt.gov/Docs/ElectronicDocuments/pdfFiles/D2015332FO7413b.pdf> Link to Harvre Daily News <http://www.havredailynews.com/story/2016/03/21/local/northwestern-loses-havre-pipeline-case/508063.html>

Please help to resolve this issue. Thank you, Steve and Donelle DeRaad