



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](http://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](mailto:puc@state.sd.us)

December 22, 2016

Ella Layne  
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Layne:

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.

The commission held a hearing on this matter last week, with testimony provided by Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy officials as well as PUC staff members. My fellow commissioners and I stated at the close of this hearing that we would take this matter up again at our first commission meeting of the new year.

However, a letter was filed in the docket by PUC staff yesterday and here is an excerpt:

*"Staff hereby informs the Commission and interested persons that Staff, Northern Natural Gas, and NorthWestern Energy have agreed to enter into discussions to negotiate for the benefit of the farm tap customers. In order to allow adequate time to have these discussions, we request that the Commission delay its decision until the regularly scheduled Commission meeting on January 17, 2017, rather than January 3, as previously intended. Staff, as the petitioner in this matter, hereby waives the 60-day requirement pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:35. Staff has communicated with Northern, NorthWestern, and Montana-Dakota Utilities, and has received their consent to submit this request."*

I encourage you to follow along as this matter is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. You can find the public docket by going to the commission's home page at [www.puc.sd.gov](http://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. If you do not have internet access, please feel free to call Jason Schuchard again or another member of the PUC Consumer Affairs staff for an update.

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

The enclosed Informational Guide is 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 member regarding this docket, please contact the commission by calling 1-800-332-1782 or 605-773-3201 or emailing [PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us).

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson