From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:48 AM

To:

Subject: NG16-014

Ms. Masterson:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. You reference January 3, 2016 as the discontinuation effective date. However, NorthWestern Energy stated it intends to provide service through December 31, 2017. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm tap and natural gas. I encourage you to follow along as this docket is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission.

If you haven't already read it, here is an Informational Guide to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process: <a href="http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf">http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf</a>.

The commission held a hearing last week with testimony provided by Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy officials as well as PUC staff members. You may wish to listen to the recording of the Dec. 14 four-hour hearing. Click on the Recording link under the Hearing subhead in the docket: <a href="http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx">http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx</a>.

My fellow commissioners and I will take this matter up again at our first commission meeting of the new year, Jan. 3, 2017. Since this is an open docket on which I will be voting, your message and my response are posted under Comments and Responses for all to read.

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

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