

From: PUC
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2016 11:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Otten, Ernie
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NG16-014

Senator Otten:

Thank you for your message with the attached letter from constituents Aaron and Cary Gerdes regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand the concerns of the Gerdes family and others in the possibility of losing their farm taps and natural gas supply. I encourage all affected by this to monitor the PUC's docket as it is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission.

The commission held a hearing last week with testimony provided by Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy officials as well as PUC staff members. It is not correct that the PUC is leaning against the landowners. As was made clear during the hearing, my fellow commissioners and I are gravely concerned about these landowners and their natural gas supply. The recording of the Dec. 14 four-hour hearing is available on the PUC's website. Click on the Recording link under the Hearing subhead in the docket: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

This Informational Guide was designed to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf>.

PUC staff recently filed an update on progress in resolving this matter that can be found at <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/ltr122016b.pdf>. 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, Mr. and Mrs. Gerdes, or other constituents wish to communicate with a PUC staff member working 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
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