

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

ATTN:

Kristie Fiigen
Gary Hanson
Chris Nelson

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JAN 03 2016

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

This letter is in regards to our disappointment with Northwestern Energy's decision to discontinue serving farm taps in our area. We recently installed new gas line from our home to the meter which was a cost of \$1270.⁰⁰ to us thinking that we would continue to have natural gas to heat our home. We would hope that you as the PUC would take some action with Northwestern Energy as it affects a lot of our neighbors who heat their homes, heat their hog confinements, dry their corn, heat their shops or businesses.

We did attend a meeting that Northern Natural Gas Co. put on in Madison, S.D. on December 15, 2016 to talk about this issue and we felt like they, Northern Natural Gas Co, were not giving us the whole story. Northwestern Energy did state in a letter we received that we have a right to receive natural gas services pursuant to our easement.

The following questions are of concern:

- 1) Why would the PUC allow discontinuance of my utility service?

- 2) Why would my farm tap be shut off while some of Northwestern Energy's other farm tap customers continue to receive service?
- 3) Why doesn't our original easement assure us of a farm tap usage?
- 4) If this is a disagreement between Northern Natural Gas and Northwestern Energy, can another supplier be found to replace Northwestern Energy?

The consideration of shutting off these farm taps is unprecedented.

Hopefully this issue can be resolved favorably for all parties involved and that you as the PUC would explore all options.

Thank-you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

Kirk + Cheryl Rikonsrud

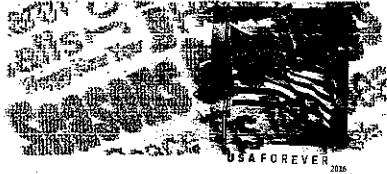
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