

From: PUC
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 12:10 PM
To: 'Arthur Rusch'
Cc: Anderson, David; Otten, Ernie
Subject: NG16-014

Sen. Rusch:

Thank you for your letter relaying concerns from your constituents regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand the concern of possibly losing the farm taps and natural gas supply. I encourage all affected by this to monitor the PUC's docket as it is reviewed and information continues to be gathered and added 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. 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 filed an update on progress in resolving this matter this week:

<http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/ltr122016b.pdf>. 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.

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 or any of your 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
www.puc.sd.gov