

December 18, 2016

Northwestern Energy  
600 Market St. W.  
Huron, SD 57350

Northwestern Energy  
3010 W 69<sup>th</sup> St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Chris Nelson, Chairman  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
Capitol Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
500 E. Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 21 2016  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Leslie Heineman

[REDACTED]

Matt Wollmann

[REDACTED]

Jordan Youngberg

[REDACTED]

Greetings,

This letter is in regard to a letter dated November 23<sup>rd</sup> from Northern Natural Gas stating that Northwestern Energy provided notice that it will cease providing natural gas utility service to the farm tap of John & JoAnn Sherman, [REDACTED].

This letter and the meeting hosted by Northern Natural Gas on December 15<sup>th</sup> are the only source of information we have received regarding this action. I have not received a good explanation as to what is the reason for this action at my parents' farm.

My understanding and concern is that there is not date defined for a SD Public Utilities Commission ruling on this proposal. Customers affected by this discontinuance may not have time to prepare a proper argument as to why this would be against the easement on their property and their right to receive continued natural gas services.

Discontinuance of services will cause undue hardship in expense and inconvenience if it becomes necessary to switch to alternative fuel sources.

I am requesting written response from Northwestern Energy, the SD Public Utilities Commission and Legislators of District 8 Heineman, Wollmann and Youngberg addressing these concerns in addition to answers for the following questions:

If access to the natural gas remains without servicing of the farm tap, are the costs of serving the tap currently included in the Northwestern Energy rates?

If access to the natural gas remains without servicing of the farm tap, who would I call to investigate possible leaks and who would respond to emergencies?

Why will some farm taps continue to receive service and this one will not? Why are some exempt from this ruling?

Why would the SD PUC allow discontinuance of any utility service?

I appreciate your prompt attention with the responses I have requested. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randall J. Sherman, Trustee of John & O. JoAnn Sherman Legacy Land Trust

[REDACTED]

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Jordan Youngberg

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Greetings,

This letter is in regard to a letter dated November 23<sup>rd</sup> from Northern Natural Gas stating that Northwestern Energy provided notice that it will cease providing natural gas utility service to the farm tap of John & JoAnn Sherman, 43562 232<sup>nd</sup> St., Howard, SD 57349.

This letter and the meeting hosted by Northern Natural Gas on December 15<sup>th</sup> are the only source of information we have received regarding this action. I have not received a good explanation as to what is the reason for this action at our farm.

My understanding and concern is that there is not date defined for a SD Public Utilities Commission ruling on this proposal. Customers affected by this discontinuance may not have time to prepare a proper argument as to why this would be against the easement on their property and their right to receive continued natural gas services.

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Why would the SD PUC allow discontinuance of any utility service?

I appreciate your prompt attention with the responses I have requested. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John & O. JoAnn Sherman

[REDACTED]

*John Sherman*