



Chris Nelson, Chairperson  
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson  
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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December 30, 2016

Roger W. Sherman  
Trustee of John & O. JoAnn Sherman Legacy Land Trust

Dear Mr. Sherman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing farm taps and natural gas supply to the property to which you are a trustee.

The commission held a hearing on this matter on December 14, 2016, with testimony provided by Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy officials as well as PUC staff members. My fellow commissioners and I stated at the close of this hearing that we would take this matter up again at our first commission meeting of the new year, Jan. 3, 2017.

However, a letter was filed in the docket by PUC staff on December 20, 2016 and 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. Staff has communicated with Northern, NorthWestern, and Montana-Dakota Utilities, and has received their consent to submit this request."*

You can find the public docket on which I will be voting, your letter and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses for my fellow commissioners, the PUC staff analysts and attorney working on this docket, and other to read.

If you haven't already read it, the enclosed Informational Guide was prepared to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process and is posted on the commission's home page.

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

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson