



Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson
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Chris Nelson, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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January 5, 2017

General Manager Jeff Manthei
Star Energy
PO Box 790
Manson, IA 50563-0790

Dear Mr. Manthei:

Thank you for your letter regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I appreciate your offer to provide natural gas to propane conversion equipment along with propane service to the farm tap customers in South Dakota affected by this docket if under a very unfortunate circumstance this matter cannot be successfully resolved.

You are likely following the progress of this docket and are aware of an upcoming meeting involving PUC staff along with officials from Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy. Here is an excerpt from a letter filed by PUC staff's in the docket.

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 by going to the commission's home page at www.puc.sd.gov and clicking on Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Natural Gas Dockets, 2016 Natural Gas Dockets, and scroll down to docket NG16-014.

Since this is an open docket before the commission 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 working on this docket, and others to read.

Sincerely,


Chris Nelson