

August 14, 2017

Mrs. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utility Commission
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: South Dakota Farm Tap Customer

Executive Secretary:

As a Northern farm tap customer, I am glad that MidAmerican Energy has approached the SD PUC as a possible and in my opinion logical replacement to NorthWestern Energy. Cloverleaf Farms has three farm taps and farms on top of 2 ¼ miles of Northern Natural Gas pipeline. MidAmerican services the town of Elk Point natural gas as well as surrounding communities. Cloverleaf Farms has a farm tap service with MidAmerican on the Northern Natural pipeline as well.

I do have some concerns that I hope the SD PUC can bring to the forefront tomorrow at the Commission meeting. They would be:

1. Length of contract between Northern and MidAmerican because we as consumers had no idea of the previous contract.
2. The cost of the increased services that MidAmerican would provide and are they necessary? Thirty years of providing gas through farm taps has had how many problems?
3. As prior agreement with Northern and Northwestern, odorization is a important priority as private contractors do not have that specialized expertise.
4. Private pipeline safety requirements of the state of South Dakota would be followed by the farm tap customers not a new set of requirements as we are the owners of the pipeline from meter to end use and therefore the customer has the liability of the line.
5. As the SD PUC is the regulator for the utilizes of South Dakota and Berkshire Hathaway owns Northern Natural Gas and MidAmerican Energy, we request as farm tap customers that we would have no different responsibilities or natural gas pricing than an urban or town natural gas customer.

Thank you for your considerations and we do appreciate the effort of both MidAmerican and SD PUC.

Sincerely,

Bill Curry
Cloverleaf Farms