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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 8:33 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm tap and natural gas supply. I encourage you to follow along as this docket is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is a link to the online, public docket:

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

Since this is an open docket before the commission, your message and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket for my fellow commissioners, the PUC staff analysts and attorney working on this docket, and others to read.

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

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

If you wish to communicate with a PUC staff member 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](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us).

Chris Nelson, Chairman

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

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**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. Flood:

Senator Jim White contacted me and relayed your concerns regarding the farm taps. Thank you for the follow up letter regarding how important this natural gas service is for your home and farm. You will want to monitor this docket, NG16-014, as it is processed with the gathering of information by the commission:

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

Since this is an open, docket on which I will be voting, your message and this response will become part of the public record for my fellow commissioners, the PUC staff and others to access.

This Informational Guide was designed to guide farm tap customers such as you with this docket and the PUC's process:

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

If you have questions, please contact a staff member working on this docket by calling the PUC at 1-800-332-1782 or 605-773-3201 or emailing [PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us).

Commissioner Gary Hanson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

December 10, 2016

PUC  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 14 2016  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

To PUC Commissioners and staff,

My name is Scott A. Nilson and I am writing in regards to the letter sent out November 10, 2016. The comments are in reference to docket number NG 16-014. "In the Matter of Commission Staff's Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Farm Tap Customers".

We have one farm tap on the interstate pipeline in which to my understanding an easement was given to go across five of our fields. To my understanding, neither Northern Natural Gas or Northwestern Energy have the right to terminate this agreement with customers that use the tap and pay their bills. If this is their right, then the land owners should have the right to cut off Northern's easements rights. We didn't go looking for them to use our land, they came to us. Furthermore, if by updated law, there needs to be a company to be responsible for the service of farm taps, it could be a small price for Northern to pay to have continued easements for their pipelines.

We only have a farm house on that farm tap and have recently put in a new furnace. Farm tap is approximately 200-250 feet long and to my knowledge, we haven't had any issues with it. It runs through a grove and lawn, not a field.

Option 1, in my opinion shouldn't even be on the table as an option for consideration. If that were the case, how much land would Northern have been given the right to access if there wasn't anything in it for the farmer. We know that answer. And if that option is used, then you are telling us we've just been used for nothing and have our taken rights away.

Sincerely,

*Scott A. Nilson*

Scott A. Nilson  
[REDACTED]  
Hawarden, IA 51023

Email address: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

000436



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**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 9:09 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. Nilson:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm tap and natural gas supply. I encourage you to follow along as this docket is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is a link to the online, public docket:  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

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Chris Nelson, Chairman  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 14 2016**

December 10, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

I am writing in response to the North Western Energy letter concerning Docket NG16-014, entitled "In the Matter of Commission Staff's Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Farm Tap Customers", which may affect my future natural gas service and my farm tap. I would like the farm tap to remain the way it has been for the last 40 years. It will cost me \$250 to change my furnace to propane, and around \$1,000 to buy a tank regulator and run a line, and I will have to pay more for my heat on top of those costs. I think it is the job of the Public Utilities Commission to protect the customers like myself and others, and to help me keep my farm tap. I feel that since the line goes through my property and I provide an easement, I should keep my farm tap.

Thank You,

Roger Phillips

[REDACTED]  
Brookings, SD 57006

Home - [REDACTED]

Cell - [REDACTED]

E-mail - [REDACTED]

000438

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**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 9:07 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. Phillips:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm tap and natural gas supply. I encourage you to follow along as this docket is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission. Here is a link to the online, public docket:  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

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Chris Nelson, Chairman  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)