

**From:** Leona McInerney [REDACTED]

**Date:** December 16, 2016 at 10:05:48 PM CST

**To:** <[chris.nelson@state.sd.us](mailto:chris.nelson@state.sd.us)>, <[kristie.fiegen@state.sd.us](mailto:kristie.fiegen@state.sd.us)>, <[gary.hanson@state.sd.us](mailto:gary.hanson@state.sd.us)>

**Subject:** Northern Natural Gas/Northwestern Energy

Member of the PUC board,

We are a life-long Union County farm family, who is in need of your help. We have received two registered letters one from Northern Natural Gas and the other one from Northwestern Energy. In these notifications we have learned that there is a very real possibility of losing our natural gas farm tap.

We know this matter has been brought in front of you for consideration for what reason, we do not fully understand. We have an easement dated July of 1931 assuring us that because of a pipeline constructed under our farm land that we would forever have a farm tap and natural gas for our personal use.

It is very hard to figure out for what conceivable reason Northwestern Energy a, public utility, would have to discontinue supplying a very necessary commodity to over 195 South Dakota farm residents, tax payers, and voters. These people have homes with furnaces and hot water heaters, livestock facilities, grain dryers and storage units, irrigation motors, and equipment shops all utilizing their farm tap natural gas. When we made improvements to our farmsteads, we always had several options on what power source to use and we made that choice to be natural gas, never ever thinking that at a stroke of a pen it would no longer be available to us.

Now the trust we put in having a perpetual supply of natural gas may be taken away because of two corporations that are in some sort of contractual dispute and we will be the collateral damage. Our numbers are small but each one of these farm families will suffer untold inconveniences, great cost for conversion of equipment, and possibly loss of personal property if they are unable to afford to change energy sources.

The bottom line in this matter to us is not which corporation is right or wrong, but that you, as the PUC, consider the great impact the lose of each one of the 195 farm taps would make in the lives of these families. We South Dakotan's believed in the natural gas line back in the 30's and 50's when easements were signed and now to find out that we can lose our much needed service is life changing in so many ways. We implore you to find a way to rectify the problems that are before you, but without us losing our very necessary farm tap.

000465

Craig McInerney

Leona McInerney

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██████████  
Elk Point, SD 57025

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 18 December 2016 15:13:02 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: Natural Gas Farm Tap

[REDACTED]  
Marla Henderson

[REDACTED]  
Centerville, SD 57014  
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern: Please do not allow discontinuance of farm tap service to my home.

I had a leak in the line the first part of May and had gas shut off.

After much thought and consideration of my other options and expense, I chose to replace the line that extended out into the middle of a field.

Due to weather conditions the line could not be trenched in until the end of June.

Until that time I made other arrangements to cook, shower and do laundry.

If it had been a different time of year, I would have had to find another way to heat my home.

I spent all of my savings to replace the line and have scraped to pay my bills since.

I could not begin to replace my appliances and pay plumbers to change my furnace to use propane or go electric.

PLEASE do not allow the discontinuance of farm tap services.

000467

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**From:** David McDonald

**Sent:** Saturday, 17 December 2016 12:05:20 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

**To:** PUC

**Subject:** docket NG16-014 Farm Tap Customers

This letter is in regards to the proposed regulation that would result in disconnection of service to our long-standing natural gas farm tap. A discontinuation of service would have a detrimental effect on my immediate and extended family as well as four agri-businesses.

Our one farm tap serves three households: my wife and I, our son and his fiance, as well as my sister and brother-in-law and niece. This same farm tap also services four business: my family farm operation including grain drying, my son-in-law's trucking operation, my son's Precision Planting business, and our seed corn dealership.

I have done the research and found the expense to convert to propane would be costly for one household, and a financial hardship, especially in today's ag economy, to convert three households and four businesses.

My grandparents signed the pipeline easement in 1956 under the understanding the farm site would receive natural gas service going forward indefinitely. Pursuant to that easement, my family and I have the right to receive natural gas service. It is the Public Utility Commission's duty as a publicly elected body to uphold its districts rights and to go to bat for its district if those rights are threatened or infringed.

My family and I are calling on you, our elected representatives, to step up to the plate and ensure our access to and receipt of natural gas continues as it has for decades.

David McDonald

 Huron SD 57350

000468

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**From:** Rhonda Thull [Rhonda Thull](#) [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 16 December 2016 07:47:32 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

**To:** PUC

**Subject:** NG16-014

Please take my letter into consideration.

Sincerely,

Duane Hojer

000469

**From:** Duane Hojer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2016 7:42 AM  
**Subject:** NG16-014 comments

NG16-014

Duane Hojer

[REDACTED]  
Oldham, SD 57051

Email: [REDACTED]

cell phone: [REDACTED]

Dear South Dakota Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing you in response to the letters I have received on the Northern Natural Gas and North Western Energy. To give you a little back ground the natural gas line crosses our land in 5 different places. The first tap was put in 1956 at that time my folks were building a new house and they hooked them up for the house and dryer bin. Since then another tap was installed that services two more of our farms. Both the houses and dryer bins are run off of the natural gas at both farms from the second tap. So in total we have two taps servicing three farms. We use it from Dryer bins, clothes dryers and heating our houses. We really like the Natural Gas and we DO NOT WANT TO LOOSE IT! I hope you take my comments into consideration at your hearing on December 14, 2016.

Sincerely,  
Duane Hojer

000470

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**From:** David Hiebert

**Sent:** Thursday, 15 December 2016 21:29:48 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

**To:** PUC

**Subject:** Docket NG16-014

David Hiebert

Hiebert Farms, LLC

[REDACTED]  
Carpenter SD 57322  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

We have had a farm tap for many years. It is in the original easement that if we wanted to at any time we could tap into Northern's pipeline. That is a right that is still valid today and I think it is the responsibility of the SD PUC to enforce that wording in the agreement. I don't care who bills me for the gas. Just make sure that someone does.

Thank You.

000471

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 3:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. and Mrs. McInerney:

Thank you for your latest message about the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your confusion since this is a complex matter with a great deal of history. I also appreciate your concern about the outcome since this involves natural gas supply for your home and farm, as it does for many South Dakotans.

The commission held a hearing last week with testimony provided by Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy officials as well as PUC staff members. Here is the Petition for Declaratory Ruling and Staff Memorandum to help you understand the reason the PUC staff requested opening this docket in an attempt to investigate and solve this matter:

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

You may also wish to listen to the recording of the Dec. 14 four-hour hearing. Click on the Recording link under the Hearing subhead in the docket: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

My fellow commissioners and I will take this matter up again at our first commission meeting of the new year, Jan. 3, 2017. Meanwhile, information gathered by the commission will continue to be added to the docket:  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>.

Since this is an open docket before the commission on which I will be voting, your messages and my responses are posted under Comments and Responses for all to read.

If you have questions, you may discuss the docket with a PUC staff member by calling 1-800-332-1782 or 605-773-3201 or emailing [PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us).

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

000472



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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 3:16 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. McDonald:

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 for your family's homes and businesses. 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)

000473

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 3:15 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NG16-014

Ms. Henderson:

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)

000474

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 3:22 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. Hojer:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm taps and natural gas supply for your family's homes and farms. I encourage you to follow along as this docket is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission.

If you haven't already read it, here is an Informational Guide to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf>.

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My fellow commissioners and I will take this matter up again at our first commission meeting of the new year, Jan. 3, 2017. Since this is an open docket on which I will be voting, your message and my response are posted under Comments and Responses for all to read.

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

000475

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 3:23 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. Hiebert:

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

If you haven't already read it, here is an Informational Guide to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf>.

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

000476

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 3:25 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** NG16-014

Mr. Amundson:

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

If you haven't already read it, here is an Informational Guide to assist farm tap customers in understanding the filing of this docket and the PUC's process: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf>.

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

000477