
From: Tyler McDonald

Sent: Monday, 19 December 2016 18:34:06 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: NG16-014 Farm Tap Customers

I am writing this letter in regards to the proposed natural gas farm tap disconnection regulation.

My family's farm tap has been in place since 1956 when my great-grandparents signed the pipeline easement with the intent of providing access to natural gas for all their future generations. Since then, we have expanded from one household to three, and now operate four businesses at this same farm site.

Discontinuation of our natural gas service would disrupt my Precision Planting business, my seed corn dealership, both my and my father's farm operations, and my brother-in-law's trucking enterprise. It would also disrupt my fiancé's and my household, as well as my parent's household and aunt/uncle's household.

After looking into the expenses that would be required to change my household and each of my businesses over to propane, I have found I would not be able to afford the conversion out-of-pocket and would have to look into financing - this would be a huge blow to my business cash flows at this time of poor ag commodity prices.

My fiancé and I are asking you, our elected PUC representatives, to fulfill your duty as a publicly elected body and represent us in this dispute over access to and receipt of natural gas to ensure our household and business futures continue and prevent us from incurring any undo hardships.

Tyler McDonald

 Huron, SD 57350

000492

From: Jeff Haldin

Sent: Monday, 19 December 2016 22:26:33 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC Docket Filings

Subject: Existing Docket Filing

Docket Number: NG 16-14 Last Name: Haldin First Name: Jeff Company: N/A Address: [REDACTED] City: Elk Point State: SD Zip: 57025 Phone: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Comments:

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing this in regards to South Dakota Docket NG 16-14. I recently received notices from Northern Natural Gas ("NNG" owner of the natural gas farm tap that feeds my property) and Northwest Energy (a public utility in the state of South Dakota) referencing a plan to stop servicing my farm tap effective 12-31-2017. Having recently spent over \$6000 to replace the line between the farm tap meter and the pressure regulator on the property I was dismayed to learn that my investment may have been a waste. As one of the 195 farms/households affected by this change I urge the PUC to consider the investment in infrastructure and equipment already made by these residents of South Dakota. Also to keep in mind the considerable cost and inconvenience to replace/update equipment to operate on propane or electric. Natural gas has been available to these farms and homesteads for decades.

I am hopeful the PUC will find a way to guide the companies involved to find a solution to this issue and fulfill the intent of the easements made to the land owners.

Respectfully,

Jeff and Diana Haldin

000493

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 8:44 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: NG16-014

Mr. and Mrs. Haldin:

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. 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>.

The commission held a hearing last week with testimony provided by Northern Natural Gas and NorthWestern Energy officials as well as PUC staff members. You may 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. 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.

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.

Chris Nelson, Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.sd.gov

000494

From: Peter Fahlberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2016 08:38:00 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: PUC
Subject: Re: NG16-014

Peter Fahlberg
[REDACTED]
Beresford, SD 57004
[REDACTED]

Commission and Staff,

Regarding the issue at hand, our farm gas tap service is very useful and would be a great loss if discontinued. My understanding of all aspects of the situation may be incomplete, but I do know the roles of Northern Natural Gas as well as Northwestern Energy, and see in the docket filings your conclusion that Northern Natural Gas is not a public utility. It would be difficult to believe that Northwestern Energy could somehow excuse itself from public utility status and thus be able to terminate gas service to the farm taps, without being accountable to state regulatory action. I believe the commission needs to step up and hold Northwestern Energy accountable for the needs of the South Dakota farm tap customers. Over the years we have paid for gas service to various vendors as outlined in some of the filings on the docket, it is not essential that Northwestern Energy be the ongoing service provider but rather that there continues to be a service provider. I respectfully request that the commission use its authority to preserve natural gas service to the farm tap customers at risk in this situation.

Peter Fahlberg

Beresford, SD

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

000495

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 9:00 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: NG16-014

Mr. Fahlberg:

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. 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

000496

From: Jen Masterson [Jen Masterson](#) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2016 10:17:31 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: PUC
Subject: RE: NG16-014

000497

Jennifer Masterson

██████████

Gayville SD 57031

12/19/2016

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

PUC

Northern Natural Gas

500 E. Capitol Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear South Dakota Public Utilities Commission:

We ask you very nicely please do not discontinue Natural Gas service at ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ Gayville, South Dakota. That is to take effective on January 3, 2016. We have just got notified of this happening and want to let you know if this would happen we would not be able to continue to live at this address. The reason why is because I'm disabled and I would not be able to afford the high coast in LP or in electricity. Another reason we ask you to not shut our farm tap off is, because we have been told that we would have to change all our appliances around in our household to LP or Electricity and I do not have the money to do that as I am getting help from energy assistance. One of the main reasons that I bought this property was because of the Natural Gas. This property means a lot to me and has made a lot of memories to me and I would hate to have to tell my family I lost it just because we lost our farm tap and I couldn't afford LP or Electricity. I also want to mention that our neighbor to the next of us has 16 buildings hooked to natural gas and we don't understand why this would be happening.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Masterson

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:48 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: NG16-014

Ms. Masterson:

Thank you for your message regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. You reference January 3, 2016 as the discontinuation effective date. However, NorthWestern Energy stated it intends to provide service through December 31, 2017. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your farm tap 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

000499

From: PUC
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:51 AM
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 taps and natural gas for your family's homes, farms and businesses. 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

000500

From: S M

Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2016 11:04:22 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: Natural Gas Farm Tap

DOCKET NO. NG16-014

Wayne J. Mitchell

[REDACTED]

Canton, SD 57013

Phone: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [REDACTED]

Comments:

As a property owner I agreed to an easement with Northern Natural Gas wherein they placed a Natural Gas pipeline across my land. It was our belief that by agreeing to this pipeline easement, we would have perpetual natural gas service to our house. Throughout the past several years we have paid NorthWestern Energy for the natural gas received based on a monthly reading we take and provide to the company and they bill us accordingly.

On file in Lincoln County, State of South Dakota, filed September 17, 1954 is the Easement with Northern Natural Gas Company wherein the Company was granted permission to install pipe lines over and through property identified as [REDACTED]. Item (3) specifically states that grantor will make or cause of be made a tap in any gas pipe line constructed by grantee upon the above described premises for the purpose of supplying gas to grantor, for domestic purposes only, and not for resale and for use upon the above described premises only. All connections required shall be furnished and paid for by grantor with the exception of the meter, which is to be furnished and owned by the grantee. Said tap will be provided by grantee from a convenient point on its main line or same lateral as the grantee may determine, and gas to be taken under this provision shall be measured and furnished to the grantor at the rates and terms established.

It is my contention and ask that the PUC agree, that Northern Natural Gas company continue to provide natural gas to the farm tap operations. As in the past, if their current provider can or will no longer provide the service, then Northern Natural Gas Company should secure this service from another supplier. 000501

Thank you for your positive consideration to this request.

Wayne J. Mitchell

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 1:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: NG16-014

Mr. Mitchell:

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 for your house. 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

000503

From: S M

Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2016 13:48:05 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: Natural Gas Farm Tap (Corrected) Name of person issued Easement, County provided copy of easement

DOCKET NO. NG-16-014

Wayne J. Mitchell

[REDACTED]

Canton, SD 57013

Phone: [REDACTED]

3-mail: [REDACTED]

Comments:

As a property owner my parents, [REDACTED], agreed to an easement with Northern Natural Gas wherein they placed a Natural Gas pipeline across their land. It was their belief that by agreeing to this pipeline easement, they and their successors (I am their son) would have perpetual natural gas service to their home. Throughout the past several years, we have paid NorthWestern Energy for the natural gas received based on a monthly reading we take and provide to the company who in turn bill us accordingly.

On file in Lincoln County State of South Dakota, filed September 17, 1954 is the Easement with Northwestern Natural Gas Company wherein the Company was granted permission to install pipelines over and through property identified as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Item (3) specifically states that the grantor can apply to grantee to make or cause to be made, a tap in any gas pipe line constructed by grantee for the purpose of supplying gas to grantor, for domestic purposes only and not for resale and for use upon above described premises only. All connections required, shall be furnished and paid for by grantor with the exception of the meter which is to be furnished and owned by grantee.

It is my contention and ask that the PUC agree, that Northern Natural Gas company continue to provide natural gas to the farm tap operations. As in the past, if their current provider cannot or will not provide the service, then Northern Natural Gas Company should secure this service from another supplier.

000504

Thank you for your positive consideration to this request.

Wayne J. Mitchell

From: David Anderson

Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2016 14:48:42 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: Farm Taps

Dear PUC Commissioners:

On behalf of many residents of District 16, I would ask that you maintain the access to natural gas by the farm customers that have a legal right to this energy source. It has been clearly demonstrated to me that this right was granted at the time the easements were signed. My understanding is that these easements are perpetual. None of them had an expiration date.

The financial compensation paid at the time the pipeline was installed was almost insignificant by today's standards. The real benefit then and for the future was access to natural gas. The pipeline company knows this and I believe they are still supportive of the farm taps. The gas company using the pipeline also knew this at the time they signed their contracts with the pipeline company. They should not be allowed to unilaterally change that contract which would in effect cancel the easements without negotiation or just compensation to the property owners.

I ask that you respect and honor the legal easements and allow the property owners to continue to have access to natural gas.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rep. David L. Anderson

District 16

000506

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 4:44 PM

To: Anderson, David

Subject: NG16-014

Rep. Anderson:

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

This Informational Guide was designed 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 a commission meeting in January. 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

000507

From: Judy Smoyer

Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2016 15:50:32 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Cc: [REDACTED]

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.

My grandparents signed the pipeline easement in 1956 under the understanding the farm site would receive natural gas service for future generations to come. This one farm tap now currently serves three households and four businesses; the family farm operation, Precision Planting business, seed corn dealership, and a trucking company.

The disruption of converting this tap over would be detrimental to the current three households living on the farmstead as well as the four businesses, two of which employ my husband. The expenses that are required to change each household and business would be substantial and would be a financial burden for all of us.

My family is asking you to fulfill your duty as a publicly elected representative to help ensure our access to natural gas continues for our households and businesses and for future generations to come.

Judy (McDonald) Smoyer

[REDACTED]
Huron SD 57350
[REDACTED]

000508

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 4:55 PM

To: 'Judy Smoyer'

Subject: NG16-014

Ms. Smoyer:

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 businesses. I encourage you to monitor this docket as it is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission.

This Informational Guide was designed 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

000509



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

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
www.puc.sd.gov

Capitol Office
(605) 773-3201

Grain Warehouse
(605) 773-5280

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

Email
puc@state.sd.us

December 19, 2016

Steve Renli
47494 284th
Canton SD 57013

Dear Mr. Renli:

Thank you for your letter 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 home and farm.

The commission held a hearing on this matter last week, 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, on Jan. 3, 2017. I encourage you to follow along as this matter is reviewed and information is gathered by the commission.

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. You may wish to listen to the four-hour hearing by clicking on Recording under the Hearing subhead in the docket.

Since this is an open 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 others 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

000510