
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 28 November 2016 20:44:41 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: Farm Tap Issue

To whom it may concern,

We received a letter from Northwestern Energy stating they are discontinuing services to farm tap customers on 12/31/2017. This is a shock to us as we had no idea that Northwestern Energy had a contract with Northern Natural gas that would terminate on this date. The letter we received from Northwestern Energy indicates they are willing to engage in further discussion concerning farm tap services in South Dakota and are wondering if this is a dollar and cents issue since Northern National Gas is unwilling to make a new contract with Northwestern Energy.

We have heard that Northern National Gas has been trying to figure out a way to eliminate farm tap services in South Dakota for a long time and it eliminated a few of these taps a few years ago by raising the price much higher than the price being charged in town so some could not afford it and had no choice but to change.

Our natural gas services includes our house, shop and grain bin dryers that can use over \$1000.00 in gas a day so it would be very difficult to change over to propane from natural gas. This would cause issues because I am not sure if our dryer could even be converted to propane not to mention the inconvenience and expense of making changes to the furnaces in our house and shop. We spent several thousands of dollars to run the line from our farm taps to the meter.

Has Northern National Gas contacted any other company that would be interested in taking over these services?

Northwestern Energy has been very accommodating with helping locate gas leaks and any other issues we have had with our equipment.

Please help get this issue resolved so we can continue to use this source of gas. If I can offer any other information that would help, please contact me.

Thank you,
Pat Lyons

[REDACTED]
Yankton, SD 57078

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From: PUC
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 9:26 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: NG16-014

Mr. Lyons:

Thank you for your message and offer to provide information regarding the farm taps matter, docket NG16-014. I understand your concern about the possibility of losing your natural gas supply for your home and farm operation. I encourage you to follow along as this case 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 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 have guidance from a PUC staff member on this process, please contact the commission 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

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