

December 13, 2016

Laura Demman  
Vice President, Regulatory & Government Affairs  
Northern Natural Gas  
1111 South 103<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Omaha NE 68124

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC**  
**UTILITIES COMMISSION**

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre SD 57501

RE: NG16-014

RE: North Western Energy's Discontinuance of Gas Utility Service to Farm Taps

This letter is in regards to the possible termination of farm taps that originated with agreements between Northern Natural Gas and private individuals for property easements.

On a personal level, this news is greatly disturbing. We purchased property less than two years ago with a farm tap agreement that was originally with Northern Natural Gas as one of their transfer line runs through our property. Northwestern Energy, the current residential provider, agreed to continue this farm tap, and we paid a considerable expense to use the farm tap. It was determined that the old lines had a leak, so we had a private contractor replace the lines at our expense. We then purchased a new furnace for natural gas as well as a fireplace insert for natural gas. To have to convert to other means for heat would be a considerable expense. If Northwestern Energy had not agreed to the farm tap, we would have gone the propane route, but anyone would naturally prefer natural gas if that option was available.

While we have a one-time big loss of converting a new furnace and fireplace along with unnecessary gas lines no longer usable if we had to convert, we definitely feel for the farmers who would have a much, much more expense if they could not use their natural gas farm tap for their farming operations.

As far as gas lines and leaks not being able to be detected with the current private property lines, we believe this information to be false. We had a private gas line, and Northwestern Energy was able to determine that there was a gas leak; therefore, we replaced the line at our own personal expense. Today's modern equipment can find these lines and leaks.

We are asking Northern Natural Gas to find a residential provider to continue these farm taps as are currently in place and for the South Dakota Public Utilities to support this move for the farm tap owners. It is not fair to allow Northern Natural Gas to continue transfer of product through private property if the private property owner is not receiving the benefit of their farm tap.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. and Denise V. Christensen

