



November 10, 2016

NorthWestern[®]
Energy
Delivering a Bright Future

STEVE STRONG
40 E BROADWAY ST
BUTTE, MT 59701-9530

Dear STEVE STRONG:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("SDPUC") is currently considering a matter that may affect your future natural gas service. NorthWestern encourages you to familiarize yourself with this matter by going to the SDPUC's website and reviewing Docket NG16- 014 entitled "In the Matter of Commission Staff's Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Farm Tap Customers". The following link will take you directly to the docket information: (<http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/NaturalGas/2016/ng16-014.aspx>).

On November 9, 2016, SDPUC staff made a filing with the SDPUC asking for a determination as to the extent of the SDPUC's jurisdiction over how your natural gas service may be provided after December 31, 2017. Prior to 2011, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation ("MERC") provided billing, annual meter reads, odorizing and other services on behalf of Northern Natural Gas ("NNG") related to natural gas service at your property. In 2011, NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern"), NNG, and MERC executed a contract for NorthWestern to continue providing some of these services on behalf of NNG. NorthWestern's contract with NNG and MERC will expire on December 31, 2017. We have decided not to renew the current contract. Therefore, it is NorthWestern's opinion that NNG will need to make arrangements as to how you will continue to receive natural gas services after this date. NNG has taken a different position from NorthWestern which is why the SDPUC has become involved.

Based on our review of some of NNG's pipeline easement agreements, we believe that you have a right to receive natural gas services pursuant to that easement. Consequently, you have a right to participate in the proceeding that is before the SDPUC. You may formally intervene or you may submit comments to the SDPUC for their consideration as they review this matter. Please use the following link to access information as to how you may submit comments or participate in the docket through a formal intervention: <http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/naturalgas/2016/ng16-014/informationguide.pdf>. You may also call the SDPUC toll-free at 1-800-332-1782 or NorthWestern at 1-800-245-6977 with any questions you may have about the docket.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Schroepfel
VP - Customer Care, Communications and HR