

February 15, 2017

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. Gary Hanson, Vice Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I need your help.

I need the Commission's ruling on farm taps dated January 24, and it does not reassure me that I will have continued and uninterrupted natural gas service. It appears to declare Northwestern Energy as a regulated public utility, which is fine. But it lets Northern Natural Gas off the regulatory hook, even though they promised the farm tap users natural gas service in exchange for easements. Further, Northern stated in PUC testimony they were responsible to supply the farm tap users when asked directly.

We elect the members of the Public Utilities Commission to make sure consumers are protected and ensure safe, reliable utility service for consumers. Therefore, I am looking to you, Vice Chairman Hanson, to tell me what steps you will take to ensure that my natural gas service will not be interrupted.

The Public Utilities Commission obviously has the authority to require Northwestern and Northern to continue natural gas service to our homes. So please do it. Utilities have to be willing to serve everybody, and it seems that Northwestern and Northern have forgotten that. You are the Public Utility Commission, and you are ~~there~~ to make sure that everyone has the utilities they need.

I look forward to hearing from you as to what happens now. Will you open a new docket concerning extending natural gas service for farm taps, negotiate with Northwestern, Northern or other gas supplier, or issue one or more orders to keep our gas service available? Will you ask the Attorney General to initiate litigation on our behalf?

Lastly, let me know what I might do to assist you in this task.

Sincerely,
JMS

(LINDA LAKE)

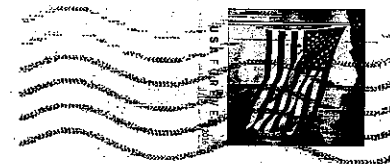
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