

August 16, 2017

Mr. Daniel Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: Docket No. E,G-999/CI-12-1344  
Compliance Filing

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Great Plains) herewith requests Minnesota Public Service Commission approval of the attached customer consent form in accordance with the Commission's June 9, 2017 Order issued in the above reference docket<sup>1</sup> which authorized utilities to develop and use alternative consent forms consistent with the approved model form.

Great Plains is proposing a utility specific consent form that is consistent with the approved model form but modified to reflect the following revisions specific to Great Plains. The Company appreciates the Commission staff review and assistance in preparing the modified form.

1. Great Plains logo, and Great Plains contact information has been added in the appropriate location on the form;
2. The sentence in Spanish stating that customers may obtain a Spanish-language form from their service provider has been removed, because the Company does not currently offer this form in Spanish;
3. Options to request electric or steam energy data have been removed, as Great Plains serves only natural gas customers;
4. Great Plains is proposing to identify the specific type of information that will be available:
  - a. The date the natural gas meter was read by Great Plains;
  - b. The number of days included in the billing period;

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<sup>1</sup> In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into Privacy Policies of Rate-Regulated Energy Utilities, Docket No. E, G-999/CI-12-1344, June 9, 2017 Order Approving Customer Energy Use Data Consent Form, Ordering Point 2.

- c. The monthly natural gas energy usage in dekatherms for the previous monthly time period specified by the customer not to exceed 36 months or the length of time customer has resided at the service address listed on the consent form;
  - d. Information regarding their participation in energy efficiency or other Great Plains' programs has been limited to programs offered by the Company;
  - e. Other (specify).
5. Great Plains is proposing a new consent form be signed for each release request in order to more efficiently process such requests. This would deviate from the model consent form that contains a date driven time frame associated with the consent form. Great Plains does not currently have an established process to release customer data based on a future time line.

Great Plains believes the proposed form is substantially consistent with the model approved by the Commission. Great Plains respectfully requests that the Commission approve Great Plains utility specific form for use beginning in September 2017, after the 90-day grace period for use of existing form expires.

Great Plains appreciates the Commission's consideration of these modifications to the Model Form.

Please contact me at 701-222-7856 or [tamie.aberle@mdu.com](mailto:tamie.aberle@mdu.com) if you have questions regarding this filing.

**Dated: August 16, 2017**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

/s/ Tamie Aberle

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Tamie Aberle

Director of Regulatory Affairs  
Great Plains Natural Gas Co.  
a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
400 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501

cc: Service List





**CONSENT TO DISCLOSE UTILITY ENERGY USAGE DATA**

All information requested on this form must be provided for the consent to be valid. If you have questions or require assistance, please contact Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (Great Plains). This form may be available from your utility provider in other languages. To obtain a copy in another language, please contact your utility provider.

**Great Plains Natural Gas Co. Attn: Customer Support**

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 7608, Boise, ID 83707-1608

**Phone:** 800-638-3278 **Email:** [customerservice@gpng.com](mailto:customerservice@gpng.com) **Fax:** 1-701-323-3104

For additional information, including the utility’s privacy policy, visit [www.gpng.com](http://www.gpng.com)

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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CUSTOMER

By signing this form, you authorize Great Plains to release the customer energy usage data to:

Organization/Trade Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Physical and Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

This organization will receive the following information:

- The following meter data information.
  - The date your natural gas meter was read by Great Plains Natural Gas Co.
  - The number of days in the billing period.
  - The monthly gas energy usage in dekatherms for the specified period. \*

You consent to make available data from the previous \_\_\_\_\_ months.

\*If you have resided at the address less than the amount of time designated above, energy usage will only be provided for the time that you have been the accountholder or a maximum of 36 months.

- Information regarding your participation in energy efficiency or other Great Plains programs.

This information will be used to *(check all boxes that apply)*:

- Provide you with products or services you requested
- Offer you products or services that may be of interest to you
- Determine your eligibility for an energy program
- Analyze your energy usage
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD

This consent is valid for a one-time disclosure of energy usage data relating to a single utility account. Great Plains will require an original, separate consent form for disclosure of usage data for each utility account.

**CUSTOMER DISCLOSURES**

\*\*\*Customer usage data can provide insight into activities within the premises receiving utility service. Great Plains may not disclose your customer data except

1. if you authorize the disclosure
2. to contracted agents that perform services on behalf of the utility, or
3. as otherwise permitted or required by laws or regulations. \*\*\*

**\*\*\*You are not required to authorize the disclosure of your information, and your decision not to authorize the disclosure will not affect your utility services. \*\*\***

\*\*\*You may access your standard customer data from Great Plains without any additional charge. \*\*\*

\*\*\*Note that Great Plains will have no control over the data disclosed pursuant to this consent, and will not be responsible for monitoring or taking any steps to ensure that the data recipient maintains the confidentiality of the data or uses the data as authorized by you. Please be advised that you may not be able to control the use or misuse of your data once it has been released. \*\*\*

\*\*\*In addition to the energy usage data described above, the data received by the organization may include other information such as your name; account number; meter number; utility type; service address; premise number; premise description; meter read date(s); number of days in the billing period; utility invoice date or base rate bill amount. Great Plains will not provide any other information, including Personally Identifiable Information such as your Social Security Number or any financial account number to the organization through this consent form. \*\*\*

***PLEASE READ THE CUSTOMER DISCLOSURES ABOVE BEFORE SIGNING THIS FORM***

By signing this form, you acknowledge and agree that you are the customer of record for this account and that you authorize Great Plains to disclose your energy usage data as specified in this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICABLE CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
SERVICE ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF CUSTOMER OF RECORD

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SIGNED