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Name *	Marcus Culver
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> City of Brooklyn Park 5200 85th Ave North Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 United States
Phone Number	(763) 493-8047
Email	marc.culver@brooklynpark.org
Provide the docket's number.	25-8
Leave a comment on the docket. *	Please see the attached letter for comment from the City of Brooklyn Park on the Evaluation of Changes to Natural Gas Utility Regulatory and Policy Structures to Meet State Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals
Attach a File	 brooklyn_park_comments_docket_no_258.pdf 175.60 KB · PDF



September 9, 2025

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: Comments on Commission Evaluation of Changes to Natural Gas Utility Regulatory and Policy Structures – Docket No. G-999/CI-21-565

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the above referenced docket.

The City of Brooklyn Park has concerns about the proposal to limit and/or eliminate the current allowed practice of natural gas providers subsidizing through rates the cost of expanding their natural gas infrastructure to newly developing areas. This proposal will have direct impacts and increase the cost of new development in the City of Brooklyn Park.

The City of Brooklyn Park is a racially, culturally and socioeconomically diverse community in the Twin Cities metro area. The City has aggressive plans to develop over 700 acres of currently agricultural area in order to provide more housing options, more high paying employment centers and more retail and service uses most of which will be located in close proximity to the Blue Line Extension (BLE) Light Rail line. This development will significantly expand the City's tax base allowing the city to lower tax burdens on our current residents and businesses as well as provide an opportunity to provide more services to our new and existing residents and businesses.

As stated in Housing First's comment letter, any increase in construction costs, such as increases due to having to fund the entire cost of natural gas pipeline extensions into developing areas, would place a further strain on new developments and will likely delay development or require the City to subsidize additional construction costs in order to facilitate new housing and business developments.

Minnesota's Residential Code requires heating systems to maintain indoor temperatures of at least 68°F in habitable rooms, without reliance on portable heaters. Natural gas remains the most reliable, widely used, and cost-effective means of meeting this requirement, serving two-thirds of homes statewide and as high as 85% in the Twin Cities metro.

Reliance on electric furnaces and other electric heating elements places strain on the grid and increases operating costs. The Department's suggestion that electrification will yield long-term savings overlooks these limitations. Until technology and grid capacity are demonstrably ready, mandates that undermine natural gas access risk higher costs, reduced reliability, and code compliance challenges.

The City of Brooklyn Park does support the long-term goal of reducing the use of carbon-based fuels for heating, cooking and other uses, but we don't support eliminating this form of energy as an option to new developments. We have heard some innovative and interesting ideas from natural gas providers that would reduce the carbon footprint and still provide energy options and reduced costs to businesses and homeowners.

Existing gas customers have helped fund line extensions for new customers via the allowance system for many, many years and they have benefited from the increased customer base and the continued efficiencies of more efficient delivery with that large, growing base. Eliminating the allowances now would suddenly force future customers to pay more than their predecessors for the same service.

The City of Brooklyn Park asks that the Commission retain the current natural gas line extension allowances for Minnesota's gas utilities. This allowance has served Minnesota well by enabling growth and spreading costs fairly.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Marcus Culver, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Brooklyn Park
Marc.culver@brooklynpark.org