



## White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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January 5, 2015

Dr. Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s Petition for Approval of Transportation Agreement regarding the Mahnomen, MN Community  
Docket No. PL6580/M-14-1056

Dear Dr. Haar,

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council respectfully requests that the Minnesota PUC expedite the review and approval to allow for the extension of natural gas service to Mahnomen, Minnesota.

The White Earth Reservation, including Mahnomen, currently has to rely upon costly fuel oil, propane and electricity to heat homes, businesses, and governmental facilities. This is an especially hard burden to the elderly living on fixed incomes.

For several years the City of Mahnomen has tried to bring natural gas to Mahnomen but was never able to find a cost-effective way to make that happen. Now that opportunity is within reach. A substantial part of the Mahnomen population is Native American. Our largest employer is the Shooting Star Casino, Hotel and Event Center located in Mahnomen. The significant cost savings with natural gas service to this and other tribal facilities in Mahnomen will allow access to more funding for critical tribal programs.

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council heartily supports this request by Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.

Sincerely,

  
Erma J. Vizenor  
Chairwoman

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UTILITIES COMMISSION