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P.O. Box 176
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0176
1-877-267-4764

March 31, 2020

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 East Seventh Place, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Docket No. G999/CI-18-41
Excess Flow Valves 2019 Status Update

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (Great Plains), a Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., herewith electronically files its annual compliance report filing pursuant to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's July 31, 2019 Order (July 31 Order) issued in the above referenced docket.

In compliance with the July 31 Order Paragraph 4, Great Plains submits its Excess Flow Valves (EFV) 2019 status update on complying with Ordering Paragraphs 7a-c of the August 20, 2018 Order in the same docket. On December 18, 2018 Great Plains filed a Compliance Filing which reported a total of 331 customers that fall into the categories noted in the July 31 Order. The customer counts by type are noted below.

a-b.	K-12 public and non-public schools	36
c.	Public and private universities and colleges	10
d.	Hospitals	29
e.	Multi-unit residential and nursing facilities	256

In the December 18, 2018 Compliance Filing, Great Plains established the following plan to meet face-to-face with the decision-maker of the customers identified in the above noted groups:

- A letter would be sent to each customer identified as falling into the above groups explaining the purpose of an EFV, curb valve or manual shut-off valve safety device, where an EFV, curb valve or manual shut-off valve would be installed, and the cost responsibility of the customer to have such a device installed at customer's request.

- With the initial contact, Great Plains will invite each customer to contact the Company to set up a face-to-face appointment in order for the Company to provide additional information and details regarding the purpose of an EFV and curb valve or manual shut-off valve as applicable to that customer, along with the estimated installation cost. Great Plains will follow up as necessary with each customer in order to complete the face-to-face meetings by the end of the fourth quarter of 2019.

Please see Attachment A for the letter Great Plains sent to the 331 identified customers on May 28, 2019 containing information on EFVs and installation costs along with contact information of Great Plains personnel. Follow up letters were provided to those customers identified as not receiving the initial letter on July 23, 2019 and August 21, 2019.

Great Plains received 64 calls from customers in response to the mailings sent out in 2019. Three customers came into the Company's office for face to face meetings during 2019. At this time none of the customers identified in the Commission's July 31 Order have requested an EFV be installed.

Great Plains will continue to review ongoing projects and how those projects may match up with interest by identified customers in moving forward with the installation of an EFV, curb valve or manual shut off valve. Great Plains will also continue to provide customers with information regarding Great Plains' planning and replacement projects to inform customers of their options that may help reduce customers' costs associated with installation.

Great Plains continues to post information regarding EFVs on its website. The Company will also continue to inform customers through an annual bill insert included herein as Attachment B. The insert previously approved by the Commission will again be included in customers' bills in June 2020.

Great Plains respectfully requests the Commission to accept this Excess Flow Valves Status Update filing for 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Travis R. Jacobson at (701) 222-7855, or Brian Meloy, at (612) 335-1451.

Sincerely,

/s/ Travis R. Jacobson

Travis R. Jacobson
Director of Regulatory Affairs



705 West Fir Ave.
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 176
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0176
1-877-267-4764

May 28, 2019

Dear Customer,

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has requested that each natural gas utility, operating in the state of Minnesota, identify and hold face to face meetings with the decision-makers of K-12 public, non-public schools, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals and multi-unit residential and nursing facilities regarding an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) or manual service line shut off valve installed on the natural gas service line serving their facility. Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (Great Plains) has identified your natural gas service line for potential installation of one of these valves. Following is information pertaining to Excess Flow Valves (EFVs) and curb valves or manual service line shut-off valves and a request to meet with your Company to discuss this in more detail.

What is an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) and where is it installed?

An EFV is a safety device designed to automatically stop or restrict the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is broken or severed. The EFV is installed underground on the service line that runs between the gas main located in public right of way or a dedicated utility easement and the natural gas meter.

What is a curb valve or manual shut-off valve and where is it installed?

A curb valve or manual shut-off valve is a manually operated valve installed to stop or restrict the flow of natural gas. The curb valve or manual shut-off valve is installed underground on the service line that runs between the gas main located in public right of way or a dedicated utility easement and the natural gas meter.

What is the cost to have such a device installed at a customer's request?

The installation cost is estimated to be approximately \$850.00. Actual installation cost will vary depending on the difficulty of the installation. You would be responsible for costs associated with installing an EFV, curb valve or manual shut-off valve. Detailed cost estimates and timeframe for construction will be provided as requested on a case-by-case basis. The EFV, curb valve or manual shut-off valve will be installed at a time that is mutually agreeable to the company and customer. Since the EFV, curb valve or manual shut-off valve will be installed on Great Plains' gas pipe, only Great Plains or its approved contractors may perform the installation.

In addition to the provided information, we request you to contact us to set up a face-to-face meeting to provide you with additional information and the opportunity for us to answer any questions that you may have regarding the devices described above.

To schedule a face-to-face meeting please contact: Julie Bahn at Julie.bahn@gpng.com or (507) 532-3118; or Shelle Sandmeyer at shelle.sandmeyer@gpng.com or (218) 739-6610.

Sincerely,

Great Plains Natural Gas Co.

Attachment B

Attachment B



GREAT PLAINS

NATURAL GAS CO.

A Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

In the Community to Serve®



Excess Flow Valve (EFV)

NOTIFICATION

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued a pipeline safety regulation requiring natural gas utility companies to notify customers about the availability of Excess Flow Valves (EFV) for installation on the natural gas service line to their home or business.

What is an EFV?

An EFV is a safety device designed to automatically stop or restrict the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is broken or severed. Such damage is usually the result of some type of excavation. Although an EFV may help limit the effects or damage of such an incident, the best way to protect against such incidents is to ensure that anyone excavating on your property has called 811 to have buried pipelines properly marked before digging. Installation of an EFV will not protect against customer appliance gas leaks, small gas service line punctures or gas meter leaks. EFVs are not available for some customers due to the amount of gas used, areas with delivery pressure less than 10 psi or other circumstances that hinder the effectiveness of the EFV.

Where is an EFV installed?

The EFV is installed underground on the service line that runs between the gas main located in public right of way or a dedicated utility easement and the natural gas meter. Generally the EFV is installed as close as possible to the gas main. In some instances the location may need to be installed further from the gas main to accommodate interference from other buried structures.

How much does it cost to have an EFV installed?

If you would like to have an EFV installed in your service line, please contact Great Plains Natural Gas at 1-877-267-4764 or email customerservice@gpng.com. The installation cost is estimated to be \$650, but the actual installation cost varies depending on the difficulty of the installation. The customer will be responsible for costs associated with installing the EFV. Detailed cost estimates and timeframe for construction will be provided as requested on a case-by-case basis. The EFV will be installed at a time that is mutually agreeable to the company and customer. Since the EFV will be installed on Great Plains' gas pipe, only Great Plains or its approved contractors may perform the installation.



A Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

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**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**