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May 19, 2014

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



**RE: Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s Petition for Approval of Transportation Agreement regarding the Barnesville, MN Community Docket No. PL6580,G002/M-14-386**

Dear Dr. Haar,

The City of Barnesville respectfully requests that the Minnesota PUC expedite the review and approval to allow for the extension of natural gas service to Barnesville, Minnesota.

For decades, Barnesville city leaders have tried to bring natural gas to our town but we were never able to find a cost effective way to make that happen. When Greater Minnesota Gas approached us in mid-March with a plan to bring gas to Barnesville, we committed significant staff time to quickly and thoroughly investigate this opportunity in the hopes that we could provide natural gas to our residents and businesses by this year's heating season.

In a recent survey of Barnesville businesses, high energy costs were cited as a top concern, affecting their viability and profitability. Year after year, our residents struggle with heating costs due to the high costs of propane and fuel oil. We have been unable to attract new industry to our community due to the lack of natural gas.

At their meeting last week, the City Council unanimously supported the adoption of a franchise agreement with Xcel Energy. Xcel is committed to having their distribution system up and running by October 1. We are confident in the strong working relationship between GMG and Xcel and we are hopeful that the necessary state approvals can be granted in time for this important project to be completed by the fall.

On behalf of our residents, thank you for your consideration of our request to expedite the approval of this important request. Feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Eugene Prim  
Mayor

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TRANSMITTAL

Burl Haar, Executive Secretary/Date

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"The City of Barnesville Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer"

