

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: March 2, 2026

In the Matter of a Petition by Lakes Community Co-op for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption

In the Matter of a Petition by United Natural Gas, LLC for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption

In the Matter of a Petition by Lake Region Energy Services, Inc., for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption

In the Matter of a Petition by Dooley's Natural Gas I LLC for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption

In the Matter of a Petition by Dooley's Natural Gas II, LLC for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption

In the Matter of a Petition by Paul Bunyan Natural Gas for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption

In the Matter of a Petition by The Northwest Utilities: (Northwest Natural Gas LLC, Northwest Natural Gas of Murray County LLC, Gormans Inc.) for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption.

PUC Docket Number(s): G-999/PR-25-15

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes April 15, 2026 at 4:30 pm

Reply comment period closes April 27, 2026 at 4:30 pm

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Issue: Should the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) accept the compliance filings for the 2024 reporting year submitted by Lakes Community Co-op, United Natural Gas, LLC, Lake Region Energy Services, Inc., Dooley's Natural Gas I, LLC, Dooley's Natural Gas II, LCC, Paul Bunyan Natural Gas, and The Northwest Utilities: (Northwest Natural Gas LLC, Northwest Natural Gas of Murray County LLC, Gormans Inc.)?

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Have the small gas utilities complied with the Commission’s November 9, 2018 Order?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background

On November 9, 2018, the Commission issued its ORDER DETERMINING COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION ORDERS AND ESTABLISHING FILING REQUIREMENTS (November 9, 2018 Order), in dockets G-6956/M-15-856 (Lakes Community Co-op), G-6960/M-16-214 (United Natural Gas, LLC), G-6977/M-17- 186 (Lake Region Energy Services, Inc.), G-6915/M-13-672 (Dooley’s Natural Gas I LLC), and G-6915/M-16-756 (Dooley’s Natural Gas II, LLC), detailing the annual filing requirements for exempt small gas utility companies. Specifically, the order required small gas utilities to provide the following information:

- A. Updated customer counts, plus a statement that the utility does not discriminate between in-muni/out-muni customers, and if it does, why;
- B. Any municipality-approved rate changes that occurred in the prior year and when these changes went into effect. All small gas utilities must comply with Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subp. 12 (b), which states “The public utility shall file with the Commission and the Department all initial and subsequent changes in rates, tariffs, and contracts for service outside the municipality at least 30 days in advance of implementation;”
- C. All changes to its tariff book in redlined and final revised tariff form;
- D. A copy of its cold weather disconnection notice sent to the customers, including how the notice was communicated and date communicated (Minn. Stat. § 216B.096, Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule);
- E. A copy of any utility disconnection reports served to any of the municipalities as required by Minn. Stat. § 216B.0976 – Minnesota’s Notice to Cities of Utility Disconnection;
- F. A copy of its notice form sent to customers who are in arrears pursuant to the utility’s obligation under Minn. Stat. § 216B.098 – Minnesota’s Residential Customer Protections, along with any policy not clearly identified in the tariffs regarding budget billing plans, payment arrangements, and under-charge repayment.

On April 29, 2025, Lake Region Energy Services, Inc. submitted its compliance filing.

On April 30, 2025, Dooley’s Natural Gas I LLC I submitted its compliance filing.

On April 30, 2025, Dooley's Natural Gas II, LLC, submitted its compliance filing.

On May 1, 2025, Northwest Utilities submitted its compliance filing.

On May 1, 2025, United Natural Gas, LLC submitted its compliance filing.

On May 5, 2025, Lakes Community Cooperative submitted its compliance filing.

On May 5, 2025, Lakes Community Cooperative submitted its meter count.

On February 24, 2026, Paul Bunyan Natural Gas submitted its compliance filing.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to efile documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>

Submit Public Comments:

Online: <https://mn.gov/puc/get-involved/public-comments/>, and follow the instructions.

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul MN 55101

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this matter on the Commission's website at: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets*, enter 25-15 under Docket #s, and select *Search*.

Subscribe: To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling> and select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Andrew Larson, at Andrew.m.larson@state.mn.us or 651-201-2259.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Consumers with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Anne Redmond, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD**

Docket Number
G-999/PR-25-15

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2026

/s/ Anne Redmond

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	County	Administrator		Nicollet County Administrator		501 S Minnesota Ave St Peter MN, 56082 United States	Paper Service		No	Official 25-15
2	Kristine	Anderson	kanderson@greatermngas.com	Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.		1900 Cardinal Lane PO Box 798 Faribault MN, 55021 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
3	Sasha	Bergman	sasha.bergman@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	Official 25-15
4	David	Blomseth	davidb@communitycoops.com	Lakes Community Coop		PO Box 329 14583 Hwy 10 W Lake Park MN, 56554 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
5	Mike	Bull	mike.bull@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	Official 25-15
6	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	Official 25-15
7	Joel	Dahlgren	joel.dahlgren@ufcmn.com	United Farmers Cooperative		PO Box 461 Winthrop MN, 55396 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
8	Randy	Dooley	rdooley@dooleypetro.com	Dooley's Natural Gas, LLC		3101 3rd Ave SW Willmar MN, 56201 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
9	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
10	Ryan D	Fullerton	r.fullerton@pemplaw.com	Pemberton, Sorlie, Rufer & Kershner		110 North Mill St Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
11	Mike	Gorham	mike@nwgas.com	Gorham's Inc dba Northwest Gas		1608 NW 4th St Grand Rapids MN, 55744 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
12	Jessica	Halvorson	jhalvor@arvig.net	Wambach & Hanson Law Office, P.C.		PO Box 340 Mahnomen MN, 56557 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
13	Elroy E.	Hanson	ehanson@arvig.net	Wambach & Hanson Law Office PC		304 N Main St PO Box 340 Mahnomen MN, 56557 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
14	Ashley	Harrison	ashley.harrison@llojbwe.net	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe		190 Sailstar Dr NW Cass Lake MN, 56633 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
15	Gregory	Hauptert	ghauptert@parthenonagency.com	Sobalvarro & Hauptert		3601 18th St. S. Ste 105 St. Cloud MN, 56301 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
16	Steven C	Jones	cityadmin@hcinet.net	City of Clara City		215 First St NW PO Box 560 Clara City MN, 56222 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
17	Clark	Kaml	clark.kaml@gmail.com	CDK Consulting, LLC		2624 Mistwood Court Grand Forks ND, 58201 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
18	Tony	Kammerlander	tony.kammerlander@ufcmn.com	United Natural Gas		PO Box 461 Winthrop MN, 55396 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
19	Nicolle	Kupser	nkupser@greatermngas.com	Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.		1900 Cardinal Ln PO Box 798 Faribault MN, 55021 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
20	Cheryl	Landsteiner	cheri@nwnogas.com	Northwest Natural Gas LLC		314 Main St NE PO Box 721 Mapleton MN, 56065 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
21	Robert L	Larsen	robert.larsen@lowersioux.com	Lower Sioux Indian Community		PO Box 308 39527 Reservation Highway 1 Morton MN, 56270 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
22	Bruce	Nelson	tbnelson@loretel.net	Lakes Community Coop		PO Box 329 14583 Hwy 10 W Lake Park MN, 56554 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
23	Greg	Palmer	gpalmer@greatermngas.com	Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.		1900 Cardinal Ln PO Box 798 Faribault MN, 55021 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
24	Brian	Pendleton				PO Box 308 39527 Reservation Hwy 1 Morton MN, 56270 United States	Paper Service		No	Official 25-15
25	Al	Poehler	ctclerk@comcast.net	City of Courtland		300 Railroad St Courtland MN, 56021 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
26	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	Official 25-15
27	Darren	Saffert	lafcityclerk@gmail.com	City of Lafayette		700 Ninth St PO BOX 375	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
						Lafayette MN, 56054 United States				
28	Nizhoni	Smith	nizhoni.smith@lowersioux.com	Lower Sioux Indian Community		PO Box 308 39527 Reservation Highway 1 Morton MN, 56270 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
29	Rachel	Sorrentino	rachel@nwgas.com	Northwest Gas		801 Twelve Oaks Center Dr Ste 815B Wayzata MN, 55391 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
30	J. Richard	Stermer	rstermer@stermerlaw.com	Stermer & Sellner, Chtd.		102 Parkway Drive P.O. Box 514 Montevideo MN, 56265 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15
31	Tim	Thompson	tthompson@lrec.coop	Lake Region Electric Cooperative		PO Box 643 1401 South Broadway Pelican Rapids MN, 56572 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 25-15