

705 West Fir Avenue
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 176
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0176
(218) 736-6935

April 8, 2019

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Commission Inquiry into the Impact of Severe Weather in January
and February 2019

Docket No. E,G999/CI-19-160

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (Great Plains), a Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., herewith electronically files its comments in response to the Minnesota Public Commission (Commission) Inquiry issued on March 18, 2019 in the above referenced docket.

As presented at the Commission's Planning Meeting held on February 28, 2019 in Docket No. E,G-999/CI-19-160, Great Plains requested 4 of its largest interruptible customers to curtail usage between January 29 and January 31, 2019. Each customer had a backup system in place during the weather event and successfully curtailed their use of natural gas. Great Plains has the capability of monitoring 137 of its 173 interruptible customers, approximately 79 percent, in real-time. The remainder of the interruptible service customers are unable to be monitored in real time by Great Plains because the customers are geographically isolated from the AMR network or network infrastructure has not been put in place yet. However, these unmonitored interruptible service customers are relatively smaller in nature and Great Plains is comfortable with its system to curtail if necessary.

The weather event that took place in January and February of 2019 resulted in temperatures that were near the 30-year coldest weather temperatures Great Plains' uses to analyze its customers' requirements to ensure sufficient pipeline capacity is secured, gas supplies are available, and the distribution system is capable of delivering sufficient gas supply to its customers. Great Plains actively monitors its system in cold weather conditions to ensure that reliability and safety are maintained. There was no loss in service to any firm customers during the severe weather event. Further, Great Plains did not experience any issues with excess flow valves during the severe weather event.

Great Plains appreciates the efforts taken by the Commission through this inquiry process but does not have specific recommendations regarding how the Commission could help convey messages to the public during cold weather events at this time. Communication between all parties is of utmost importance and Great Plains will continue to alert the Commission if issues do arise during situations such as the severe weather that affected the area in early 2019.

If you have any questions regarding the comments submitted in reply to the Commission's inquiry, please contact me at (701) 222-7856 or Brian Meloy at (612) 335-1451.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Tamie A. Aberle*

Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs