

**From:** Sam Heikes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:50 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: SD public utilities commission

To: S.D. Public Utilities Commission

From: R. Sam Heikes [REDACTED]  
Heikes Family Farm- Vermillion, SD 57069  
[REDACTED]

Re: Jurisdictional declaratory ruling on 195 natural gas farms taps Clay, Lincoln, union

A hearing to discontinue farm tap service on the Northern natural gas line in SE South Dakota

Attn.: Chris Nelson, Christy Fegan, and Gary Hanson

In 2010 I retired from my 40 year sunflower agronomy career in the Pierre area. We moved back home to my family farm on the NE corner of Vermillion. The Heikes Farm has been in the family since 1946. As a boy I remember when Northern Natural gas laid the 6" main line across from our driveway. I remember we were told at that time that natural gas was a "public utility" that we were "entitled" to have access via "our farm tap", as long as the farm remained in our family. We believe what we were told... at that time... and NOW!

I understand there are currently around 200 such “farm taps” that rely on that public utility natural gas for the life of their family farm as we do.

Our “Prairie square farm house” was built in 1920. We depend entirely on that Northern natural gas “Public Utility”, we have a **gas furnace to heat the house, a gas water heater and a gas stove.** REA provides our electricity.

We **strongly urge YOU** our elected P.U.C. officials to maintain the existing “Farm Taps” for our access to Northern Natural gas as we were promised, farm access to that critical. “Public Utility”

Sincerely, *Sam Heikes*

Heikes Family Farm- Clay county Vermillion, SD



*Sam and Heidi Heikes*

Sam and Heidi Heikes



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