

MPUC Docket No. E-6472/GS-06-668
OAH Docket No. 12-2500-17512-2

BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
100 Washington Square, Suite 1700
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138

FOR THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

In the Matter of a Joint LEPGP Site Permit,
HVTL Route Permit and Pipeline (Partial Exemption)
Route Permit Application for the Mesaba Energy Project

PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS OF
EXCELSIOR ENERGY INC., MEP-I LLC, AND MEP-II LLC

WILLIAM M. BECKTEL
JANUARY 16, 2007

1 **EXCELSIOR ENERGY, INC.**

2 **BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

3 **PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

4 **WILLIAM M. BECKTEL**

5 **Q Please state your name, current employment position and business address.**

6 A William M. Becktel. I am a Project Manager with Fluor Enterprises, Inc.
7 (“Fluor”), an international engineering, procurement, and construction company. My
8 business address is 3 Polaris Way, Aliso Viejo, California 92698.

9 **Q Would you please describe your educational and professional background.**

10 A I hold an engineering degree from the University of Redlands and am a
11 licensed professional mechanical engineer in the State of California. My current
12 position with Fluor is as a project manager in Fluor’s Energy and Chemicals business
13 unit. I am experienced in project and engineering management in the engineering,
14 procurement and construction industry. My recent experience has focused on
15 gasification projects involving a variety of feedstocks and utilizing solids handling, air
16 separation, gasification, gas treating, sulfur recovery, power block, and utility
17 technologies appropriate to achieve project objectives. My resume is appended as
18 Exhibit ___ (WMB-1).

19 **Q On whose behalf are you testifying?**

20 A I am testifying on behalf of MEP-I LLC, MEP-II LLC, and Excelsior Energy
21 Inc. (collectively “Excelsior”), the developers of the Mesaba Energy Project
22 (the “Project”).

1 **Q What is the nature of your involvement with the Project?**

2 A I am Fluor's project manager for the Project. In this capacity, I supervise and
3 coordinate the work of a team of engineers, designers, and other professionals working
4 on the Project.

5 **Q Could you describe the experience of Fluor in the power generation sector?**

6 A Fluor is an industry leader in providing state-of-the-art fossil power generation
7 facilities for clients globally. Fluor has performed engineering, procurement,
8 construction, and commissioning for many coal, gas, and oil-fired power plants.

9 Scope and Summary

10 **Q What is the scope of your testimony in this proceeding?**

11 A The purpose of my testimony is to sponsor several sections of Excelsior's Joint
12 Application and Environmental Supplement. The general subjects of my testimony
13 include plant layout, overall design, and construction.

14 In particular, I am sponsoring the following sections of the Joint Application
15 and Environmental Supplement that were prepared by Fluor:

16 **Joint Application**

17 Section 3.1.2 (Process and Equipment Descriptions: Introduction)

18 Section 3.1.3 (Worst Case Operating Conditions Quantified)

19 Section 3.1.5 (Process Operations)

20 Section 3.1.6 (Plant Utility Systems)

21 Section 3.1.7 (Major Process Equipment)

22 Section 3.1.8 (Expected Process Operating Characteristics)

23 Section 3.2 (IGCC Power Station Footprint)

1 Section 3.3 (Resource Inputs)

2 **Environmental Supplement**

3 Section 1.6.2 (Process and Equipment Descriptions: Introduction)

4 Section 1.6.3 (Maximum Emission/Discharge Scenarios Quantified)

5 Sections 1.6.5 (Process Operations)

6 Section 1.6.6 (Plant Utility Systems)

7 Section 1.6.7 (Major Process Equipment)

8 Section 1.6.8 (Expected Process Operating Characteristics)

9 Section 1.7 (Resource Inputs)

10 Section 1.9.2 (Construction Plans)

11 Section 1.10 (IGCC Power Station Labor and Construction Material
12 Requirements)

13 Section 3.15 (Safety and Health)

14 **Air Permit Application**

15 Section 2.1 (Resource Inputs)

16 Section 2.2 (Major Buildings, Infrastructure, Topography, and Access Road)

17 Section 2.4 (Process Operations)

18 Section 2.5 (IGCC Power Station Utility Systems)

19 Section 2.6 (Major Process Equipment)

20 The above sections are based on work by members of the Fluor team for which
21 I am the project manager. In my capacity as project manager, I supervised and
22 coordinated the preparation and review of work performed by a project team

1 composed of experienced and qualified engineers, designers, construction managers,
2 schedulers and estimators.

3 Design Process and Optimization

4 **Q Could you describe some of the considerations that have entered into the design**
5 **process for the Project thus far?**

6 A Fluor has worked closely with ConocoPhillips Company on several
7 gasification projects during the last two-year period. The feedstocks for these projects
8 include bituminous coals, petroleum coke, and sub-bituminous coals. The experience
9 gained has allowed Fluor and ConocoPhillips to arrive jointly at a fuel flexible
10 configuration for the Project that will upon design maturity minimize emissions and
11 optimize efficiency. The emissions that have been projected for the Project are based
12 on conservative assumptions, improvements upon which may be realized as the design
13 matures during detailed engineering.

14 Supplements and Clarifications

15 **Q Are there any parts of the sections that you have sponsored that you would like to**
16 **supplement or clarify at this time?**

17 A Not at this time.

18 Conclusion

19 **Q Does this conclude your testimony?**

20 A Yes.

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT ____ (WMB-1)

[To be filed upon receipt]