

Steve Mihalchick

From: Margaret Haapoja [mhaapoja@northlc.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2009 9:05 PM
To: Steve.Mihalchick@state.mn.us
Subject: Excelsior Energy

Steve M. Mihalchick
Administrative Law Judge
Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

Dear Mr. Mihalchick:

I'm writing in opposition to the Mesaba Energy Project that is proposed for our area. We live just a few miles from the site, and my husband and I have not favored this project since we first heard about it. We know that hundreds of people have attended all the public meetings expressing their misgivings about this venture, yet all those comments seem to have been ignored by the DOE/DOC. Please review these comments, as well as those on the Joint Permit Application scoping, Draft EIS and Final EIS, when weighing your decision because they are valid, and many are from the very people most affected by the Mesaba Project.

It is our opinion, based on articles about so-called "clean coal" plants in other parts of the United States, that this technology is neither clean nor safe. Most states will not allow new plants of this type. We also understand that the carbon sequestration promised by Excelsior Energy is not feasible at the proposed site near Taconite. As far as we know, additional information requested such as economic impact data has never been submitted by Excelsior Energy.

We're aware of the negative environmental impact of Minnesota Power's Clay Boswell plant near Cohasset where neighbors have complained about acid rain and coal dust blackening their homes and turning the ice on Jay Gould lake gray. The company has paid these homeowners to clean their buildings more than once in recent years, yet the pollution continues. Please don't let the same thing happen with the Mesaba Energy Project.

We know that the PUC has found that this project is not in the public interest, Citizens Against Mesaba Power (CAMP) submitted a petition signed by 900 people opposed to the project in 2006 and the State Representative for the plant site's district definitely doesn't support the project.

It's hard to believe that Excelsior Energy has been allowed to proceed all these years supported by tax dollars when there is no mandated buyer for the power, when there will be such a negative impact on the environment and when completing the project will require more investors and billions more dollars. We trust that you will rule against the Mesaba Energy project.

Sincerely,

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11/30/2009

Public Comment on FEIS 3