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6312 164th St. NW
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November 28, 2009

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

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

Minnesota Department of Commerce - (PUC Docket E6472/GS-06-668)

Dear Sir,

The Mesaba Energy Project Proposed by Excelsior Energy, Inc. was economically unfeasible when first proposed and today is less feasible. If the over two billion dollars proposed to be spent on the Excelsior project were spent on wind, the wind project would produce significantly more electricity and the cost for fuel would be 0 dollars. As cheap as coal may be it is nowhere near 0.

Secondly, coal is not clean. Clean coal is an oxymoron. A significant part of the electricity produced by the coal will be used to clean the exhaust and sequester only a part of the CO₂. Furthermore, vast areas of our county will be torn up to extract the coal. Wind is clean and all of the electricity generated by wind will be sent to the users.

Wind energy will become even cheaper over time while coal will become more expensive as the pollution standards are enforced on coal plants.

I had an opportunity to talk personally with the president of Excelsior Energy and got to like him and believe he is a fine person. I want the best for him. I am deeply concerned that the Mesaba Energy Project will bankrupt him and his friends before it can be completed.

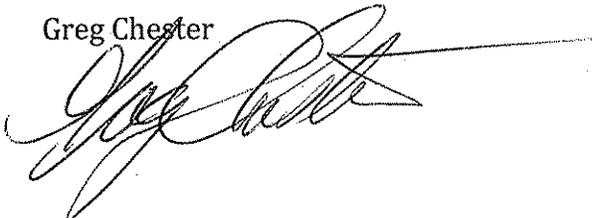
During the ten or more years it will take to build the plant, the wind energy people can build an even greater amount of wind generation and it could begin producing electricity in the first year of the project and begin paying off its debt. At the same time the Mesaba project will not produce the first electron of electricity to begin paying off its debt until the end of the tenth year. The interest will accumulate during that entire time and will have to be paid off in addition to the principle.

The economics of this scenario do not paint a good picture for coal. The economics of coal will drag down not only Excelsior but also all of those businesses and local and state governments that financially back it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Greg Chester



Public Comment on FEIS 7