

This memo is relative to:

MESABA ENERGY PROJECT

PUC Docket No. E6472/GS-06-668 DOE Draft EIS for the Mesaba Energy Project
(DOE/EIS-0382D)

Comments on Draft EIS

We are sincerely concerned about the proposed Mesaba Energy project and the preliminary EIS. First of all, environment means many different things to many people and businesses. For those of us who live and enjoy the north woods, it means the varied landscape, the forests, the many lakes and streams and the wildlife enjoying this habitat. It appears to us, this plant poses a serious threat and impact on all of the above. The removal of trees that add beauty, enhance the air quality and are sustainable would be a loss; this is not a "brown area". The water quality would be affected, from the water table to the quality of the existing water for recreational, fishing and other uses. There is a reason that ST. Louis Cty. did not want that impact on the St. Louis River. The visual impact is a concern, to say nothing of the additional power lines, railroad cars filled with coal going across the state. Real estate values, pollution, the Scenic Hwy rerouting, the Mesaba Bike Trail, these are all valid issues and concerns that affect our environment.

Secondly, environmental impact needs to be measured not only in the short term but in the long term. The inability to finance or plan for the sequestering of carbon dioxide is the most serious of concerns. It is unbelievable to us that with the emphasis on greenhouse gases, the global emphasis on curtailing carbon dioxide emissions and the documented changes in our environment, that we would even consider contributing to that problem as this plant would do. It appears that this is a rush to get the funding and approval before it is outlawed. That is not responsible planning and extremely shortsighted, from our point of view.

Please consider again the serious concerns as raised by the many people who live in this area and will be the most directly affected by the impact of your decisions. We take our responsibility very seriously to use, not abuse, this environment which we have been fortunate to live in. We want to leave this state in as good, if not better condition than our grandparents found it. We feel this coal burning plant is a giant step in the wrong direction.

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