

This memo is in reference 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 writing to express our sincere concern regarding the proposed Mesaba Energy project and its impact on the environment.

First, the definition of environment seems to vary, depending on the eyes of the beholder. To those of us who live in the northland, the environment consists of the wooded landscape, the many lakes, the wildlife that inhabit the area....all of the many reasons we all continue to live here. We feel each of these aspects are endangered by the building of this facility in the midst of this very green and natural area. Not only would it alter the area visibly, but it would challenge the water quality as it now exists for recreational use and the long term effects on the water table for years to come. It would directly affect the entire area with its intrusion of power lines, additional trains carrying the coal and the removal of many trees and habitat for the wildlife in the area. Those are the areas that we look at as citizens and guardians of our environment. These are the most immediate and obvious impacts and are major to all of us.

Secondly, the time frame of the environmental impact is crucial. We are not just discussing today and tomorrow, but we are required to look at the long term consequences of our actions today and their impact on future generations. With no plan at the present for sequestering carbon dioxide due to high costs and lack of feasible alternatives, it appears to us to be extremely shortsighted and selfish to consider releasing more of their gases into the environment when the effects of global warming are being tabulated and documented worldwide. With the recent findings of the Arctic ice shelf diminishing, the drastic changes occurring throughout the world and the emphasis on doing our part in alleviating the problem, how can we proceed with a project that increases the problem and has no plan to sequester the carbon dioxide! We have an absolute obligation to our children, grandchildren and to society as a whole to do our share in not only preserving what we have been given to use, not abuse, and to leave the world in better shape than it was before us. We feel this should begin right here in our own backyard.

These are just the issues regarding the environmental impact physically. The use of public funding to support this project when there are many, many projects that could be contributing to our environment for today and for our grandchildren tomorrow if they had proper funding seems to be another issue that could be a positive for the area and the environment. Please consider the concerns of those of us who live in the area and bear the brunt of these decisions.

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