

Mr. Bill Storm
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place E.
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN

RE: Mesaba Energy Project
PUC Docket E6472/GS-06-668 (This was printed incorrectly on the hand-outs at Taconite. The hand-outs had GS-06-688)

In my presentation at the DEIS Public Comment Meeting in Taconite on November 27, 2007, I had some statistical errors. I wish to send a correction as I want my comment to be factual and accurate. Here is the correction:

Excelsior stated that the Mesaba Plant will not contribute additional mercury discharge to the water discharge. Although they have repeatedly made this misleading statement, the reality is that the discharge water will carry highly concentrated levels of mercury, sulfates, and dissolved solids into Canisteo Mine Pit and/or Holman Lake and the Mississippi River. Given the complex relationship of mercury in an aquatic environment, shouldn't the DEIS give accurate detail related to mercury discharge and subsequent impact? Why would the DEIS continue to repeat some of the same misleading statements given by Excelsior regarding mercury discharge? Why would the DEIS use an impact area of 3km when the mercury deposition will affect 720 lakes over 340 square km? What is the health impact related to the 487,000 fish harvested from those lakes?

I also have 2 other comments and questions:

We know the Mesaba Energy Project does not initially intend to sequester CO2 and it will be just another dirty coal-fired plant. In the Draft EIS it states plans are to remove 74 acres of forest for Phase I and 81 acres of forest for Phase II. (forest having 50-100 yr. old stand of trees) We also know that trees are helpful in absorbing CO2 in the atmosphere during the summer months. So with that said, the pollution in the atmosphere, water and land as well as CO2 will increase with the Mesaba Energy Project.

How do you justify this added pollution and CO2 and how are you going to explain to the people who hunt in those woods that the forest as well as wildlife will no longer be there or in the surrounding area?

In the draft EIS it states there will be increased truck and train traffic, noise (ex: coupling of train cars during switching, as well as loading and unloading train cars), dust, and vibration. *Do you have a plan for people living in the localized area, especially the people living in Taconite, to cope with these negative increases?*

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