



Bill,
At your meeting in Tacoma, you said that there was an "acceptable risk" for cancer. What is an acceptable risk to you?

Perhaps if you sat beside your beloved spouse for 24 hours a day for weeks and watched him pain as he slowly died from cancer, you might think about those words.

If you held an innocent little five year old in your arms as you watched them die from cancer and I heard him say, "Mommy, it hurts", knowing that your prayer would not change the outcome, what would "acceptable risk" mean to you?

Knowing how an innocent child can hurt so badly, it makes me wonder how badly the senior will suffer, especially the senior who knows that his love of money far outweighs what he will do to his fellow humans - even little children.

Rich or poor, we all die. Our time on earth is nothing in comparison to eternity. We all have a choice! Is there an "acceptable risk" that you will see our Savior or are you on the path away from Him?

It is not too late for you to get an honest job making honest money.

Sincerely,
Gordon Deane



COMMENT ON SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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MY COMMENT REGARDING SCOPE OF MESABA EIS:

The Environmental Impact Statement for the Mesaba Project should address:

Generally:

Plants such as this, if determined environmentally acceptable, should be smaller scale plants placed closer to the areas of greatest need designed to reduce infrastructure impacts. Plants should not be built, when and where there is not a need for additional power. The power is not needed at the West Range site. Other power companies should not be forced to purchase power from this company.

The public must be informed well in advance of the Mesaba project; as to how much the cost will be for power generated by this plant and what the cost to the public will be for infrastructure costs.

Also, a study should be undertaken to determine if the Mesaba project could or will go into direct competition with other area providers of electricity to local and Minnesota customers. This is important as other providers could be put at risk due to an inability to compete with this highly subsidized project that is receiving millions of dollars in public monies. The potential loss of existing jobs and community tax base should be known in advance of this project.

Infrastructure at Excelsior's designated site:

The preferred site by Diamond Lake near the communities of Grand Rapids, Coleraine, Taconite, Marble, Calumet, and Bovey does not contain sufficient infrastructure to accommodate this project. For the plant itself and to provide coal, gas & other services to and from this plant will involve the taking of significant acreage from local citizens through the use of Eminent Domain to benefit a private company. This is wrong and it will be disrupting a whole way of life. This is a rural area of forest, wetlands, lakes, mine pit lakes, agriculture areas and rural homes that will forever be ruined and displaced. Snowmobile trails, biking trails, fishing and hunting areas, and wetlands will be adversely impacted and the Canisteo pit area closed to the public. The Canisteo pit is a popular fishing lake and I believe it is being stocked with Trout by the DNR. The project will adversely impact the local tourism industry. People come to Northern Minnesota to see the woods and wildlife, to fish, to hunt, to enjoy the rural area, not to see a power plant. The adverse impact on the local tourism industry and local citizens due to the huge impact this project will have should be known in advance of this project and be considered to offset any potential gain the community might obtain from the project.

Water Use and contamination issues:

The mine pits are filled with water from underground water sources as well as from rainfall. Pollution generated by this plant will dump tons of pollutants into the surrounding area every year. Contamination of underground water aquifers upon which the local cities and surrounding rural communities rely for their drinking water source will likely be contaminated from seepage. There are already fish consumption advisories in area lakes. Discharged water from this plant will reach the Mississippi and Swan River watershed, already impaired waters. Why is Excelsior required to meet more stringent guidelines for the Lake Superior watershed than this preferred site? It is not O.K. to pollute more at the preferred site just because it is cheaper to build here. The company should be required to use all current available technologies at all sites in order to reduce pollution to the greatest extent possible or preferably to eliminate all pollution. They should not be permitted to build where it is not possible to use these available technologies.

The effects of water pollution on the Mississippi River will significantly increase as the runoff from the Mesaba plant finds its way to this already impaired waterway. The current effect of the Clay Boswell plant, the UPM paper mill in Grand Rapids and other local industry will only be increased by the addition of pollution from the Mesaba plant. The combined effect of increased pollution to the Mississippi River by the Mesaba plant must be a factor when determining acceptable limit standards.

Likewise there will be added adverse impact to the Swan River, the source of which is Swan Lake by Pengilly. The over all pollution effect is compounded with the new Steel Industry project planned for north west of the city of Nashwauk. The combined effect of these projects must be factored in when determining acceptable standards for both air and water quality.

Water infrastructure issues (process water, treatment, discharge):

This project will require that significant public dollars be invested in upgrading the Bovey, Coleraine, Taconite Waste Water plant and will require that additional space be found to spread the by product of the waste treatment process. This will result in the additional loss of greenspace. Also, will a heavy metal and chemical contamination hazard be created by the influx of waste water to the waste treatment plant and will that in turn contaminate the soil on which the by product is spread?

Air Pollution issues:

The preferred site at Diamond Lake will increase the Air pollution for citizens in the immediate surrounding area. For those living South of the plant site it will mean a double dose of pollution. The prevailing winds are west-northwest. The existing Clay Boswell plant is located in Cohasset directly to the West of Grand Rapids, Bovey, Coleraine, Taconite, Marble and the rural areas south of those communities. The Mesaba project is planned for the area directly north and north east of those same communities. When determining the air pollution effect on these areas and its citizens, the combined effect of pollution from both of these plants must be taken into consideration.

High Voltage transmission line routing and impact issues:

The proposed route from north of Taconite to the Blackberry sub station would follow a new power line route. To date, the public has not been informed of the proposed route for high voltage transmission lines after the Black Berry sub station. The added power is not needed in the area of the proposed power plant rather it is targeted for the Metro area, therefore the plant, if necessary should be built closer to the area of need in order to diminish adverse effects to the general public. Transmission lines will have to be newly built and/or upgraded to handle the additional power load and will cover most of the State from north to South. This unnecessarily exposes large segments of the states population to added health risk from high voltage, and it takes away an as yet unknown amount of privately owned acreage and properties through the use of Eminent Domain. The total impact on the public of these high voltage transmission lines and the total loss to private landowners must be factored in when making a determination on the best location for the Mesaba plants (it is understood there will be six total).

Gas Pipeline routing and impact issues:

The preferred route for the gas line runs from Blackberry Township across Trout Lake Township from South to North. It cuts right through the center of Trout Lake Township and takes an entirely new route. Upgrading of existing gas lines is not being considered. In part the reason given for taking this preferred route is that it will involve the use of Eminent Domain for only eight (8) landowners. It follows a route through the most rural and open areas of this township, predominantly farm, forest and wetland areas.

Use of existing gas line routes should be the first consideration when determining a source for natural gas. There is an abandoned gas line along Highway 169 near to and west of the City of Nashwauk that used to serve a now abandoned mine. This could be extended and/or upgraded to serve the Mesaba Plant. The city of Nashwauk currently has gas service and natural gas lines serve the mine in Keewatin, just to the East of Nashwauk. If Nashwauk is going to be the

provider of Natural gas to this plant or any other plant, or if the Mesaba Project puts in its own gas line, they should be required to utilize existing gas line routes in or near Nashwauk and those that already cross through Brownfield mine areas or be required to upgrade existing gas lines in the Nashwauk community. They should not be permitted to cross new areas of private properties to serve a private company. There is not a need for gas in the City of Nashwauk.

Secondly, there are two existing gas lines that already tap into the Blackberry line and which cross-parts of Grand Rapids Township to the East of Grand Rapids and part of Trout Lake Township that should be utilized and upgraded if necessary.

Thank you for considering my comments.

August 30, 2006
Date

Karen Burthwick
Signature

e-mailed on this date