Mr. William Cole Storm
Department of Commerce
85 7th PlaceEast, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

December 9, 2007

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to the Mesaba Energy Project, PUC Docket No. E6472/GS-06-668. I attended the DEIS meeting in Taconite on November 27th and want to thank you for the professional manor in which you facilitated the discussion. Having now had a chance to read the DEIS, I must concur with the majority of concerned citizens who spoke on the 27th and expressed surprise and disappointment with the Document's failure to adequately address key issues involved in the Mesaba Project.
My concerns include the following:

1. No in-depth, comprehensive cost/benefit analysis has ever been done on the project. The DEIS only refers to an Excelsior Energy commissioned study of economic impact that the study's authors acknowledge is of limited scope.

2. The DEIS gives cursory attention to potential ground water ramifications to the Coleraine, Bovey, Trout Lake Township area. This failure provides a text-book basis for class action litigation in the event that local wells begin to show elevated contaminates.

3. The MPUC has already expressed an opinion that the cost of potential power generated by the Taconite plant would be prohibitive.

4. How can our Governor, national and state elected officials continue to publicly promote higher alternate energy standards while backing a project that would become Minnesota's second highest polluter.

5. This ill-conceived project is incapable of sequestering carbon dioxide, is dependant upon coal from distant sources and would require millions of dollars in infrastructure to transmit its power to providers who have been unanimous in saying they don't want or need it.

These are but a few of the obvious flaws regarding the Mesaba Project and the woefully inadequate DEIS. I strongly suggest that the Department of Commerce and the Federal Energy Commission take a new look at producing an EIS that speaks to legitimate concerns and does not rely so heavily on the understandably biased input from Excelsior Energy.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark
26606 Eagle View Drive
Bovey, MN 55709-8642

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