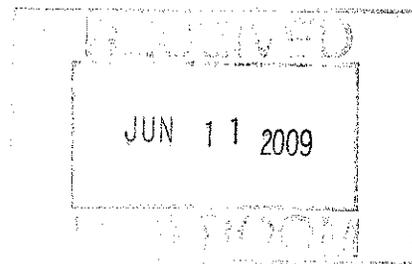


Father Jogues Epplé
2523 Portland Avenue South
Apt. 2210
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404



June 11, 2009

William Cole Storm, Project Director
Minnesota Department of Commerce
7th Place East, #500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Storm,

A week from today, OED and Xcel will speak at the Midtown Global Market just a few blocks from here. As you know they will be speaking about the Hiawatha Project. In our Phillips neighborhood there are 19,805 souls according to the 2000 Census. Among us there are many activists who are deeply concerned about the project. Many are more able to speak for us than I. For my part, I see no need to attend the meeting.

If you read my June 4th letter, you understand why I am stunned by what you are doing. I continue to believe that:

- The Hiawatha Project is folly.
- "Hiawatha" is a character from Longfellow's fiction. It is my hope you will consult with a real person. We have a wise, very real and articulate woman who represents us on your side of the river. I hope you will consult with State Representative Karen Clark (District 61A).
- The Hiawatha project is vastly too risky. Enron and Wall Street have shown all too well how to make profit from risk. If Xcel is to maintain the 23 percent profit margin it did in 2007, it will have to take risks. It is these risks that allow so-called executive compensation that amounts to virtual pots of gold.
- Women are clearly not risk-averse. The Harvard research studies known as *In Her Own Voice* suggests that women are more circumspect, more responsible by nature to steal Xcel's line. So, why are there so few female voices among you who are making decisions?

I do not know by what measure of success you will measure next week's meeting. For me, if the people of our neighborhood speak truth to the power you represent, I will be pleased.

Cordially,

Father Jogues Epplé 6/11/09

cc: PWNO, PCEC, MGC, Xcel, MN DOC, MNPUC, LSS, the Alley