From: frank weber
To: Bill.Storm@state.mn.us;
Subject: Powerline project for the Essar Project
Date: Friday, August 14, 2009 7:10:06 AM

Mr Storm,

FIrst should you not have heard, the Essar has delayed their project again. Also noted in the testimony, that the numbers for employment continue to fall. This project was to be a boon to the Range yet should it EVER become operable, will compete directly for a market share of the iron industry with less people than the current domestic operations. Having retired from mining and so have most of my family and friends, the statement that 4.5 million tons of taconite could be produced with so few employees is just another indication that Essar has no clue of what it takes to mine taconite (extremely hard and with a deep overburden). Simple reality that our Range legislators should have used as a litmus test before committing millions of taxpayer dollars.
Second, noted that after hearing the testimony that THREE power sources were required for redundancy, that two of the proposed lines coming from the west and north are fed from the same main line.
That the line route from the north following Hwy 65 should ever have been considered vice
the alternate further to the east is asinine. The alternate could use public land and stay away from nearly all homes in the area but then anything that continues to fracture our wilderness areas as these projects do is destructive and wasteful.

Respectfully,

Frank R Weber