

August 22, 2003

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
26 East Exchange Street, Suite 206  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Alan Mitchell  
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
Centennial Office Building – Third Floor  
658 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

RE: July 10, 2003 Explanation of Possible Changes to the Amendments to 4410 Rules

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for work in developing the Proposed Permanent Rules Governing Environmental Review of Electric Power Generation Plants and High Voltage Transmission Lines in Proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) appreciates the opportunity for public involvement throughout the development of the amended rules.

MCEA supports all of the changes suggested in your July 10, 2003 letter. These changes clarify the implementation of the rules and ensure thorough and adequate environmental review of major power projects.

In a July 17, 2003 letter, the Public Utilities Commission stated that it has strong concerns with several of the potential changes. MCEA believes that each of these potential changes should be included in the final rules and that each is necessary to ensure adequate public notice of the proposed project, thorough consideration of impacts and alternatives, and streamline the regulatory process by combining potentially duplicative proceedings.

In conclusion, MCEA supports all of the changes to the Proposed Permanent Rules suggested in your July 10, 2003 letter. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

David J. Zoll