

Kari Engen  
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December 16, 2007

Bill Storm  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101



Dear Bill,

My name is Kari Engen and I have lived in Minnesota for 8 years. I am now studying Environment Science and have been asked to read the study about the Mesaba Energy Project that is being proposed. I selected **Chapter four, Environmental Consequences; section 4.7 Wetlands** "*direct loss of wetlands due to the placement of dredge or fill material and secondary impacts relating to the altering or conversion of wetland function due to the removal of vegetation or change in hydrological regime.*" to write to you about.

There are 302 pages in this section and I focused on pages 111-112. After reading this several times, it seems to me that although there will be some negative impact on the wetlands, if a power plant must be built, this is inevitable. My question here would be if another power plant is really needed in Minnesota, wouldn't a nuclear power plant be more environmentally friendly? Perhaps a "wait and see" approach would make more sense. Rather than push ahead with this project, why not wait another five years and then do another study?

These are just some suggestions I wanted to share with you. Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,

  
Kari Engen