



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

National Geodetic Survey

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

January 4, 2008

Mr. Richard A. Hargis, Jr., Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
P.O. Box 10940
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940

Dear Mr. Hargis,

We have provided comments on the DEIS regarding the Mesaba Energy Project, Proposal to Design, Construct, and Operate a Coal-Based Integrated Gasification Cycle Electric Power Generating Facility, Located in the Taconite Tax Relief Area, Itasca & St Louis Counties, MN (20070471).

The DEIS has been reviewed within the areas of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Geodetic Survey's (NGS) geodetic responsibility, expertise, and in terms of the impact of the proposed actions on NGS activities and projects.

If there are any planned activities which will disturb or destroy geodetic control monuments, NGS requires notification not less than 90 days in advance of such activities in order to plan for their relocation. NGS recommends that funding for this project includes the cost of any required relocation(s).

All available geodetic control information about horizontal and vertical geodetic control monuments in the subject area is contained on the homepage of NGS at the following Internet address: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>. After entering this website, please access the topic "Products and Services" then "Data Sheet." This menu item will allow you to directly access geodetic control monument information from the NGS database for the subject area project. This information should be reviewed for identifying the location and designation of any geodetic control monuments that may be affected by the proposed project.

We hope our comments will assist you. Thank you for giving NGS the opportunity to review your DEIS.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Harm
Program Analyst
NOAA's National Geodetic Survey
Office of the Director
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC3 8729, NOAA, N/NGS
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910



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