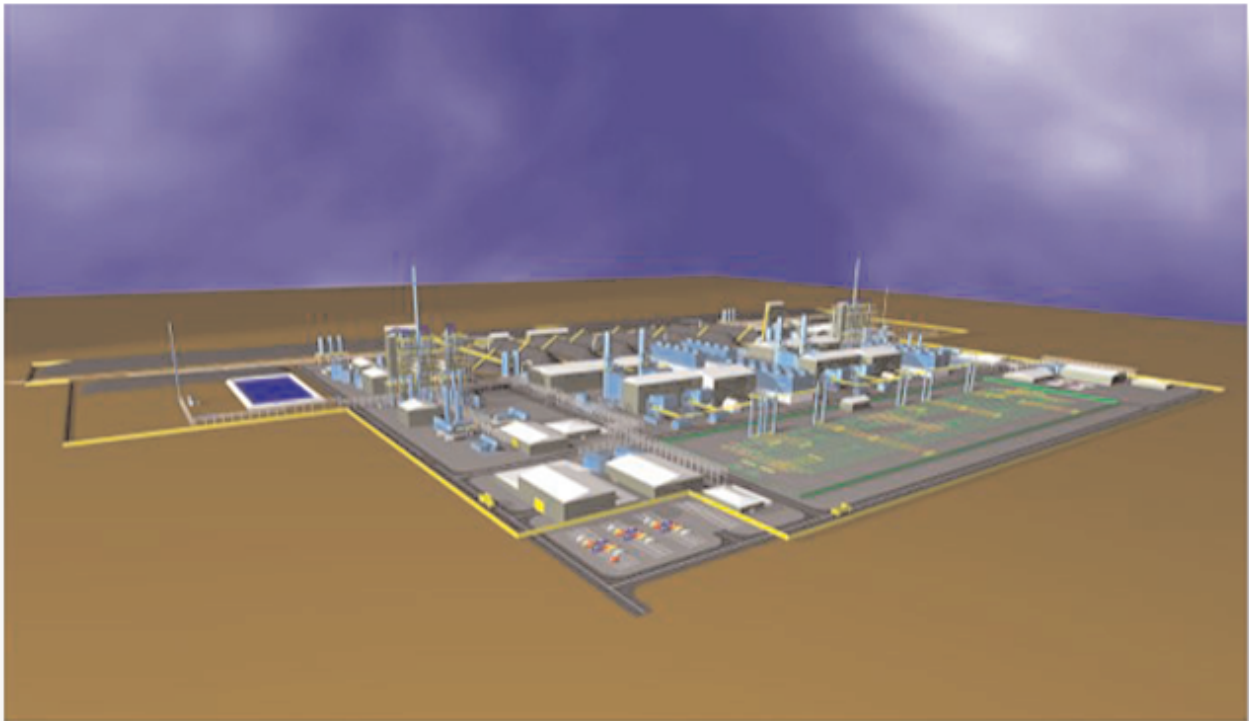


**U.S. Department of Energy
in cooperation with
Minnesota Department of Commerce**

MESABA ENERGY PROJECT

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT VOLUME 3: COMMENT RESPONSE DOCUMENT

**DOE/EIS-0382
MN PUC DOCKET # E6472/GS-06-668**



NOVEMBER 2009



**Office of Fossil Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory**



VOLUME 3
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES ON THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Draft EIS for the Mesaba Energy Project was published in November 2007. DOE and MDOC distributed copies of the Draft EIS to officials, agencies, Native American tribes, organizations, libraries and members of the public identified in the distribution list (Chapter 8 of Draft EIS Volume 1). MDOC announced the availability of the Draft EIS in the *EQB Monitor* on November 5, 2007 (Volume 31, Number 23, Page 9); DOE announced the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register* (FR) on November 8, 2007 (72 FR 63169); and EPA published the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* on November 9, 2007 (72 FR 63579). This volume provides a summary of the public hearings, explains the methodology for receiving and coding comment documents, and provides responses to comments received.

DOE and MDOC jointly held two public hearings for the Draft EIS at the same locations as the scoping meetings. The hearings were held at the Taconite Community Center in Taconite, Minnesota on November 27, 2007 and the Hoyt Lakes Arena in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota on November 28, 2007. DOE and MDOC advertised the hearings in the *Hibbing Daily Tribune*, *Grand Rapids Herald-Review*, and *Mesabi Daily News* on November 14 and 18, 2007, and in the *Duluth News Tribune* on November 18, 2007. Informal information sessions were held at the same locations prior to both hearings from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, during which time attendees were given information about the project and were able to view project-related posters.

Based on sign-in sheets, the Taconite hearing was attended by 107 individuals, and the Hoyt Lakes hearing was attended by 34 individuals. MDOC and DOE led the presentations and presided over the public hearings. The public was encouraged to provide oral comments at the hearings and to submit written comments to DOE or MDOC by January 11, 2008. A court reporter was present at each hearing to ensure that all oral comments were recorded and legally transcribed.

2. METHODOLOGY

In preparing the Final EIS, DOE and MDOC considered all comments to the extent practicable. An identification number was assigned to each originator of a comment (i.e., each commenter), including those expressed orally at the public hearings. Individuals who submitted comments in multiple separate submissions were assigned a separate commenter number for each submission. Each specific comment by the same commenter was assigned a sequential comment number; for example, Comment 82-20 refers to the 20th comment by the commenter assigned as number 82.

Based on the comments received on the Draft EIS, DOE and MDOC prepared responses and modified the EIS (Volume 1) and Appendices (Volume 2) where appropriate. The EIS was also revised based on DOE's internal technical and editorial review of the Draft EIS (i.e., changes made to the EIS that were not in response to a comment received). Section 3 provides a summary of the principal comments received on the Draft EIS.

Transcripts of both public hearings, as well as scanned images of the original comment documents in order by assigned commenter number, are included in their entirety in Section 4 of this volume. The commenters and their comments are identified and labeled on each comment document image beginning with the public hearing transcripts. All comment documents on the Draft EIS, as included in this comment-response volume, as well as any supporting attachments, have been entered into the administrative record for this EIS. Individual responses for each comment are provided on the right-side of each page in close proximity to the corresponding comment. In cases where subsequent comments address the same issue, references are made to the earlier comment number for appropriate responses. In some cases where a commenter addressed an issue that was the subject of a related comment by an agency having jurisdiction over the subject area, the response refers to the response given for the respective agency's comment even if it occurs later in the document.

3. DESCRIPTION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Oral comments were given by 28 individuals at the Taconite hearing and by 6 individuals at the Hoyt Lakes hearing. In addition, DOE and MDOC received 88 written comments, including 5 from Federal agencies, 4 from state agencies, 5 from Native American tribal organizations, and several from national and regional non-governmental organizations and other affiliations. After reviewing and analyzing the comments received, a list of issues was developed and each was assigned a category in Table Vol. 3-1.

Table Vol. 3-1. Comment Categories

Comment Category	Abbreviation
Aesthetics	AES
Air Quality – General	AQ
Air Quality – Climate Change	AQ-C
Air Quality – Visibility	AQ-V
Biological Resources	BIO
Community Services	COM
Cost	COST
Cultural Resources	CUL
Cumulative Impacts	CUM
Environmental Justice	EJ
Floodplains	FP
General	GEN
Geology & Soils	GEO
Land Use	LU
Materials & Waste Management	MWM
Noise	NOISE
Proposed Action & Alternatives	PAA
Purpose & Need	PN
Sequestration	SEQ
Safety & Health	SH
Socioeconomics	SOC
Support	SUP
Traffic & Transportation	TT
Utility Systems	UT
Wetlands	WETL
Water Resources	WR

Table Vol. 3-2 provides a listing of the commenters, their assigned identification numbers, their affiliations, and the issues raised by each. Comments made in general support for the project are also identified in the table.

Table Vol. 3-2. Index of Commenters and Comment Categories

ID #	Name	Affiliation/Organization	Comment Categories
1	Ross Hammond	Fresh Energy	AQ, SEQ, AQ-C
2	LeRoy Flug	Citizen	AQ, BIO, WR
3	Linda Castagneri	Citizen	SH, UT, AQ-V
4	Ron Gustafson	Citizen	COST, AQ,-C, SEQ, UT, SH, PN, COM
5	Bob Norgord	Citizen	UT, LU, SH, GEN, GEO, PN
6	Lee Ann Norgord	Citizen	WR
7	Ed Anderson	Citizens Against the Mesaba Project (CAMP)	GEN, WR, BIO, SH, PN
8	Charles Decker	Citizen	PN
9	Mary Munn	Fond du Lac Reservation	AQ, GEN
10	Mike Andrews	Itasca Economic Development Corporation	GEN, SUP
11	David Hudek	Citizen	WR
12	Sue Hutchins	Citizen	WR, SH, TT, AQ, BIO, AQ-C
13	Joan Beech	Citizen	AQ-C, SEQ
14	Harry Hutchins	Citizen	BIO, SEQ
15	Warren Shaffer	Citizen	WR
16	Andrew David	Citizen	SOC, EJ, PN, SH
17	Charles Grant	Citizen	SH
18	Kristen Anderson	Citizen	SEQ, PN
19	Amanda Nesheim	Citizen	WR, AQ, CUM, SEQ, GEN
20	Carol Overland	MNCoalGasPlant.com	GEN, AQ
21	Jeff Poenix	Citizen	TT, MWM
22	Karla Igo	Citizen	PAA, AQ-C
23	Gary Burt	Citizen	SH
24	Bob Igo	Citizen	GEN, WR, PN, SH
25	Judy Gunelius	Citizen	BIO
26	David Holmstrom	Citizen	AQ, UT
27	Darrell White	Citizen	SOC
28	Ron Gustafson	Citizen	GEN
29	Norm Voorhees	Ironworkers Local 512	SUP, GEN, SOC
30	Bob Tammen	Citizen	SOC
31	Jean Dallas	Citizen	GEN
32	Gordon Smith	Painters Local	SUP, SOC
33	Bill Whiteside	Citizen	PN, SOC, SH
34	Warren Koskiniemi	Citizen	SUP, SOC
35	Neil Ahlstrom	Metalcasters of Minnesota	PN
36	David Hudek	Citizen	BIO, AQ-C
37	Gail Matthews	Citizen	AQ-C, PAA, CUM, GEN
38	Lee Ann Norgord	Citizen	WR, BIO, SH, AQ-C, TT, NOISE

Table Vol. 3-2. Index of Commenters and Comment Categories

ID #	Name	Affiliation/Organization	Comment Categories
39	Mark Roalson	Citizen	PN, SOC, AES
40	Gail Matthews	Citizen	PAA
41	Steve Clark	Citizen	SOC, WR, COST, PAA, PN, AQ-C, GEN
42	Alvar Hupila	Citizen	AQ-C, WR, UT, GEN
43	Mark Mandich	Itasca County Commissioner	SUP, GEN
44	Bob Norgord	Citizen	UT, BIO, SH, GEN, GEO
45	Gail Matthews	Citizen	AQ-C, PAA
46	Randy Zupan	Citizen	PAA, GEN, SEQ
47	Frank Kirby	Citizen	PAA
48	Dennis A. Gimmestad	Minnesota Historical Society – State Historic Preservation Office	CUL
49	James W. Sanders and Jeff J. Smith	U.S. Forest Service	AQ-C, AQ-V, AQ, SOC, CUM
50	Cody Ekholm	Citizen	SUP, SOC, WR
51	Joseph Troumbly	Citizen	PN, GEO
52	Mary Anderson	Citizen	SUP, SOC
53	Ron Gustafson and Linda Castagneri	Citizen	GEN, COST, MWM, SEQ, UT, SH, WR, WETL, BIO, COST, AQ-V, AQ-C, TT, NOISE, AQ, COM
54	Jim and Tracy Weseloh	Citizen	PAA
55	Christopher W. Harm	NOAA's National Geodetic Survey	GEO
56	Mike Ives and Peter McDermott	Itasca Economic Development Corporation	GEN, SOC, PN
57	Michael T. Chezik	U.S. Department of the Interior	AQ, WETL, BIO
58	Timothy and Patricia Zoerb	Citizen	WR, AQ, GEN, SH
59	Harry Hutchins	Citizen	BIO, NOISE, AQ, SOC, AQ-C
60	Ryan Neururer	Citizen	GEN, SOC, BIO
61	Christian Charity Warrington	Citizen	PAA
62	Jennifer Biscardi	Citizen	PN, SOC, GEN
63	Sarah Copeland	Citizen	PAA
64	Miranda Hemsworth	Citizen	SOC, GEN
65	Dana L. Saville	Citizen	BIO, SOC
66	Kari Engen	Citizen	WETL, PAA
67	Darryl Sobey	Citizen	SEQ
68	Diana L. Storrs	Citizen	PAA
69	Meagan Wichterman	Citizen	BIO, WR, SOC, SH

Table Vol. 3-2. Index of Commenters and Comment Categories

ID #	Name	Affiliation/Organization	Comment Categories
70	Bridgitte Ross	Citizen	PN, GEN
71	Betty Dodson	Citizen	COST
72	Alvin Donnell	Iron Range Council of Native Americans	GEN
73	Dorothy Stish	Citizen	GEN
74	Nancy LaPlaca	Citizen	PAA, GEN
75	Amanda Nesheim	Citizen	Nearly All
76	Matt Langan	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	WR, BIO, GEN, LU, WETL, CUM
77	Jean and Herb Halverson	Citizen	BIO, PAA, SEQ, COST, WR, AES, AQ, GEN
78	Mary Erickson	Citizen	SOC, AQ, SH, COST, SEQ
79	Richard Twaddle	Citizen	SEQ
80	Andrew David	Citizen	SOC, EJ
81	Jim and Steph Shields	Citizen	SEQ, BIO, AQ, PN
82	Ed Anderson	CAMP	Nearly All
83	Robert Evans	Excelsior Energy	AQ
84	John Linc Stine	Minnesota Department of Health	WR
85	Colleen Blade	Citizen	GEN
86	David Dahl	Citizen	BIO, WR
87	Nathaniel Hart	Citizen	AQ-C, SEQ, PAA
88	Chad Karjala	Citizen	WR, BIO
89	Willard Karjala	Citizen	AQ-V
90	Glenn Perry	Citizen	SEQ
91	Darrell White	Citizen	WR
92	Delores White	Citizen	WR, BIO
93	Dr. Gregory Chester	Citizen	PAA, COST
94	William A. Hanson	Citizen	SOC
95	Frank R. Weber	Citizen	Nearly All
96	Edward and Susan Stish	Citizen	SOC, LU, WR, BIO, SEQ, WETL, TT, COM, GEN
97	Darren Vogt and Dave Woodward	1854 Treaty Authority	GEN, BIO, SEQ, AQ-V, AQ, WR, CUM, CUL, PN
98	Brandy Toft	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	PN, AQ-V, AQ, BIO, WR, SH, GEN
99	Wayne Dupuis	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	AQ, GEN, PN, AQ-C, SEQ, TT, PAA, AQ-V, WR, CUM
100	Darin Steen	Bois Forte Tribal Government	PN, SOC, COST, AQ, WR, CUM, GEN
101	Harry E. Gallaher	Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P.	WR
102	Kristin Henry	Sierra Club, North Star Chapter	Nearly All
103	Carol Overland	MNCoalGasPlant.com	Nearly All
104	Margaret Haapoja	Citizen	GEN

Table Vol. 3-2. Index of Commenters and Comment Categories

ID #	Name	Affiliation/Organization	Comment Categories
105	Jeff J. Smith	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	AQ, AQ-V, SH, AQ-C, CUM, WR, WETL, MWM
106	Cynthia Driscoll	Citizen	SEQ
107	Paul J. Milinovich	Swan Lake Association	WR, AQ
108	Kevin Reuther	Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy	GEN, AQ-C, PN, SOC
109	Dave Hudek	Citizen	WR, GEN, NOISE, AQ, AQ-C
110	William E. Berg	Citizen	AQ, SH, GEO, WR, BIO, WETL, SOC, MWM, PAA, SEQ, GEN
111	Alan Walts	EPA Region V	GEN, PN, PAA, WETL, AQ, WR
112	Paul Minerich	Citizen	PN
113	Helene (Perry) Berg	Citizen	GEN, SEQ, AQ, SH, PAA
114	Darlene J. Swanson	Quan-Tec-Air, Inc.	PAA
115	Norman W. Deschampe	Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council	SEQ, AQ-V, AQ, SH, WR, CUM, GEN, PN, CUL
116	Robert J. Whiting	Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District	PAA, WETL, GEN, PN, AQ, BIO, UT, TT, CUM, WR, AQ-V, AES, SH
117	Janet L. Brandon	Citizen	SOC, SEQ
118	Concerned Individual	Citizen	AQ, SEQ, PAA
119	Ly Her	Citizen	BIO, SH
120	Larry Johnson	Citizen	WR
121	MEHHED	Citizen	PAA
122	Bob Tammen	Citizen	SOC

4. COMMENT LETTERS AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

The remainder of this volume provides scanned images of the comment documents and DOE's individual responses to the comments. This section begins with the transcripts of the public hearings for the Draft EIS (November 27, 2007 in Taconite, Minnesota and November 28, 2007 in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota) and continues with the comment documents received by DOE.