

CAMP UPDATE:

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Wall Street Journal deals major blow for Excelsior Energy

This is a major blow for Excelsior Energy! The PUC and potential investors can't ignore the numbers below. Read on...

The following is an excerpt from the Wall Street Journal's recent article entitled: "Coal's Doubters Block New Wave of Power Plants" by Rebecca Smith

Even proposals to build so-called "clean coal" plants have been met with skepticism. This new technology, which primarily involves converting coal into a combustible gas for electricity generation, has been touted as a solution to coal's global-warming problems.

A hearing judge at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is urging commissioners to reject a plan for Northern States Power Co., a unit of Xcel Energy Inc., Minneapolis, to buy about 8% of its electricity from a coal-gasification power plant that was proposed by Excelsior Energy Inc., Minnetonka, Minn. The judge concluded the 600-megawatt Excelsior plant wouldn't be a good deal for consumers.

The judge concluded it would cost an extra \$472.3 million, in 2011 dollars, to make the power plant capable of capturing about 30% of its carbon dioxide emissions, and another \$635.4 million to build a pipeline to move the greenhouse gas to the nearest deep geologic storage in Alberta, Canada. Thus, \$1.1 billion in pollution controls had the potential to inflate the cost of power coming from the plant by \$50 a megawatt hour, making electricity from Excelsior twice as costly as power from many older coal-fired plants that simply vent their carbon dioxide. The recommendation will be considered by the commission on Aug. 2.

To see the complete article, go to www.legalelectric.org