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## **JUDGES RECOMMEND AGAINST MESABA ENERGY PROJECT**

Excelsior Energy has suffered a setback in its plan to build two coal-gasification power plants near the Scenic Highway north of Taconite, known as the Mesaba Energy Project. Excelsior filed a petition to force Xcel Energy to purchase the 603 MW of electrical output from Mesaba I. Whether Xcel should be forced into the power purchase agreement (PPA) is an issue pending before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

Because Excelsior's petition was contested by Xcel and other interveners, and because it involved complex factual, legal and policy issues, the case was referred to administrative law judges (ALJs) to gather and analyze the evidence and issue a report and recommendations for the MPUC to consider.

### **The report concluded that:**

- \* The Project does not satisfy the definition of an Innovative Energy Project.**
- \* It has not been established that the Project significantly reduces emissions in comparison to traditional technologies.**
- \* Since the Project is not an Innovative Energy Project, it does not qualify as a "Clean Energy Technology".**
- \* The Final PPA is not in the public interest.**

### **The report recommended that:**

Excelsior Energy's Petition asking the Commission to approve, amend, or modify the terms and conditions of the Final PPA be **DENIED** and that the Final PPA be **DISAPPROVED**.

The report is posted at: [www.oah.state.mn.us](http://www.oah.state.mn.us).

Excelsior officials have previously stated that without the PPA with Xcel, not one shovelful of dirt will be turned. The MPUC is expected to take several weeks to review the record before making its decision, which likely will determine the fate of the project.

Ed Anderson  
CAMP Co-Chair