



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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11/6/2015

Michael Kaluzniak, Energy Facilities Planner  
Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Minnesota Power 16 Line Relocation Project Environmental Assessment  
Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: E015/TL-14-977  
Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Number: 68-2500-32500  
Department of Natural Resources Environmental Review Database Number: 20150205

Dear Mr. Kaluzniak:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for Minnesota Power's (ALLETE) proposed Line 16 Relocation Project. We have the following comments for your consideration.

A major harvestable state reservation of school trust peat resources exists in Sections 19 and 20 where the two most recent alternatives are proposed. When most of Section 19 and all of Section 20, T56N R17W were exchanged by the State in 1964 and eventually being owned by United Taconite for the purposes of tailings deposition, commercial peat and mineral rights were reserved by the State (School Trust). This area was drilled and analyzed for peat resources in the 1970's. Any crossing of state-owned peat resources would require an encumbrance fee.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schrenzel  
Principal Planner  
Environmental Review Unit  
(651) 259-5115

cc: Administrative Law Judge Jeanne Cochran  
Bill Storm, Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Dan McCourtney, Minnesota Power

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