

MP&L Carbon Free Power 2022

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The 2022 MP&L Duluth Loop Reliability Project can be questioned on the three issues of 1) Environment Impact, 2) Mischaracterization, and 3) Carbon Free Generation. These three issues require the MP&L Loop Reliability Project to be reconsidered prior to implementation.

1) **ENVIRONMENT IMPACT:** The most important environmental concern with MP&L power generation, is to reduce the reliance on carbon based fuel. This 'carbon reduction' will have a positive impact on the environment in the long term. This project is not a way to reduce carbon based power generation because it ultimately utilizes purchase of power from the existing grid that is produced by carbon based fuels. The way to reduce the dependence on power from coal burning plants is to substitute clean energy in the form of 'wind' and 'solar'. The MP&L project will purchase power from the existing 'carbon generated' power grid that is not an environmentally sound process! This project misses the real opportunity to substitute clean 'wind' and 'solar' power generation for 'coal' based generation.

2) **MISCHARACTERIZATION:** Any new energy production and use needs to utilize non-carbon based generation to be environmentally sound. This 'reliability' project is pictured as eliminating dependence on carbon based generation because of the closing of three (3) Coal Fired Plants by MP&L. But, it does **not** because it substitutes new power through the new transmission lines that is purchased from existing 'carbon' based generation plants. This 'Reliability Project' is a great opportunity to replace 'coal' based generation with 'wind' and 'solar' production. Instead, it simplistically uses the existing 'carbon based' grid through new high power lines.

3) **CARBON FREE GENERATION:** This project to construct new high power connection lines, misses the opportunity to develop environmentally sound 'carbon free' power generation to replace existing 'coal' fired plants. We now have a chance for a comparative estimate of the cost for a 'reliability' alternative via purchase of new power, compared to the development of 'wind' and 'solar' alternatives. Replacing the 'coal' generation with environmentally sound 'wind' and/or 'solar' alternatives will result in carbon free power generation. In place of buying power from the 'carbon' based grid, now we have the real opportunity to support true 'carbon free' power generation. This new power generating alternative can also be a paying process by selling the new 'solar' and/or 'wind' power to the grid when it is not needed locally. This is a 'win - win' situation.

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