



Dear Public Service Commissioners,

My name is Patrick and I work in Grand Forks, North Dakota. I am writing to submit my comments on the South Heart Coal Mine permit case and to request an informal hearing on the matter so the public can be heard.

I urge you to reject this coal mine permit. I am deeply concerned about the radio-activity and many other negative elements that are in the coal in South Heart. Furthermore, I see this as a very backwards project on many levels. This coal mine is bad for us economically, environmentally and socially, considering the enormous negative impact it will have on the people living near South Heart and all North Dakotans. The external costs, which you as the PSC don't talk about, are greatly taxing our society and hurting our economy, regardless of the short-term profits that make it seem like a positive option. Coal is not. Harvard just released a study citing that the true cost of coal on our society in the USA alone is \$500 Billion dollars, considering its externalities (Dr. Paul Epstein, the Director of Harvard Medical School Center for Health and the Global Environment).

There are better ways of generating electricity that do not have these enormous external costs that hurt our state tax payers and the general public at large. This coal mine should be forced to pay the external costs it will burden ND with. Then it would never be built cause coal's the ignorant and irresponsible choice.

When we first used coal for the production of electricity it may have been the right choice. But today we can NO LONGER say that the use of coal is the right choice when we have other options that we did not have before, such as solar, biofuels and wind. I understand that these options also have costs involved and specific difficulties. But, they are all renewable, economically feasible, and without the huge external costs that our public has to pay as the coal executives send the profits out-of-state.

If we cannot learn from our mistakes and make change for the better now, our economy will suffer in the long-term, as will our children's health. One thing is clear, I hear it every day, the air is getting worse and worse and respiratory disease is becoming a very expensive and serious problem.

Please reconsider the clear problems around the use of coal and reject this mine permit.

Sincerely,

Patrick Anderson

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mailed Feb 28, 2011