




ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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59825 S. LaGrave Street · Paw Paw, MI 49079
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269-445-1000 or 1-800-492-5989
www.TeamMidwest.com

Mr. G. Vinson Hellwig
Air Quality Division Chief
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Constitution Hall, 3rd Floor North
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30260
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Mary Jo Kunkle
Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909-7721

Re: MPSC Case No. U-16000
Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc.
Electric Generation Alternatives Analysis

Dear Mr. Hellwig and Ms. Kunkle:

As Chairman of the Board of Midwest Energy Cooperative (Midwest), I respectfully submit this letter to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in support of Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc.'s (Wolverine) proposed air permit for its planned 600 megawatt (MW) coal-fired electric power plant to be located in Rogers City, Presque Isle County, Michigan, the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture (WCEV)


Midwest is a Michigan based member-consumer owned rural electric cooperative engaged in the distribution and sale of electric energy to approximately 29,000 member-customers, consisting of residential, farm residential, seasonal, small commercial, outdoor lighting and large power accounts in portions of Cass, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, Monroe, St. Joseph, Van Buren and Berrien counties in Michigan, Fulton and Williams counties in Ohio and St. Joseph, LaGrange and Elkhart Counties in Indiana. **The vast majority of Midwest's member-consumers are Michigan-based.** Midwest is the product of a consolidation of operations by the former Cassopolis, Michigan based Fruit Belt Electric Cooperative and the former Adrian, Michigan based Southeastern Michigan Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. In its December 12, 1997 order in Case No. U-11565, the MPSC approved the consolidation of Fruit Belt and Southeastern into Midwest.

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Currently, **100% of Midwest's wholesale power supply is being provided by out-of-state entities** who also supply wholesale power in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri. Starting in 2012 and 2014, **Midwest has the opportunity to transition from solely having out-of-state wholesale power supply to mostly relying on Michigan-based generation.** We believe that Wolverine and its WCEV are most likely the best choice for meeting that need. It would allow Midwest to be associated with an outstanding, well managed organization owned by its members, just as Midwest is owned by its member-consumers. In fact, Midwest has specifically aligned its current set of wholesale power contracts to facilitate the transition from out-of-state wholesale power supply to Michigan-based wholesale power supply.

Consistent with the above, Midwest has executed a Memorandum of Interest with Wolverine with respect to the WCEV and possible participation in the WCEV by Midwest, either through formal membership in Wolverine or through a long term power supply agreement. Midwest believes that the timing of the proposed new 600 MW coal-fired electric power plant facilitates a transition from non-Michigan-based wholesale power supply to a Michigan-based source of wholesale power supply.

For the above reasons, Midwest Energy Cooperative strongly supports Wolverine and its WCEV and urges the MPSC and MDEQ to act expeditiously in issuing all required permits. We strongly believe that Michigan's energy future depends on approval of this project.

Sincerely,


Clarence Barth / S.M.S.O. with permission
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Midwest Energy Cooperative

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