

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

June 19, 2013

The Honorable Robert Perciasepe
Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

DOCKET NUMBER: EPA-R08-OAR-2010-0406

Dear Deputy Administrator Perciasepe:

I write with regards to the Environmental Protection Agency's reconsideration of North Dakota's best available retrofit technology as it relates to nitrogen oxides controls for Milton R. Young Station Units 1 and 2 and Leland Olds Station Unit 2 coal-fired power plants. As you move forward, please keep in mind that these decisions have potential consequences not only for the residents of North Dakota, but for rural Minnesota communities as well.

I support the goal of the Clean Air Act to protect human health and the environment. However, it's unclear whether the effectiveness of Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology for lignite coal plants justifies the cost. According to Minnkota Power, installing SCR technology at its Milton R. Young plant would cost \$500 million and increase rates by 20 to 30%. Since several Minnesota utilities purchase power from Minnkota Power, these costs would likely be directly passed on to Minnesota consumers in their electric bills.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator