

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 13, 2011

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

Dear Deputy Administrator Perciasepe:

We write to express our concern regarding the Minnesota impacts of potential EPA requirements for installing selective catalytic reactor (SCR) technology at certain North Dakota power plants to comply with Clean Air Act regional haze and Best Available Control Technology (BACT) programs. Our constituents are concerned about possible increases in electricity rates, without proven health or environmental benefit, as a result of these requirements. As you proceed in resolving this issue with the State of North Dakota, we urge you to be mindful of the impacts that these requirements could have on Minnesota ratepayers.

We support the goal of the Clean Air Act to protect human health and the environment. It makes sense to invest in pollution control technologies when there is proven public health or environmental benefit. However, we have not seen assurances from EPA that SCR technology is effective in reducing pollution from power plants burning North Dakota lignite coal. This is relevant for our constituents because the installation of SCR technology would be costly, and those costs would be passed on to Minnesota ratepayers. According to Minnkota Power, installing SCR technology at its Milton R. Young plant would cost \$500 million. Since several Minnesota utilities purchase power from Minnkota Power, these costs would likely be directly passed on to Minnesota consumers in their electric bills.

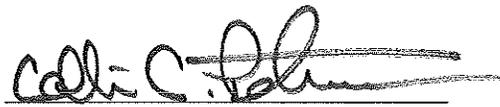
With Minnesota families facing rising energy costs and tightening budgets, we are concerned about these potential adverse impacts on Minnesota families. As you move forward, please keep in mind that these decisions have potential consequences not only for the residents of North Dakota, but for Minnesota families as well.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress