



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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## Hearing Set on Power Plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate public works subcommittee will hold a hearing Dec. 10 and 11 at Stillwater, Minn., on the interstate aspects of the construction of a proposed steam-generated power plant on the St. Croix river.

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, subcommittee chairman, said he had asked Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., to preside at the hearing.

Northern States Power Co. has proposed to build the \$68 million plant on the St. Croix near Stillwater, opposite Hudson Wis.

"Senator Nelson proposed this hearing," Muskie said, "because it appears that a river condition can be changed by one state

"This seems to be a good example of a crisis over the use of interstate waters now completely outside the scope of interstate law . . . the information gathered here can cast important light on the role of the federal government in establishing water quality standards."

Nelson previously had asked Gov. Karl Rolvaag of Minnesota for a chance to testify before Minnesota agencies on the proposed plant.

In addition, Nelson had requested that hearings before the Minnesota agencies be delayed pending release of a U.S. Public Health Service report on how the plant would affect aquatic life and recreational resources.

Conservationists contend that the proposed plant would pollute the water and air of a prime recreation area, superheat river water to a point intolerable for aquatic life, and have other undesirable effects for both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Northern States has asked for hearings in November before the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and the Minnesota Conservation Department.

Nelson is expected to be joined at the subcommittee hearings by Sens. Lee Metcalf, D-Mont., and Birch Bayh, D-Ind.

On Dec. 10 witnesses from the two states and federal agencies will be heard. On Dec. 11, proponents and opponents of the plant will each have half a day to present witnesses

# Task Force to Study NSP St. Croix Plans

MADISON, WIS. —(UPI)— A task force to study the impact of a planned 68-million-dollar power center by the Northern States Power Co., of Minnesota, on the St. Croix river was organized Wednesday on the eve of a U. S. Senate subcommittee hearing scheduled at Stillwater, Minn., on the proposed power project.

The task force was organized by Wisconsin Gov. John Reynolds to determine the effects the 550,000 kilowatt plant at Oak Park Heights would have on natural resources and recreational values in the St. Croix river basin bordered by Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The task force was divided into five subcommittees and a member of the force is expected to make a presentation at today's meeting of the senate subcommittee on air and water pollution which is headed by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis. The senate group is seeking the same information the Wisconsin task force wants.

Reynolds told the task force Wednesday it faces tough decisions in determining the economic benefits of location of the new power plant for expanded industrial use in the area as opposed to potential damage to the area's natural resources and recreation uses.

"I can assure you I am

vitaly interested, and I believe the next administration is also, in economic development in Wisconsin but we are also concerned about protection of our natural resources and recreation values," said Reynolds.

Wisconsin officials recognize that while the plant would be located in Minnesota, it would also serve a portion of Wisconsin in providing added power for industrial location or expansion.

The proposed power plant would use coal for heating purposes which government officials fear may create an air pollution problem and will, at varying times, draw in the entire flow of the St. Croix river for cooling purposes and return the water at a temperature that would be 10 to 17 degrees warmer than the natural temperature level.

Officials feared the effects of the warmer water on aquatic life and also said barges needed to haul coal to the plant might create navigation problems with pleasure craft.

The five subcommittees set up by the task force Wednesday are scheduled to complete their studies by Feb. 10, 1965. A final report by the task force as a whole is expected by Feb. 24. Two Minnesota agencies, the conservation department and the water pollution committee,

have scheduled a Jan. 13 hearing on the project.

Subcommittees organized were water pollution, headed by Albert Prinz, Minneapolis, representing the U. S. Public Health service; navigation and recreation, headed by Ralph Hovind, Wisconsin department of resource development; fuel and power, headed by Kenneth G. Tower, Chicago, regional engineer for the federal power commission; air pollution, headed by Dr. William Lea, Wisconsin board of health, and an economic impact subcommittee to consist of the Wisconsin Department of Resource Development and the Minnesota Bureau of Business development.

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# St. Croix Plant Hearing Opens

A senate subcommittee opened its hearing on the controversial proposal of the Northern States Power Co. to construct a power plant on the St. Croix in Stillwater today with its interest centering on governmental control over use of the waters.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, chairman of the hearing, told the audience of about 150 in the Stillwater junior high school that the controversy has raised the question of whether federal authority is needed to control water quality.

Representatives of various state and federal agencies testified before the committee at the opening session. The three-member subcommittee was to hear from proponents of the power plant later today with opponents scheduled to testify Friday morning. The final session Friday afternoon will be devoted to rebuttal by both sides.

Sen. Nelson in particular repeatedly asked the question of those testifying whether harm to the recreational value of the river would be legitimate consideration in blocking the project.

Representatives of regulatory agencies who testified today said they deal with recreational value.

Lyle Smith of the state water pollution control commission said that the commission has taken action in cases where pollution has had its primary effect on use of waters for recreational purposes.

that they affect sport and food fishes and other aquatic organisms.

Questioned by Nelson, Tarzwell said it was impossible to say exactly how many degrees the water must change before it has an adverse or lethal effect on game fish.

Nelson asked Smith whether the state commission would have jurisdiction over temperature changes which harm game fish.

"Yes, sir," Smith replied.

The tendency of the proposed power plant, which would be located just south of Stillwater, to increase the water temperature appeared to be of primary concern to the subcommittee.

Nelson said that the plant is expected to raise the temperature 10 to 17 degrees.

Clarence M. Tarzwell, chief of an aquatic biology section of the U. S. department of health, education and welfare, told the subcommittee that "it has been only in recent years that high water temperatures have become as important as water pollutant."

He said temperature increases constitute pollution in



FEDERAL hearing on a proposed electric generating plant on the St. Croix river opened at Stillwater today with Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., left, presiding. Sitting with him ready to hear testimony are Sen. Lee Metcalf, D-Mont., center, and Ron Linton, right, chief clerk of the public works committee of the U. S. senate.

—Staff Photo.

Dec 10, 1964



# NSP Cites Second Site's Higher Cost

By GORDON SLOVUT  
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Construction of the proposed St. Croix River power plant on an "alternate site" would cost Northern States Power Co. (NSP) an extra \$3.1 million, Earl Ewald, NSP president, said Thursday.

He told the U.S. Senate air and water pollution subcommittee that a power plant is needed on the east side of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the Oak Park Heights site in Washington County has a firmer foundation than the second most



Ewald

McDonough

likely plant site.

Opponents of the proposed \$63-million power plant were to appear today at the hearing in Stillwater, Minn.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-

Wis., a member of the subcommittee, is presiding. Sen. Lee Metcalf, D-Mont., another subcommittee member, also is participating in the questioning of witnesses.

Nelson and Probate Judge John T. McDonough, Stillwater, who was in charge of the presentation of supporters of the power plant, differed twice Thursday.

## Laws Needed?

During a presentation by Chester Wilson, former Minnesota conservation commissioner, who said he thinks no new federal laws are needed, Nelson said he doesn't share Wilson's confidence that the federal and state governments are equipped now to protect recreational and health interests.

"Minnesota and Wisconsin are among the two most conscientious states on water matters," Nelson said. "But that is pretty poor."

Despite existing laws and agencies, most of the surface waters of the nation and much of the underground water has been polluted, Nelson said.

"The evidence is that we have lost the battle with the laws we have got," Nelson said.

McDonough interrupted Nelson and said: "Senator, is this on your time or ours (the backers of NSP)?" McDonough argued that Nelson hadn't asked a question, he had made a speech.

"I intended to make a speech," Nelson answered.

Later in the day, McDonough asked Nelson if he would be "behind this table" if the plant were to be built in Wisconsin instead of Minnesota.

"The answer is yes," Nelson said. He said that as governor of Wisconsin he was aggressive on conservation matters.

## Property Value

McDonough said Washington County needs the assessed valuation of the \$63-million power plant. He said the county's per capita debt, mostly for schools, is the highest in the metropolitan area.

The backers of the plant said the plant and the necessary coal barges will not change the river. They said the river always has been commercial.

Wilson said the St. Croix is no more beautiful than parts of the Mississippi River downstream from the Twin Cities.

In his questioning of Wilson, Metcalf brought out that if smoke from the NSP plant pollutes Wisconsin, and not Minnesota, the only recourse of Wisconsin residents would be to file civil suits in federal court.

# NSP Pledges Process To Cool Plant Water

The Northern States Power Co. will build cooling towers to reduce water temperatures if the operation of its proposed 63-million-dollar generating plant on the St. Croix river below Stillwater proves harmful to the river, the firm's president pledged Saturday.

Earl Ewald, NSP president, made that promise as he testified at the last of 10 public hearings on his firm's application for a permit to dis-

charge heated circulating water into the river.

Final arguments by attorneys for NSP and Save the St. Croix, Inc., the group that provided organized opposition to the proposed plant's location, will be made March 26 at 8:15 a. m., at the State Capitol.

Dr. Robert N. Barr, state health officer, said it would "probably be a matter of weeks" before a decision will be reached after final argu-

ments are presented to the joint hearing of the Minnesota conservation department and water pollution control commission.

Ewald, first witness to testify when the hearings opened Jan. 13 in Stillwater, was the last on Saturday's agenda.

He said it is "essential" that the proposed power plant be constructed and available for service in the early months of 1968. He asked an

early decision because "the shortage of electric service would represent a community disaster which cannot be risked."

Ewald called the proposed power plant of "the best design that modern technology can develop." He said if the water pollution control commission should determine that the discharge of heated water from the plant is harmful, NSP "will install cooling towers to reduce the temperature of such heated discharge."

According to Ewald, the cost of a single cooling tower, depending on design, would cost from 1 to 3.5 million dollars.

He said his company will establish "as soon as possible" an air-monitoring network near the plant to check ducts from the plant's smokestacks.

He outlined an NSP 'good neighbor policy' as he sought to counter earlier testimony that the warm water which the proposed plant would put back into the river would be harmful to the fish population and detrimental to recreational purposes.

"It is the policy of NSP to be a good neighbor in the community where it operates," Ewald said. "If these permits are granted so that this power plant may be constructed we pledge our support to the local communities and to all groups who seek to develop the lower reaches of the St. Croix for its maximum benefit and enjoyment."

He also said schedules will be adopted for coal barges that will supply the generating plant to minimize any possible interference with recreation on the river.

Dr. Ernst Eckert, director of the University of Minnesota heat transfer laboratory, testifying for Save the St. Croix, said earlier testimony by Dr. Edward Silberman, acting director of the hydraulic laboratory at the university, had failed to consider solar radiation in computing water temperatures.

Eckert said water temperatures on a sunny day will be "considerably higher" than Silberman's testimony showed.

Dr. Samuel Eddy, University of Minnesota professor emeritus of aquatic biology and ecology, said the technical reports are largely "differences in opinion about something that has not happened yet. The real problem is the future use of the St. Croix. Heavy industry will give a quality to this water the same as below the Twin Cities."

Construction of the plant would affect Minnesota's image as far as sport fishermen are concerned, said Dr. Charles W. Huver, associate professor of zoology at the University of Minnesota. He said a temperature rise in the river would increase the oxygen requirements of fish in addition to lowering the oxygen content of the water.

Demitrius Jelatis, mayor of Red Wing, testified there is no "organized resistance" to the plant in Red Wing, but cited dangers of thermal and combustion products pollution.

About 20 witnesses appeared in the final day of the hearings, including several pleasure boat operators on the St. Croix who said barge traffic would cause a hazard to pleasure boaters on the river.

# NSP Plan Foes Lack Support of Law

By TOM MATTHEWS  
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Minnesota and Wisconsin agencies created to check water pollution are virtually powerless in the current controversy over a proposed Northern States Power plant on the St. Croix River, it was agreed Friday.

Opponents of the proposed \$68 million coal-burning plant at Oak Park Heights near Stillwater made that assertion as a U.S. subcommittee on air and water pollution adjourned two-day hearings on the NSP-St. Croix matter.

Sens. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., and Lee Metcalf, D-Mont., the two men who held the Stillwater hearings, apparently agreed that local antipollution agencies leave no effective remedy for persons who oppose plants such as that planned by NSP.

## Plant Opposed

Many St. Croix area residents oppose the plant on grounds that the 550,000-kilowatt unit will discharge smoke with harmful sulfur oxides and will return warm water to the St. Croix, possibly killing fish.

But Minnesota State Sen. Paul Thuet, in the role of attorney for NSP opponents, pointed out yesterday that the real dilemma for Wisconsinites and Minnesotans on the St. Croix is their inability to legally counterattack NSP's plans.

"There is no law where John Q. Public can start an action against NSP. They only can act as witnesses," Thuet told the subcommittee, an arm of the Senate Public Workd Committee.

"Picture the frustrated Wisconsinite," Thuet continued. "All he can do is stand on the riverbanks over there or come in and testify. Once the NSP plant gets going, that's going to be it. And you can't tell me that a court is going to close down a 60 million dollar plant after it's built."

## No Funds

Thuet added that the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and the State Board of Health have no funds and no authority to handle in advance the threat of air and water pollution from the proposed plant. "There is no forum where we can be heard," he said.

At the end of the hearing, Metcalf agreed, telling Thuet that "It isn't a remedy only to be able to prosecute a corporation for being a public nuisance (the present law).

Nelson pointed out that his subcommittee, however, can take no action in the St. Croix matter either. Evidence gleaned at Stillwater is "a classic example" of the need for federal legislation to control water pollution, he said.

The evidence and other data gathered at hearings throughout the nation will be turned over to Congress, said Nelson, as a section of an antipollution bill that made some headway in Congress last year. The bill passed 65 to 11 in the Senate but died in a House committee because time ran out.

One section of the bill, the Senate File 649, would set standards of quality which must be met by corporations planning to build plants near watersheds under control of the proposed federal law.



# NSP Tells Why St. Croix Was Expansion Site

By BOB YLVISAKER

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Airport restrictions on the height of an electric plant smokestack were a major reason Northern States Power Co. (NSP) did not consider expanding its Black Dog plant in Burnsville, instead of proposing a new one on the St. Croix River, a company official testified Wednesday.

(WISCONSIN REPORTS  
Concern on St. Croix—Page 33.)

The Black Dog plant is close to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the company felt it would be prohibited from erecting an 800-foot-high stack needed for a new 550,000-kilowatt unit, said David F. McElroy, manager of engineering for the firm.

McElroy was one of the witnesses called by NSP as hearings began on its applications for permits to build a \$63 million generating plant at Oak Park Heights, just below Stillwater on the St. Croix.

The hearings are being conducted jointly by the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and Department of Conservation in Stillwater.

The question of possible alternative sites for the proposed plant was pressed during the day by Paul Thuet, attorney representing Save-the-St. Croix, Inc., a group opposing the plant. Thuet is also DFL minority leader in the Minnesota Senate.

McElroy told Thuet that an 800-foot-high smokestack such as that proposed for the coal-fired St. Croix facility

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might be a hazard to planes using the airport if built at Black Dog and that possible accidents could also pose a threat to operations of a big new power unit there.

**HE CONCEDED** that smaller units could be added at the four-stack Black Dog plant or the company's two other major plants in Minneapolis and St. Paul. But he said he meant this was a physical possibility rather than an economic one.

Earlier yesterday, NSP president Earl Ewald had said that the proposed St. Croix plant is needed to meet the growing electrical needs of company customers in the metropolitan area — needs which he said are doubling every 10 years.

The company, he said, owns other sites for future generating stations and is "continuously planning ahead for their use." He mentioned sites at Red Wing, Newport and Monticello.

**"HOWEVER,"** he added, "the St. Croix site is the most advantageous one for development at this time because of service requirements and cost. Even if this site were not developed now, we would require it in the near future, with an intervening financial penalty to our customers."

In his testimony Ewald also rejected the contention that the area of the St. Croix south of Stillwater can be preserved exclusively for recreational use. He said he disagreed with the argument that this 24-mile segment is or can be a one-purpose river. Industry and recreation can live side by side there, he maintained.

McElroy, in his testimony on technical aspects of the proposed plant, said the company was asking for permission to take 361,000 acre-feet per year of water from the St. Croix and 29 million gallons of ground water annually from two wells.

The water circulating

through the boiler plant condenser would be returned to the river 17 degrees warmer than when it was taken out, he said.

The hearings, which attracted an audience ranging up to about 450 yesterday, will continue at 10 a.m. today. Officials from Wisconsin, including U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson, are expected to testify today.

Jan 14

Jan 10 '1965

# Wisconsin Reports Concern on St. Croix

By TRYGVE M. AGER

Minneapolis Tribune Wisconsin Correspondent

MADISON, Wis.—Wisconsin's 1965 legislative session opened on a note of bipartisan harmony Wednesday by demonstrating concern over "preserving the natural beauty of the St. Croix River."

That was the title of a joint resolution adopted unanimously by both the Republican-controlled senate and the Democratic-controlled assembly.

IT CALLS upon the Minnesota conservation commissioner and the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission to postpone a decision on Northern States Power Co.'s request for permission to build a coal-fueled generating plant at Oak Park Heights near Stillwater, Minn. The resolution asks a delay until a "task force" appointed by former Wisconsin Gov. John W. Reynolds has completed its study of possible ill effects of the project on the river and the air over it.

Subcommittees of the Reynolds task force currently are at work and are expected to submit their findings to a meeting of the entire group Feb. 11.

The resolution urges that

state officials and the public generally be given an opportunity to study the task force report and to make recommendations based on it before Minnesota authorities act.

Gov. Warren P. Knowles of Wisconsin already has sent Gov. Karl Rolvaag of Minnesota a letter expressing the same wish, the assembly was told.

THE RESOLUTION, sponsored by Republican Robert P. Knowles of New Richmond in the senate and by Democrat Norman Anderson, Madison, in the assembly, was rushed through both houses so it could be telegraphed immediately to Minnesota officials now conducting public hearings on the power company project.

It was the first piece of completed business of the new session which opened at noon yesterday.

## What Can the St. Croix Valley Become?

THE TROUBLE with the controversy over the proposed NSP plant in the St. Croix Valley is that we have not been able to see the real issues as they need to be presented.

Jan 25  
We have been preoccupied, that is, with the immediate problems presented by the plant, when we should have been talking primarily about the long-term opportunities presented by the valley. And we have been talking about costs without setting them in relation to the benefits that will be received from plants of this size, wherever built.

We have the kind of opportunity along the St. Croix that most metropolitan areas have long since lost—to build a major living area in which the open, largely unspoiled character of the valley can be substantially preserved for the people of this region; and to develop a recreational area which, while enhancing the river's scenic and historic value, can also become a significant source of revenue for the residents of Washington County.

The future land use in the valley is

the basic question which we ought to be tackling directly.

The question of the increased costs at an alternate site also requires a broader point of view than so far presented.

In our area, as across the nation, the electric power industry is moving rapidly toward vastly larger and more efficient generation and transmission facilities. Very substantial savings will result. As these savings accrue, it will be possible—in the location and design of power plants and high-voltage lines—to protect natural resources and to respect intangible scenic and community values far beyond what was possible in the past.

It is our hope that NSP will do now, on the lower St. Croix, precisely what it has done with the 70 miles of shoreline it owns on the river above Taylors Falls: that is, withhold development temporarily, while the public authorities try to see whether they can, indeed, agree on a broad policy for the future development of the valley.



## MPC to Stay Out of NSP Plant Dispute

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) voted Wednesday not to intervene in the controversy over the proposed construction of a \$63 million electric generating plant by Northern States Power Co. on the St. Croix River in Washington County.

By a 9 to 8 margin, the commission rejected a motion which would have held that the MPC could make a "significant" contribution through a study, tying together the findings of its own staff and other agencies investigating various aspects of the matter.

**THE MOTION** would have recognized, said its author, J. Douglas Kelm, that in the confusion of facts and opinions on the issue, no other organization but the MPC could pull all the information together and assemble it in some form.

It did not contemplate, Kelm said, that the MPC would make a conclusion as to whether the plant should or should not be built.

Civic and governmental interests in the area of the proposed plant have pointed out its economic advantages. Opponents have expressed fears of its effect on the beauty, residential quality and recreational uses of the St. Croix Valley.

**WASHINGTON** County officials were present yesterday to argue against MPC intervention, while three private citizens urged it to step in.

Among commission members, opposition to intervention was led by Dr. O. R. Van Wirt, Washington County representative.

Van Wirt said the matter was primarily a "technical and economic question." He said he did not think the MPC could make a significant contribution and that the commission would only confuse the issue by intervening.

**OTHER** commission members questioned whether the MPC should be entering the dispute at a late hour and spending funds when it was behind on other programs.

C. David Loeks, MPC director who in a memorandum to commission members had said he thought the MPC could make a "meaningful contribution," replied that only a limited study was contemplated.

**AMONG** commission members supporting intervention yesterday, John C. Schwarzwaldner argued that it would be "immoral" for the MPC not to step in. Mrs. Myrtle Hatfield said she was "shocked" that Van Wirt would "impugn the technical competence" of the MPC staff.

Gerald Dillon said the Washington County spokesmen who appeared yesterday were "in effect asking us to disband." He added: "I find that incredible."

## St. Croix Gives U.S. Pollution Test Issue

By NICK KOTZ

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The dispute over a proposed power plant on the scenic St. Croix River will be used by a Senate committee to spotlight federal inability to prevent water pollution.

At question is a \$68-million, coal-operated electric power plant which Northern States Power Co. of Minneapolis wants to build near Stillwater, Minn., across the river from Hudson, Wis.

**THE SENATE** Air and Water Pollution subcommittee will hold hearings on the issue Dec. 10 and 11 at Stillwater.

Conservationists, led by a group called Save the St. Croix, Inc., contend that the proposed plant would pollute the water and air in a prime recreation area and damage fish and plant life.

The power company and citizen groups contend that it will not damage recreation, and will provide economic benefits to the region.

The Senate hearing was requested by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., an ardent conservationist. He regards the St. Croix as one of "our country's most beautiful natural treasures."

**OTHER** members of Nelson's subcommittee and its parent Senate Public Works Committee do not necessarily share his strong personal interests in the St. Croix or in conservation.

But they are interested in the general problem of preventive action against pollution of interstate waterways. To cope with this problem, they pushed through the Senate the clean waters act of 1964. The bill died in the House, however, and its Senate supporters plan to reintroduce it next year.

"It dawned on us that this St. Croix dispute is the per-

fect example of the advantage of having water standards," commented Ron Linton, chief clerk of the Senate Public Works Committee. "We look upon this hearing as a means of showing there is no way to prevent pollution until it is in the water."

**LINTON** and senators on the committee are not prejudging the factual arguments concerning what the proposed power plant will or will not do to the river.

What the committee seeks to do, explained Linton, is to show that the federal government should have the power to prevent pollution rather than seek to abate it after it has occurred.

At present, problems of interstate water pollution are under the jurisdiction of the Public Health Service, an agency of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

**IT CAN ACT** only after pollution has occurred, only where human health and welfare are endangered, and only where interstate waters are involved.

Linton explained how the subcommittee believes enactment of the proposed clean water act would be helpful in settling the St. Croix dispute.

Under this proposal, any affected party—including the state of Wisconsin—could ask the HEW secretary to hold hearings to establish water standards for an interstate waterway.

The HEW secretary would be authorized to take into consideration not only human health factors but also recreation and conservation interests.

If the secretary decided that water quality standards should be established, then a commercial concern would have to abide by them, or run the risk of federal action.



# Nelson Proposes Test Case on NSP St. Croix Plant

By BOB YLVISAKER

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., Thursday proposed making a court test case out of the application of Northern States Power Co. (NSP) to build a \$63-million electric generating plant at Oak Park Heights on the St. Croix River.

Such a case, carried to the State Supreme Court, would determine whether the Minnesota conservation commissioner could interpret his powers

broadly to act in the public interest rather than confining them to limited aspects of the waters under consideration in such cases, Nelson suggested.

The Wisconsin senator appeared at hearings in Stillwater on NSP's request for permits from the State Conservation Commissioner to take water from the St. Croix for cooling purposes at the proposed coal-fired generating plant and from the Water Pollution Control Commission to discharge the heated water back into the river.

A FOE of the proposed plant, Nelson drew mixed cheers, boos and catcalls from the audience after his remarks. He also got an apology for the outburst from Dr. Robert Barr, secretary of the Pollution Control Commission.

Nelson had said that pollution control questions in the case may be handled without much difficulty but that there is a more fundamental issue involved: Which comes first on the St. Croix — power development or recreation and conservation?

"In the absence of any regional or metropolitan planning authority, the appeal must be made to this joint hearing to take the larger considerations into account," he said.

NELSON indicated that by denying the NSP application on grounds of a broad interpretation of the conservation commissioner's powers to act in the public interest, the basis would be laid for an appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court and the obtaining of what he regarded as a historic decision.

"I am aware that there are differences of opinion over the scope of authority vested in the conservation commissioner by the words 'health and welfare' in the pertinent section of the statutes," Nelson said. "These are matters over which competent counsel are expected to differ."

"BUT SINCE they do differ and the issue is so important, it surely is a matter that ought to be settled by the appropriate court before authorization is granted the company to proceed."

Following Nelson's appearance, representatives of Wisconsin Gov. Warren Knowles and Atty. Gen. Bronson LaFollette appealed to the Minnesota agencies to make no decision until a report of a joint federal-state task force investigating the proposed plant makes its report March 1. The same position had been taken by the Wisconsin Legislature a day earlier.

Referring to the legislature's action, James McDermott, LaFollette's representative, said the governor and attorney general would do "everything within their respective spheres to protect the public interest in this matter."

## IN POWER PLANT DISPUTE

# St. Croix Recreation Survey Is Ordered

By DICK CUNNINGHAM  
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

A state commission Friday asked its staff to see if it should get involved in the controversy over a proposed power plant in the St. Croix Valley.

The Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission (MORRC) took the action in response to letters and phone calls. The callers requested a recreational survey of the lower St. Croix Valley.

**THE REQUESTS** were stimulated by Northern States Power Co. plans to build a \$63-million generating plant in the Oak Park Heights community on the St. Croix in Washington County.

The commission asked that its staff look into surveys currently being made to see if, in the words of the commission chairman, Sen. Henry M. Haren, Albany Conservative, "there is anything we should do."

The motion specifically instructed the staff to determine the scope of a wild river study of the upper St. Croix now being made by the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

**THE PROPOSED** plant has the approval of Oak Park Heights officials, the local school district and the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Protests have come from those who believe the plant will hurt the residential and recreational aspects of the St. Croix River below Stillwater, Minn.

In other action, the commission approved a 10-year program of archeological inventory and preservation for the state. The program has a \$290,000 price tag, of which half may possibly come from the federal government.

The commission set aside the budget request for consideration with the other programs it will finance during the next biennium under a penny-a-pack cigarette tax passed by the last legislature.

## Legislators Grant \$3,000 for Study on NSP Plant

Associated Press

A legislative group that doles out funds for emergency matters between sessions approved \$3,000 Friday for a study of the controversial proposed Northern States Power Co. (NSP) plant on the St. Croix River.

The Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) gave the funds to the State Health Department to hire a consultant to study possible air pollution from the proposed coal-fired generator.

Sen. Donald O. Wright, Minneapolis, who voted against the action, called it "hanky-panky" and suggested that the Health Department "couldn't even get an expert to read the plans for that amount."

Rep. Roy Dunn, Pelican Rapids, also voted no.

The NSP plant has caused considerable controversy, with some citizen groups claiming it would pollute the river and damage recreation on the St. Croix near Stillwater.

Gov. Karl Rolvaag, who presides over quarterly LAC meetings, said the study is a worthy attempt to "resolve a lot of argument" about the plant.

CRITERIA FOR ACTION ON LEGISLATION  
UNDER THE CURRENT AGENDA ON WATER RESOURCES

When Leagues are thinking of requesting national Board permission to act under the water resources item, the particular proposal under consideration should be measured against the series of questions listed below. Obviously the entire series of questions will not apply to any one proposal. However, when the appropriate criteria are applied, the answers should show that the proposal for which support is being considered (1) is in harmony with League national position and action on water resources and (2) has a reasonable chance of success. Leagues should ask themselves:

Will this proposal CONTRIBUTE TO WATER CONSERVATION?

- What effect will it have on water quality?
- Will it help protect, maintain, or improve available water resources?
- Is it based on adequate information?
- Does it take into consideration all the needs of the area involved?
- Have alternate plans been considered? by the agencies involved? by the citizens affected?
- Have comprehensive river basin planning and/or multiple use been considered?
- Does it combine effective land use planning with water control or development measures?
- Does it provide for the future?
- Does it provide for the development and/or exchange of needed basic data?

Will this proposal CONTRIBUTE TO LONG-RANGE PLANNING?

- Will it result in better coordination between federal agencies or between federal, state, and/or local interests in policy and/or operation?
- Will it contribute to the over-all water resource development and economic well-being of the nation and of the region?
- Does it bring agencies and levels of government together in the early planning stages?
- Does it create an organizational framework to weigh competing demands for water use?
- Does it provide a mechanism for coordinated administration? at which level of government?

Will this proposal PROVIDE FOR COST SHARING?

- Do several levels of government and/or private interest contribute?
- Do they contribute in reasonable relation to the amount they benefit from the program in reasonable relation to ability to pay?
- Is the federal contribution related to the national interest?
- Is it sufficient if the federal contribution is an incentive payment, or is some other form of cost sharing more suitable?
- Does the proposed program protect against further aggravation of a problem which will require additional expenditure (i.e., flood plain zoning vs. increased cost for flood control construction)?
- Are intangible benefits considered?



Will this proposal LEND ITSELF TO POLITICALLY EFFECTIVE ACTION?

Do not expect to be able to answer "Yes" to each of these questions on political effectiveness. If you could answer each positively, League action might not be needed. If all answers are "No," the situation may be so hopeless that action will be wasted effort. In deciding whether or not to act, possible effectiveness should be considered along with whether the contemplated action meets the criteria of League position.

What special interest groups are responsible for the introduction of this proposal? How much public, legislative, and executive support can they rally?

Who are the proposal's opponents? On what is their opposition based? How much public support do they have? How much support in the legislative and executive branch?

What is the attitude of the agencies involved?

Is there latent support for League position which could be developed?

If you are considering legislative action ask also:

Who are its legislative sponsors? Is their interest real, or have they introduced the bill simply as a gesture toward the Administration?

Will they give active attention to its progress through the legislative process?

Are the legislative committees to which it is referred friendly or hostile? Are hearings planned?

Does the proposal have the backing of legislative leadership? of the executive?

Will this proposal IMPLEMENT IN YOUR LOCALITY OR STATE A POSITION TAKEN BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES on the national level?

If so, please explain briefly.

If your League or Basin Group is considering action, you should answer the questions on the attached League Questionnaire.

Send the answers to the national Board with a letter requesting permission to act.

The national Board will let you know whether your request is granted.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LEAGUES REQUESTING PERMISSION  
TO ACT UNDER THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ITEM

In order to help the national Board determine in what situations it may properly grant permission to regional committees or to state and local Leagues to take action under the national Water Resources CA, the following information will be necessary. We suggest the information be worked out in consultation with the state Board chairman in charge of this CA.

1. Who is requesting permission to act? (Name the League or Leagues proposing to take action. If the request comes from a regional group, give the names of the ad hoc committee and their Leagues.)
  - a. Give the names of all Leagues in the basin.
  - b. Give the name or names of those Leagues participating in the study, if different from (a).
  - c. Give the names of those Leagues represented in the consensus, if different from (a) and/or (b).
  - d. If the contemplated action affects other Leagues in the state that are not in the basin or affects states which are in the basin but which have no local Leagues in the basin, list the steps taken to inform the indirectly affected Leagues about the proposed action and to obtain an expression of their willingness that such action should be taken.
  - e. List the Leagues affected which do not approve the action contemplated.
2. What is the situation which has prompted Leagues to request permission to act?
  - a. Describe the general situation and the specific issue or issues on which Leagues propose to act. Enclose, if possible, a copy of any bill on which the Leagues plan to testify or an announcement of the hearing at which they plan to make a statement.
  - b. State the League's reasons for wishing to take action on this issue.
3. Explain briefly member preparation and support for the proposed action.
  - a. Has there been a local, state, or regional Program item related to this issue? If so, please state the agenda item, give the dates adopted and positions arrived at under the item, list materials issued and activity under this item to date (enclose samples whenever possible).
  - b. What recent updating and preparation for action have the members received? Are the members interested? in agreement? eager to carry on this action?
  - c. If this request comes from a regional group, describe the procedures by which agreement on the proposed action has been arrived at among them. Does this consensus represent the thinking of most of the Leagues? of most of the members in the region?

4. What is the authorization for League action?
  - a. State which positions incorporated in the national water CA you believe provide authorization for the contemplated action.
  - b. Has the state Board approved the decision to request permission for action?
5. What kind of action is proposed?
  - a. Only that of providing information to the public? (No permission is needed for supplying pro and con information under Voters Service.)
  - b. Support of specific legislation? If so
    - (1) Has the legislation been measured against the yardsticks established in the national position? (Use the attached Criteria for Action)
    - (2) Is action contemplated with
      - federal, state, and/or local legislative bodies
      - federal, state, and/or local committees
      - federal, state, and/or local officials
      - federal, state, and/or local agencies?
    - (3) Is action to be taken in the name of
      - a League regional or river basin committee
      - a state or local League or Leagues
      - members as individuals in response to a Time for Action?
    - (4) Is action to be by personal appearance or by letter?  
(ENCLOSE A DRAFT OF THE OFFICIAL LETTER OR STATEMENT YOU EXPECT TO MAKE)
  - c. Any other?

Much time will be saved if thought is given to the successive steps which might be necessary if action is to be carried to completion. If a series of actions and the possible alternate courses could be outlined and over-all permission requested, much time would be saved for YOU and your quick response to a rapidly developing situation made more possible.



# LOWER ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED UNIT



## EXPLANATION

### POPULATION

- Over 5,000
- 2,500 - 5,000
- Less than 2,500

### STATE PARKS

- State Park, Wayside, Memorial Park, Recreational or Scenic Reserve

### SURFACE WATER STATIONS

- Recording
- Non-Recording
- Discontinued

### GROUND WATER STATIONS

- Recording
- Non-Recording

### WEATHER STATIONS

- | Non Rec. | Rec. | Both Types |   |
|----------|------|------------|---|
| ○        | ●    | ⊙          | Precipitation only                          |
| ○        | ●    | ⊙          | Precip. and temperature                     |
| ○        | ●    | ⊙          | Precipitation, temperature, and evaporation |
| ⊙        |      |            | Complete meteorological data                |

5 0 5 10  
SCALE IN MILES



LOWER ST. CROIX WATERSHED

Municipalities	Population		No. of Wells	Water Treatment	Sewage	Plans
	1960	1950				
Rush City	1,108	1,175	1	x	P	4
Harris	552					
North Branch	949	769	1	x		1
Stacy	211					
Lindstrom	835	729	1		S	
Center City	293	311	4			
Taylor's Falls	546	520	2		S	
Shafer	147					
Chisago City	772	703	1		S	
Forest Lake*	2,347	1,766	2	x	S	
Wyoming	435					
Marine	454					
Lake Elmo	550					
Stillwater*	8,310	7,674	2	x	x	4
Bayport*	3,205	2,502	2		S	2
Lakeland Shores	52					
Afton	158					

Lower St. Croix Watershed unit is 926 sq. miles and includes most of Chisago and Washington Counties and small parts of Anoka, Isanti and Pine Counties.

\* Considered Metropolitan Area pp. 26-27 Water Resources of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area - Bulletin No. 11 Aug. 1961 MCD.

GAYLORD NELSON  
WISCONSIN

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 18, 1965

FEB 23 1965

*Sharpe*

Mrs. C. F. S. Sharpe  
League of Women Voters of the U. S.  
1026 - 17th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mrs. Sharpe:

Knowing of your interest in conservation and conservation legislation, I am sending to you for your information a speech about the dispute over the use of the clean water of the St. Croix River on the Wisconsin-Minnesota line and an explanation of the bill -- the St. Croix National Scenic Waterway Bill (S. 897) -- introduced by myself and Senator Mondale of Minnesota to preserve the river for recreational development.

The bill includes the concept of a "wild river" on the northern stretches of the St. Croix and its Wisconsin tributary, the Namekagon, and an intensive recreation area protected by zoning, as used in the Cape Cod National Seashore, on the 57 mile southern stretch of the river that runs near the Twin Cities.

The St. Croix dispute has many elements that are found in conservation and land use fights all over the country. Specifically, it illustrates a lack of a state, regional or even metropolitan area wide agency empowered to make land use decisions in the best interests of all the people. To fill this lack, the St. Croix bill proposes a federal umbrella under which state, county and local governments could cooperate in the management of this unspoiled waterway.

President Johnson's historic message on natural beauty opens a new era of political opportunity for conservation. But only if we see our goals clearly and act with dispatch.

I would very much appreciate your thoughts and comments on the ideas contained in the bill.

Sincerely yours,

*Gaylord Nelson*

GAYLORD NELSON  
U. S. Senator

GN:wsf

Enclosures



## 'Call the roll of the great American rivers... They died for their country'



Senator Nelson

### SENATOR NELSON'S PLEA THAT THE ST. CROIX AND THE NAMEKAGON BE RESERVED FOR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. President, Senators know the junior Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. NELSON] to be one of the most eloquent conservationists in the Congress today. We know also that his forceful and persuasive defense of our natural resources is founded on an outstanding record of leadership in conservation of the successful and respected Governor of Wisconsin. When the Senator from Wisconsin pleads for the preservation of our wild areas, our shorelines, and our clean waterways, he speaks from a record of accomplishment and a deep personal understanding of the problems and the opportunities which we have in this field.

A few days ago the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. NELSON] appeared before a joint hearing of the Minnesota Conservation Commissioner and the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission in Stillwater, Minn., to urge that

the beautiful St. Croix River be reserved for recreation development. His efforts to save the waters of the St. Croix and the air above them from pollution have received nationwide attention. His recent speech before the joint hearing is as moving and as compelling a case for the preservation of our clean and wild streams as one can find. He makes a positive case. While industry is the immediate threat to the St. Croix and its Wisconsin tributary, the Namekagon, he does not berate the industrial promoters; he asks if we cannot plan more wisely and more cooperatively.

I know that many Senators will be interested in and persuaded by the Senator's statement before the hearing. I ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the RECORD, along with an editorial entitled "The Dying Rivers," and published in the Washington Post of January 19, an article written by Austin Wehrwein and published in the New York Times of December 27, 1964, and an article published in the Economist of January 16, 1965, entitled "Saving the St. Croix."



Senator Douglas

## The St. Croix River Ought to Be Reserved for Recreation

By SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON BEFORE A JOINT HEARING BY THE MINNESOTA CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER, WAYNE OLSON, AND THE MINNESOTA WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION IN STILLWATER, MINN., JANUARY 14, 1965

I appreciate the opportunity to appear here today before this joint hearing of the Minnesota Conservation Commissioner and the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission. I want it to be clear at the outset that I am appearing here today on my own time and expense as a private citizen. I represent and speak only for myself. Though I grew up in a fine little village not far from the banks of the St. Croix, my prime concern over this river is neither parochial nor nostalgic. It is the same broad concern that all conservationists have about these matters whether it be the wilderness of the West, the redwoods of California, the Indiana dunes, or the Appalachian Trail of the East.

This morning I want to speak briefly about conservation as an issue in American life, and about why it has been for so long an uphill fight and why, I believe, the tide must turn now or the cause be irretrievably lost.

I hope to outline the compelling reasons why the St. Croix River ought to be re-

served for recreation development, and why this will be in the best interests not only of the Nation and this whole metropolitan area, but even of Washington County, Minn.

The agencies holding this joint hearing appear to be the only public agencies that have any power under present legal arrangements to consider the broad issues involved in this dispute. I hope that you take these broad issues into consideration and that you examine the information now being gathered by the Federal-State task force on the St. Croix before you reach your decision.

With President Johnson's commitment to protecting our natural heritage and to preventive action on water pollution, the nationwide conservation movement has taken on a new political luster.

Let me quote for a moment from the state of the Union message: "For over three centuries," the President said, "the beauty of America has sustained our spirit and enlarged our vision. We must act now to protect this heritage."

This statement reflects both wisdom and hard political sense. The wisdom is familiar to all of us from our school-day acquaintances with John Muir, Henry Thoreau, and the other greats of the long, but losing 19th century battle to preserve some of our nat-

I want to thank you for the chance to appear and urge you to hold your hearings open until the evidence gathered by the task force is available, and then to make your decision on the broadest possible grounds.

President Johnson's state of the Union message showed that the tide in conservation decisions has turned.

If you will examine all of the relevant factors, I am sure that you will decide that the best interests—the welfare of the people of Minnesota—is in denying the application of the Northern States Power Co., and preserving the St. Croix for its rightful role as a recreational resource, a part of what President Johnson has called a green legacy for tomorrow.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 19, 1965]

### THE DYING RIVERS

The St. Croix River is, as Senator NELSON, of Wisconsin, rightly points out, the last large clean river near a major metropolitan area in all of the Midwest. It won't be for long, if the Northern States Power Co. has its way. The company wants to build a coal-burning electric generating plant at Stillwater, Minn. Besides inflicting a huge coal-pile on the river, the plant would also pour warm chlorinated water into the stream, changing the natural habitat for the worse.

Senator NELSON appeared on Thursday before a hearing in Minnesota to appeal to State authorities to reconsider consequences of approving the project. There is no doubt, as the Senator acknowledged, that there would be some local economic benefits for the area if the plant were built. But that is precisely the problem, because, he added, "the fight has been unequal—eloquent spokesmen preaching lofty conservation generalities on the one hand, determined people seeking their bread and butter on the other."

As the Senator pungently put it:

"Call the roll of the great American rivers of the past, and you will have a list of the pollution problems of today—the Androscoggin in Maine; the Connecticut, that boundary water between the Green Mountain and the Granite States; the mighty Hudson; the thermally polluted Delaware; the Ohio; the Mississippi; and even your Minnesota, covered from time to time by flotillas of sugar beet chips.

The story in each case is the same: they died for their country. They died in the name of economic development."

By disapproving or at least delaying the Stillwater generating plant, Minnesota authorities could spare one river from the same fate until Congress has time to consider Mr. NELSON's proposal for a St. Croix National Scenic Waterway. We urge them to do so.

[From the Economist, Jan. 16, 1965]

### SAVING THE ST. CROIX

(From a correspondent in Minneapolis)

The battle to preserve natural areas for their scenic values, and old buildings for their architectural or historic importance, is all too often lost simply through the failure of conservation-minded people to appreciate early enough what is fundamental to success. A classic example of this failure is now on display in the valley of the St. Croix River—a clear, pleasant stream which rises near Lake Superior and flows south, forming the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary for 100 of its 165 miles to its junction with the turbid Mississippi. It is said to be the most popular boating water between Lake Michigan and the west coast. Virtually all traces of the lumbering industry, which flourished in the river in the late 19th century, have disappeared; the valley has remained a quiet wooded area—the last such unspoiled valley so near a major metropolitan area.

On the lower river just below Stillwater, however, the Northern States Power Co., which provides the growing region with electricity (the same company, ironically, which has preserved from development some 70 miles of the upper St. Croix) has now proposed to construct a major electric power-plant. The first 550,000-kilowatt coal-burn-

ing unit is to be in operation in 1968; a second 650,000-kilowatt unit is to be added after 1970. The company, eager to proceed, has the enthusiastic backing of local interests hungry for the tax relief which its \$140-million plant will ultimately bring to a growing community.

The company's proposal has, however, been vigorously opposed by an organization known as "Save the St. Croix"—a curious alliance of planners thinking primarily of the valley as a major recreational site for the 2 million or so people in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, and of local house-holders. Many of these are commuters into the cities, whose enjoyment of the river and its vistas will suffer from the plant, with its tall smokestack; long coal pile and attendant barge tows. The opponents have drawn eloquent support from conservationists all across the Nation. Their problem is simply that no agency exists which is specifically empowered to consider the broad questions which they are raising about the future use of the valley.

In spite of Minnesota's liberal tradition, it is one of the four States without direct State regulation of electricity companies. Northern States Power needs only four formal approvals: a local zoning permit from the village of Oak Park Heights (1960 population: 322); a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, certifying that the 9-foot river channel is adequate; permission from the Minnesota Conservation Department, which opened hearings this week, to withdraw water for cooling; and an agreement from the State's water pollution control commission that the return of this water will not raise the temperature of the river unduly and, by doing so, make swimming unpleasant and skating impossible.

Formal review of potential pollution of the air is not even required, though this hazard will be considered. Nor has Wisconsin's approval been asked on any of these questions. The company can point out that no public decision has been made to save the valley for recreation and that it has done more than is legally required to protect public health; it can also ask legitimately, "Why is it up to a private firm to save the St. Croix?"

Indeed, the conservationists ought to have understood long ago the threat which the electric power industry, doubling its generating capacity every 10 years, posed to the rivers of the region. An almost identical controversy has been underway on the Hudson River above New York City. Local planners have long been pointing out that the fragmentation of the metropolitan area into a multitude of small, sovereign governments makes it especially difficult to preserve major areas from development.

Under the existing arrangements for financing public services these municipalities and school districts can share in the tax revenue from the region's commercial and industrial development only by getting the shopping centers, factories, and electric generating plants built within their boundaries. No public body exists to enforce a regional plan for development.

The St. Croix may yet be saved, however. Minnesota's authorities may find technical grounds for rejecting the plant, or the company may move voluntarily to another, already industrialized site (perhaps at Redwing on the Mississippi) either out of concern about future regulatory legislation or simply because its construction schedules make extended delay intolerable. As an interstate river, moreover, the St. Croix is likely soon to be covered by new Federal legislation, which President Johnson has promised to support designed to forestall air and water pollution.

The issue, however, goes beyond the St. Croix. There are other cases to which this Federal legislation will not apply. If the people interested in preserving the historic, scenic, and esthetic values of urban areas are not to be disappointed repeatedly in the future, they will need to insist much more skillfully than they have in the past that the planning of major plants and roads be integrated at an early stage with a far more effective program of public planning.



ural wilderness.

Wisdom has often seemed a kind of euphemism for the attractive but impractical position in that battle.

But times are changing. President Johnson is as much a reflection of that change as he is its leader.

The day when short-term-economic gain could easily win over long-range public conservation interests is about at an end. The vital need to preserve what is left is widely recognized.

To put it bluntly: there is a rapidly growing public interest in conservation that just was not there before. Perhaps some people care now who did not before because they have the money and the leisure to enjoy the out of doors; or perhaps it is because increasing tens of thousands of people in our vast metropolitan wastelands finally sense a growing isolation from nature; or because of the dawning awareness that the children have no place to play, the adults no place to relax in peace, and the environment no place to accommodate the beauty and wonders of nature. Whatever the reasons, there most certainly is a developing sense of dismay over the wanton destruction of our resources.

I think one little noted element in this change is a new recognition of the vital economic importance of outdoor recreation.

According to the highly regarded report to the President of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRC report), outdoor recreation is a \$20 billion a year business—and it is growing by leaps and bounds.

## Water Is No. 1 Resource

The report, by the way, makes at least two statements directly relating to the decision before this hearing:

First, it states that the recreation resource in greatest demand and shortest supply is water-oriented recreational areas handy to metropolitan areas.

Second, it says, the area of the Nation that by 1980 will have the largest demand for outdoor recreation facilities is the north-central census region. As you know, the Twin Cities are the great population center for the western part of that region.

It may be hard to realize for those who have lived their lives in the St. Croix Valley, but Minnesota and this entire region have a priceless recreation resource in this river—a clean, large, spectacularly beautiful river within a half hour's drive of a major population center.

I am appearing here today to express the hope that you preserve this river in its present state for yourselves and as a heritage for those who come after you.

The President said: "For 300 years the beauty of America has sustained our spirit."

Under industrious cultivation our rich and beautiful land not only sustained our spirit but has made us rich beyond our greatest dreams.

We have always been grateful, but I fear that we have too often forgotten the need to conserve as much as possible of this rich inheritance we have received. Everyone, or nearly everyone, is in favor of conservation—in principle. But in fight after fight, the general public interest in conservation has lost out to the specific local interest in commercial development.

## Reverence for Land

Perhaps the conflict goes back to the day when the white man first faced the original American.

The white man brought from Europe ideas of land management very different from the Indian's.

The Indian had great reverence for the land. He knew he depended upon it for life itself. The fruit of the earth confirmed the generosity of the gods. The land belonged not to the individual, but to all his people.

The white man, of course, thought in terms of individual exploitation—too often for private gain at public expense.

It is only gradually that we are coming to see that there is much truth for us in the original American's idea.

Thoreau and Muir, and our other early conservationists, had a good deal of the Indian about them. But the fight they waged was little more successful than the Indian's.

In most conservation contests—whether over the use of the Indiana Dunes, of the Redwoods of California, or the St. Croix—there is usually a sizable group of local people willing to grant the validity of the conservationist's arguments, but bowing in this specific instance to the strong local economic interest in the development of a specific forest, river, or bit of lakeshore.

The fight has been unequal—eloquent spokesmen preaching lofty conservation generalities on the one hand pitted against a sincere, well organized group on the other speaking the magic words of "economic growth."

## Resources Seem Endless

The country has always seemed so vast, its resources so endless, and economic progress so American, that the conservation interests, except in areas of marginal economic utility, have almost always lost the contest. No single one of these lost contests loomed large in the total picture. But down through the decades these thousands of lost contests have spelled the destruction of a major portion of America's resources.

In this way, most of the great rivers of America have been systematically destroyed, in the name of "progress."

George Washington dreamed of the Nation's Capital on the beautiful Potomac, the river praised by early travelers for its exceptionally sweet water.

But since Washington left us with his dream tons of silt from exhausted tobacco plantations, acids leeching into the river from abandoned mines, industrial wastes and half treated sewage have fouled this once sweet river and turned it into a national disgrace. Stand on the lawn in front of George Washington's Mount Vernon home today, gaze across the broad expanses of the Potomac, and your view will be scarred by a sign proclaiming: "Danger, polluted water." The U.S. Corps of Engineers has proposed to spend \$500 million to build a system of dams to flush out this scenic sewer. And now the President is thinking in terms of a multi-million dollar program to restore some measure of the river's great reputation.

Call the roll of the great American rivers of the past, and you will have a list of the pollution problems of today—the Androscoggin in Maine; the Connecticut, that boundary water between the Green Mountain and the Granite States; the mighty Hudson; the thermally polluted Delaware; the Ohio; the Mississippi; the Missouri, and even Minnesota, covered from time to time by your flotillas of sugarbeet chips.

## A Costly Disaster

The story in each case is the same: they died for their country. They died in the name of economic development.

And now we must spend vast amounts of money if we wish to restore part of this heritage.

The story of America's commercial development, which is in large part the story of her rivers, is a glorious one. We all benefit. But we are only beginning to reckon the price we must pay for the foolish squandering of our limited supply of clean water.

The story of America's rivers warns us against that American spirit of optimism that presumes there is always more to be had and more to be carelessly wasted.

The vision of the frontier, with its promise of untapped land and fresh opportunity has always been part of our dream. It has not, however, been part of our reality for some 70 years. We are only now coming to realize this fact.

We must act now to plan, and to husband this heritage of land and water carefully. Our long tradition of private land ownership and management makes these things very difficult for us, but we are learning.

It seems logical to me that some rivers ought to be working rivers, kept as clean as possible, but recognized and designated as industrial and commercial arteries.

Others ought to be classified as wild rivers,

and still others as recreation rivers. Your favorite trout stream most certainly ought to be protected in a wild state. Rivers like the lower St. Croix, that offer unusual potential for recreational development, ought to be set aside for wise recreational development.

## Last Clean River

The St. Croix is the last large clean river near a major metropolitan area in all of the Midwest. If we don't halt commercial exploitation here, where shall we stop?

The upper St. Croix is a river that got a second chance. By 1903 the stripping of the valley's forests had left it nearly bare—and made the river towns rich. But 60 years of quiet have reclothed its banks with trees and stabilized its soil with grass. Now it has been studied as a wild river, part of a new Federal program for the preservation of our dwindling supply of undeveloped streams. It looks like the upper St. Croix is going to be preserved. We can all be grateful.

The towns of the lower St. Croix thrived on timber fortunes and related industrial development while the upper valley was being stripped.

The magnificent period architecture in Stillwater is a tribute to those prosperous, high-handed old days.

## Lower St. Croix

But since World War I, the lower St. Croix valley has been industrially becalmed. Local citizens have kept up their hopes for a rebirth of industry, but without any luck. In 1938, as Mr. Chester Wilson so eloquently explained at our Senate subcommittee hearings in December, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a 9-foot barge channel 23 miles up the river to Stillwater in hopes of attracting industry.

For many years this lack of industry has concerned local leaders. With proper planning, however, it will turn out to be a blessing. For the lower St. Croix, neglected by industry for half a century, is now in an excellent position to develop a real growth industry—outdoor recreation.

Washington County is already part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Even in 1960, according to the census, 50 percent of the county's wage earners worked outside its borders—in the Twin Cities, of course. The pressure on the schools of Free School District 834 comes from the children of Twin Cities workers who are making their homes in this beautiful county.

By the year 2000—only 35 years away (those of you who remember 1930 will realize what a short time 35 years is)—the Twin Cities area population will hit the 2 million mark, according to a report by your metropolitan planning commission, and Stillwater will be practically downtown.

"In our urban areas," President Johnson said in his state of the Union message, "the central problem today is to protect and restore man's satisfaction in belonging to a community. \* \* \*

"The first step is to break old patterns—to begin to think, work and plan for the development of entire metropolitan areas."

Now, but even more in the years immediately ahead, this great and growing metropolitan area will need the St. Croix as a recreational resource, not as an industrial site.

Despite its sparkling array of lakes and woods the Twin Cities area, again according to the MPC report, is even today short of outdoor recreational facilities. In fact it has only 30 percent of what is considered desirable (10 acres for every 1,000 residents).

## Enormous Need Cited

The Upper Midwest Research and Development Council reports that in the next 15 years the Twin Cities area will bear the brunt of the continuing migration from the small towns and farms of the north-central region.

With incomes going steadily up (the gross national product is predicted to jump 95 percent in the next 15 years) and more and more leisure time available, the need for and demand for outdoor recreation in the beautiful lower St. Croix Valley will be enormous.

Conservationists usually find themselves in the position of arguing for abstract values against men holding gilt edged balance sheets.

We are beginning, however, to develop some facts that help explain the dollar value of green space and recreational areas.

For instance, it was discovered in New York City that, over a 15-year period, property located on Central Park increased 18 times in value while similar property away from the park only doubled in value.

## 'Look to the Future'

In Washington, D.C., it has been demonstrated that the total investment in lovely Rock Creek Park has been more than paid for by the increased tax income on the properties near the park.

Those who fear that without heavy industry Stillwater is doomed to be just another dying river town are looking to the past, not to the future. Recreational development offers more in the long run than the development of industry on the St. Croix.

The Northern States Power Co. proposes to begin construction this year on the first of two coal-operated steam-electric generating units at Oak Park Heights, Minn., just south of Stillwater. The first unit would have a capacity of 550,000 kilowatts. It would have a 785-foot smokestack, a half-mile coal pile, and require 660 cubic feet of river water per second for cooling and condensing steam. The second unit, a 750,000-kilowatt unit, would of course require even more cooling water.

Valley residents and thoughtful conservationists everywhere fear the heat pollution of the river, pollution of the air by the sulfur gases from the burning of low-grade fuel, and the fiftyfold increase in barge traffic on the river that the first unit of the plant would require. In essence, this plant will simply and unnecessarily reduce the value of the river for recreation at a stage in history when the trend should be sharply reversed.

On the narrow question of water pollution danger, I have no new information to add. The Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission is, I am confident, able to sift all the available evidence on that problem. If the evidence shows that the operation of the plan will have any adverse effect on the water quality or the ecology of the river, I am confident that the commission will either turn down the company's application for a permit to return heated water to the river, or at least require the construction of the proper cooling towers to insure the river against damage.

## Withdraw Entire River?

I would like to raise one question, however.

The National Power Survey just released by the Federal Power Commission indicates that it is generally considered sound practice to limit stream diversion for stream condensation to one-half the streamflow.

The first unit of the proposed Allen S. King plant would require, I understand, 660 cubic feet per second, well over half the 1,000 cubic feet per second which is the 10-year minimum flow of the St. Croix at Oak Park Heights. Since the second unit of the plant is even larger than the first, I am anxious to see evidence behind the company's assurances that no harm will be done to the river by such massive withdrawal of its waters.

I would like to make one other comment. NSP representatives, in answer to questions at our Senate subcommittee hearing, said that the additional cost to the company of constructing this plant on the Mississippi—say at the Prairie Island site, north of Red Wing, Minn.—would not be great enough to affect the electricity rates.

Still the company argues the wisdom of developing the St. Croix site now on the grounds that the power requirements of the Twin Cities area in the years ahead will be so great that all available sites must be developed at one time or another, and the best time to develop the St. Croix site is now.

Given the fantastic pace in powerplant design and development—it was only in 1961 that the first 500,000 kilowatt steam-electric

generating plant went into operation—would it not be wise to hold off on using the St. Croix site for the time being in the expectation that new developments in plant capacity might make using the site unnecessary?

The pollution questions may be relatively easy to pass on. (I emphasize "relatively" because the issue is not simple.) The larger questions, more crucial really, raise perplexing problems.

Which is to come first on the St. Croix—power development or recreation and conservation?

Who is vested with the authority to protect the public welfare in these cases?

This case raises the age old question of land use and resource use, a question that must daily be decided in situation after situation across the country.

Whose responsibility is it?

Are we to ask Northern States Power Co. officials to make their decision on the basis of the area's present and future recreational needs?

The Washington County officials? For the taxpayer that \$68 million plant is a well high irresistible tax windfall, although I believe there are some who see the long-range dangers.

## Public Interest Cited

In the absence of any regional, or metropolitan planning authority, the appeal must be made to this joint hearing to take the larger considerations into account.

I am aware there are differences of opinion over the scope of authority vested in the conservation commissioner by the words "health and welfare" in the pertinent section of the statutes. These are matters over which competent counsel are expected to differ. But since they do differ and the issue is so important, it surely is a matter that ought to be settled by the appropriate court before authorization is granted the company to proceed.

That there is a vested public interest in public waters as such is clear; that any reasonably liberal interpretation of the word "welfare" raises the question of the stake of the general public in this matter; that since this is a private utility with a monopoly in a service area set by the Government, the company can hardly argue that a few months of delay will cause irreparable damage—while whatever damage is done by the plant to the river will be irreparable.

Furthermore, I am advised that the company plans to proceed with construction on other sites including the Mississippi in the years immediately ahead.

I ask again, would it not be reasonable to develop another site now, saving the lovely St. Croix for exploitation at some future time and only if absolutely necessary?

I know you all realize this is a case of national significance. It has attracted attention of the press and magazines through the Midwest and from coast to coast. The New York Times, the Washington Post, the Nation, and New Republic have written stories and editorials about it.

## Federal Action Needed

During the past 100 years we have wrought more wanton destruction of our landscape than any previous civilization accomplished in 1,000 years. We now say, what a pity our ancestors didn't have the foresight to husband our bountiful resources more sensibly. How much richer we would be in both esthetic and material wealth had they had more vision and more courage. Before this case is decided I think we all should ask ourselves this question: what are our great-great-grandchildren going to say about us a half century from now?

I might add that beginning attempts at the industrialization of the St. Croix make it clear that Federal action is needed to protect the national interest.

Therefore, I am now drafting a bill to make the entire length of the St. Croix and its Wisconsin tributary, the Namekagon, into a national scenic waterway.

North of Taylors Falls the St. Croix would be designated a "wild river" as envisioned in the Federal study. A national recreation area would be laid out along the lower St. Croix.



...introduced in the Senate Jan. 29, 1965

## THE ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC WATERWAY BILL

Mr. NELSON. Mr. Speaker, for myself and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. MONDALE], I introduce, for appropriate reference, a bill to establish the St. Croix National Scenic Waterway. The St. Croix marks the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota for some hundred miles north from the Mississippi.

The St. Croix is the last large clean river near a major population center in the Midwest. The beginnings of industry on the lower St. Croix make it imperative that we move to protect as much of it as possible as a national asset.

A dispute over whether to industrialize the lower St. Croix or reserve it for the recreation broke into the open last May when a power company announced plans to construct a huge coal fired steam electric generating plant on the river at Oak Park Heights, Minn.

The extraordinary wide support gained in Minnesota and Wisconsin by those seeking to save the river for recreation, and the extensive national and even international press coverage of the dispute is gratifying to those of us who have been working over the years for sound conservation policy.

The lower St. Croix, a clean, undeveloped river, lies within easy driving distance of the growing Twin Cities area. It is already one of the most popular boating waters in the country.

The Twin Cities, now boasting some 1.7 million in population, will have expanded to 4 million in the next 35 years; the St. Croix will be practically downtown. The Twin Cities even now have only 30 percent of the public recreation area which experts say they need.

But as the area grows the need for clean water for industrial purposes grows too, and naturally the St. Croix looks like an attractive proposition.

Commerce or recreation for the St. Croix? Who is to decide? There is no governmental unit specifically charged and empowered to make that crucial decision.

There is an ample supply of undeveloped industrial sites near at hand on the Mississippi. It seems to us only common-sense that the St. Croix be set aside for recreational development. Many agree.

I have drafted this bill to provide a Federal "umbrella" of protective authority under which all levels of government can cooperate in the preservation and development for conservation and recreation of the St. Croix Valley.

At this time let me just summarize the proposed bill.

First, I want to make it clear that the bill would not affect the local zoning per-

mit granted by Oak Park Heights, Minn., for construction of the \$68 million power-plant.

And I think it only fair to point out that the Northern States Power Co. has owned and preserved in a primitive condition the land on both banks of the St. Croix for some 70 miles north of Taylors Falls.

The St. Croix National Scenic Waterway bill embodies the concept of a mixed-ownership, multiple-use, scenic recreation area in which State, county, municipal, and private ownership exist in harmony under the protection of a Federal umbrella.

Section 1(a) states that it is the purpose of the bill to establish the St. Croix National Scenic Waterway to preserve as a wild river the portion of the St. Croix from the dam at Taylors Falls north to the dam near Gordon, Wis., and its Namekagon tributary, as wild rivers and the St. Croix south of Taylors Falls for intensive recreational use "for the enjoyment of all the American people."

Federal protection under the bill would cover a strip about one-quarter mile deep on both banks of the waterway.

The waterway would consist of two kinds of areas:

### WILD RIVER...

A wild river, to be kept as primitive as possible on 102 miles of the St. Croix north of Taylors Falls, Minn., and along the 87 miles of the Namekagon tributary in Wisconsin. Purchase of scenic easements and acquisition where essential of up to 320 acres per mile (the equivalent of a strip one-quarter mile deep on both banks) would be authorized in this section. The States would be entitled not only to keep the park land under their administration but encouraged to expand it. County ownership would be preserved on county land managed according to a plan acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior.

The wild river portions of the waterway were included among the 22 rivers across the Nation studied by the joint Interior-Agriculture wild river study team.

Nearly all the area to be given the "wild river" designation is in a primitive state. The bill is intended to leave undisturbed the few private cottages along these stretches of the St. Croix and the Namekagon. On these properties scenic easement acquisition would be ample protection for the purposes of the bill.

### RECREATION ZONING...

On the lower St. Croix, from the dam at Taylors Falls south to the Mississippi River, the Secretary is granted the same acquisition authority, however the "authority shall be suspended so long as the appropriate local zoning agency shall have in force \* \* \* a duly adopted \* \* \* zoning ordinance \* \* \* satisfactory to the Secretary."



In order to provide public access to the lower St. Croix and to provide adequate park facilities the Secretary, despite the zoning provisions, is authorized to acquire not more than 1,600 acres including not more than 5 miles of river frontage on the 57-mile stretch of river from the dam to the Mississippi.

Zoning rather than land acquisition and easements would be used to protect the intensive outdoor recreation area portion, which is south of Taylors Falls. This portion of the St. Croix has several communities along its banks, including Hudson and Osceola, Wis., and Stillwater, Marine, and Oak Park Heights, Minn.

Acquisition in the recreation area would be limited to small, key parcels needed for public access to the water and adequate parking facilities.

Zoning to protect the recreation area would require approval of the Secretary of the Interior. New commercial or industrial uses not in harmony with recreational use or the river's environment would be excluded.

The zoning approach has been successfully used in the Cape Cod National Seashore Park.

One section of the bill provides that owners of noncommercial, residential property acquired by the Secretary of the Interior would be issued either a transferable 25-year use and occupancy right to the property or a non-transferable lifetime right to use and occupancy.

The bill includes these provisions designed to facilitate cooperation of Federal, State, county, and local authorities.

State land within the waterway will not be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior without consent of the State involved, and the Secretary may agree not to acquire any land which either State plans to acquire and develop.

City, town, and village land within the waterway would not be acquired as long as accepted zoning ordinances for the protection of the river and its environment remained in force.

Provisions for cooperative planning of the recreational and conservation development of the waterway between all levels of government are written into the bill.

Section 7 forbids the Federal Power Commission from licensing any "dam or other structure" the Secretary determines would adversely affect the waterway. Disagreements to be referred to the Congress for resolution.

Section 8 restricts the Army Engineers in the same way section 7 restrains the Federal Power Commission.

The St. Croix River is an excellent example of the kind of land use crisis we face coast-to-coast as pressure for recreation uses and industrial sites grow with increasing wealth and population.

It is our hope that this bill, with its idea of Federal, State, and local cooperation, will prove an excellent example of what reasonable people can do to solve this kind of problem.

## THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR EDITORIAL

JANUARY 20, 1965

### SHOULD ST. CROIX BE SAVED?

The application by Northern States Power Co. to build a powerplant on the St. Croix River raises questions of great importance to the future overall development of this metropolitan area.

On technical grounds—that is, as to safeguards offered against air and water pollution—it would be hard to oppose NSP's application. But "the great St. Croix debate" has made us all conscious of some very special opportunities offered by the valley.

The opportunities are enormous. What the Minneapolis lakes and Lake Minnetonka have meant for the quality of life in this area, or White Bear Lake for the people of St. Paul, the St. Croix can mean to a metropolitan area expected to double in population—to a staggering 4 million—within the next 35 years.

It may not, in the end, be decided to reserve the St. Croix primarily for recreational and residential development. But the community should take the time and put forth the effort to make a thoughtful decision.

Thus, we hope that NSP can be persuaded to withdraw its St. Croix application and undertake its present round of plant expansion at Prairie Island (near Red Wing) instead. That is where—we understand—NSP plans to locate its next plant after the St. Croix installation. (The company must roughly double its capacity every 10 years in order to meet the power needs of this area.)

This switch in locations could not be made without cost. An additional \$5 million in capital costs might be immediately entailed. And transmission costs from Prairie Island would be somewhat greater than from Bayport. These added costs would not mean an increase in electric power rates, but they probably would mean a delay in future rate reductions.

If NSP or its ratepayers are asked to pay this cost, it should be on one very clear understanding, however. It must not be done for the benefit of a few private home and summer-home owners in the St. Croix area. It must be for a wider, public benefit.

So if the States involved (Minnesota and Wisconsin) and the adjacent communities have not meanwhile developed an enlightened, recreational, park use program for the valley, no objection should be raised if the company seeks to build at Bayport in the future.

If NSP can be persuaded to build now at Prairie Island instead of Bayport, work should begin immediately on a public decision regarding the future use of the St. Croix.

Perhaps the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission can prepare a plan for recreation and residential development: for public access, for camp grounds and picnic areas, for parkways, for control of neon signs on the bluffs, for forestation, and for standards under which private, taxpaying residential and commercial development can proceed.

Needed also is a study of the economic effect of reserving the valley primarily for recreational and residential development; including suggestions as to how the local governments may raise the revenue they expect to get in taxes from NSP.

This won't be easy. But it isn't impossible, either—if NSP, all the governmental bodies involved, and interested citizen groups will cooperate.

# Witness Disputes Report on St. Croix

By DICK CUNNINGHAM  
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

The State Health Department was not justified in saying Northern States Power Co. would present no health problem with air pollution from its proposed St. Croix River generating plant, a witness testified Tuesday.

The department accepted as facts what were actually only engineers' estimates, that might vary from engineer to engineer, said C. Raymond Humphries.

Humphries, a chemical engineer who does business research for Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M), testified at a joint hearing of the State Department of Conservation and the State Water Pollution Control Commission at the St. Paul Armory.

HE ASSAILED a report made to the Health Department by the Technical Assistance Branch of the Division of Air Pollution of the U.S. Public Health Service.

The report said there might occasionally be concentrations of sulphur dioxide near the coal burning plant that could damage sensitive crops like alfalfa. It said people might smell the gas occasionally, but it was unlikely their health would be impaired.

Humphries said he had talked with Jean J. Schuenemann, chief of the Technical Assistance Branch at Cincinnati, Ohio since the NSP report was made. Schuenemann told him there were differing views among his own staff on the material given to the Minnesota Health Department.

FOR ONE THING, the federal technicians considered only two weather conditions under which high concentrations of sulphur dioxide might occur, Humphries said. Since then the branch has considered a third which could produce high concentrations five miles away from the plant, he said.

This third condition will be included in a report being prepared for a Wisconsin task force, which is studying the effects of the plant on the Wisconsin side of the river.

Furthermore, Humphries questioned the concentrations of sulphur dioxide viewed by the Public Health Service as permissible in the NSP report. They were higher, he said, than concentrations shown by Vernon A. MacKenzie, chief of the Health Service's own Air Pollution Division, to increase death rates among aged people with lung disorders.

ALL TESTIMONY on air pollution was heard over the objection of NSP attorneys, who consider that matter settled by the Health De-

partment ruling. They say the only matter for the present hearing to consider is the possibility of water pollution.

Humphries, William C. Flanagan, a research physicist for 3M, and James Taylor Dunn, librarian for the State Historical Society, testified in behalf of Save the St. Croix, Inc., which opposes construction of the proposed plant at Oak Park Heights on the river.

## Health Hazard of NSP Plant Is Discounted

By DICK CUNNINGHAM  
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

A doctor, a weatherman and an engineer Wednesday discounted any danger to health from gases which would be emitted by a proposed Northern States Power Co. (NSP) generating plant on the St. Croix River.

A river resident, on the other hand, said it would be suicidal to put the barge traffic on the river necessary to supply coal to such a plant.

Dr. Willard Machle, a consultant in occupational medicine and toxicology, said sulphur dioxide, which is the gas feared by plant opponents, can produce irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, but only in high concentrations.

HE SAID he never has found any permanent injuries to factory workers exposed all day to three to five parts per million and sometimes to concentrations of 50 parts per million of sulphur dioxide.

He added that the predicted concentration around the NSP plant would not aggravate any existing lung illnesses.

Raymond C. Wanta, Bedford, Mass., meteorologist, said concentrations of sulphur dioxide would reach 0.43 parts per million 0.01 per cent of the time — in other words, for about two half-hour periods each year.

He said these concentrations would occur about 2½ miles southeast and north of the plant with lower concentrations nearer and further away.

THERE WAS agreement from Louis C. McCabe, consulting engineer from Chevy Chase, Md., who has drafted air pollution regulations for communities in New York, Virginia and Maryland, has served as director of the Los Angeles County, Calif., air pollution control district, and who set up the World Health Organization Air Pollution Control Committee.

McCabe said the predicted

MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE  
Wed., Feb. 17, 1965

# NSP Officials Present Added Testimony At State Hearings

ST. PAUL —(UPD)— Northern States Power Co. (NSP) officials today presented further evidence in support of their position that the proposed power plant south of Stillwater would have no harmful effects on the St. Croix river.

Ralph Duncanson, a NSP superintendent, testified as public hearings were resumed before two state agencies, the water pollution control commission and the state conservation department.

Opponents of the proposed plant were scheduled to present their case but NSP requested permission to submit additional testimony. The request was allowed by Wayne Olson, conservation commissioner, who is serving as chairman of the hearing.

NSP had several experts on hand who were prepared to testify on various technical and engineering aspects of the proposed plant. Duncanson restated NSP's position on the safety of the proposed operation.

He was cross examined by Paul Thuet, a South St. Paul attorney and state senator, who is representing the Save the St. Croix organization which was formed last summer to oppose the plant.

The hearings stem from NSP's application for permits from the state agencies.

The opponents maintain that the proposed plant would "aggravate air and water pollution, pose a water safety hazard and detract from the overall recreational values of the St. Croix valley."

NSP has maintained that the plant would not interfere with the recreational development of the river. Its position has been supported by many in the St. Croix valley including the state legislators from the Stillwater area. In addition proponents maintain the area needs the expanded tax base which the plant would afford.

Duncanson's testimony concerned the provisions the company was taking to keep from contributing to the pollution of the river.

"We feel this is the best designed plant ever proposed by NSP," Duncanson said. He objected to questions from Thuet concerning air pollution because, he said, this matter was not an issue in this hearing.

Thuet insisted that it was pertinent. Olson said he would rule on Duncanson's objection later today.

concentrations would not harm even alfalfa, a legume crop which is particularly sensitive to sulphur dioxide damage.

George Richter, 1206 Watson St., St. Paul, who owns a house at the mouth of the Kinnikinnic River on the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix, was the last witness to testify before a joint hearing of the State Conservation Commissioner and the Water Pollution Control Commission at the St. Paul Armory.

He said NSP's plan to

move coal from Prescott, Wis., to the proposed plant at Oak Park Heights near Stillwater between midnight and noon would not provide safety for recreational boaters.

He said people who boat, swim and camp on the St. Croix are "a peculiar breed who, once they get to Lake St. Croix, think they are in paradise," and are unlikely to take the precautions necessary to avoid danger from barges.

The hearings were adjourned until March 1.



# Health Service's St. Croix Study E

## Appears to Disfavor NSP Plant

By BOB YLVISAKER

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

"It is recommended by this subcommittee that the task force strive to retain and enhance the character of the St. Croix River."

That statement — in effect a vote against the proposed \$63-million Northern States Power Co. electric generating plant below Stillwater on the St. Croix on grounds of possible water pollution hazards — occurs in a report to a joint federal-state task force which is expected to issue its findings at hearings Monday in St. Paul.

SIGNER of the statement is the subcommittee chairman, youthful Albert C. Printz Jr., who is project director of a U.S. Public Health Service investigation of pollution on the Mississippi River and its tributaries in the metropolitan area.

Since Printz' subcommittee statement was based in part on investigations made by his crew of 25 workers quartered at Wold-Chamberlain Field, it throws a spotlight for the first time on a half-million-dollar project which has been in operation at the Naval Air Station for more than a year.

Just what effect the subcommittee's report will have on the final task force document or the ultimate decision on whether the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and Conservation Department should grant the application for the NSP power plant is questionable.

The subcommittee, composed of three Wisconsin officials and two federal agency representatives, with Printz, was careful to note that its recommendations would have to be weighed against those of the other four subcommittees of the task force, created by former Gov. John Reynolds of Wisconsin, in evaluating the plant proposal from all angles.

YET the report, with its concluding emphasis on some 10 possible negative effects of the proposed plant on the quality of St. Croix water, fish and other biological life, does constitute a sharp departure from much of the testimony so far on the key issues at stake in the hearings.

Also, it probably marks one of the few times the ac-



Minneapolis Tribune Photo by Duane Braley  
ALBERT PRINTZ WITH NITROGEN ANALYSIS  
Project chief heads area pollution study

tivities of the Public Health Service investigators at Wold-Chamberlain will come into the public limelight before early in 1966.

Printz first appeared on the scene in October 1963 after Govs. Karl Rolvaag and Reynolds had called for a probe of pollution in the Mississippi River and tributaries in the metropolitan area.

THE GOVERNORS' action followed by six months the furor over two industrial oil spills which killed thousands of ducks and polluted the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers downstream. There were also complaints from downriver cities on the Mississippi about the polluting effects of sewage disposal plants in the Twin Cities area.

Printz started setting up shop at the Naval Air Station with the job of measuring the pollution of the rivers, determining its sources and coming up with suggested programs for eliminating or reducing it.

The work of his group formally was launched in February 1964 at a conference of federal, Minnesota and Wisconsin officials.

MEMBERS of that conference, on the basis of a preliminary report, declared that pollution of the Mississippi, from Anoka through Lake Pepin, and its tributaries was so great that it constituted a health hazard to persons us-

ing the river and required remedial action. They called for the further studies now being conducted by Printz' team, giving them two years to come up with their findings and report back.

"We're not going to tell the conference members what conditions ought to be on the rivers," says Printz. "We'll tell them what can be done under various pollution-abatement programs. It will be up to them to decide what program to follow, depending on what they determine the uses of the waters should be."

The efforts of the federal team at the air station are centered on collecting technical information, making some early interpretations of it and getting ready to wrap up their findings this fall into the final report for the reconvened conference early in 1966.

THIS PUTS them in a position somewhat apart from immediate actions bearing on pollution in the metropolitan area.

But the presence of the federal investigators and the prospect of the final conference decision next February do loom as a factor in the handling of the area's current sewage disposal controversy. So does the possibility of even stronger federal antipollution measures, with the passage in the latest two Senate sessions of more stringent "clean wa-

ters' legislation.

The St. Croix situation represents a departure from the policy of noninvolvement by the federal investigators in current issues during the period of their two-year study.

They expanded the original scope of their work on the St. Croix in the metropolitan-area to include a report on the effects of the proposed power plant on pollution of that river.

THAT REPORT, ready last fall following an intensive three-day study of the river in August, subsequently was held up and revised to include new information, gathered locally and nationally, following creation of the task force by Reynolds.

While the air-station group is using some local reports, consultants and services in its two-year project — fish-tasters at the University of Minnesota and downtown computer operations, for example — their investigation is largely an independent one.

They say it is not duplicating work already done by local agencies. All personnel except the field workers are professionals brought in from Public Health Service offices elsewhere.

THE GROUP has taken over part of an old mess hall at the air station, converting

## merges

6,700 square feet of space for its purposes at a cost of \$17,000.

Heart of the facility is a gleaming, orderly, equipment-bedecked laboratory fashioned around the four old drains and two cooking hoods of the former mess hall kitchen. Project headquarters is on the second floor of another barracks building across the street.

Starting last April, field workers departed every morning from the headquarters to collect samples at stations set up on the 270-mile stretch of rivers covered by the project — the 107 miles of the Mississippi from Anoka to the lower end of Pepin; 110 miles of the Minnesota from Mankato to Ft. Snelling and the 53-mile stretch of the St. Croix from Taylors Falls to the mouth.

Thirteen of the 85 stations are in the immediate metropolitan area on the Mississippi, from Fridley to the Inver Grove bridge.

Workers checked each station at least twice a month during the summer, bringing in samplings for chemical, bacteriological and biological tests at the laboratory. The work is continuing through the winter, with samplers using ice boats and augers, but efforts are being concentrated on indoor investigations at sewage plants and industries.



# State Report Finds St. Croix Plant Feasible

By BOB YLVISAKER  
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

A technical report generally favorable to construction of a \$63 million electric generating plant below Stillwater on the St. Croix River has been made by the staffs of the two Minnesota agencies directly concerned with issuing permits for the proposed facility.

The report by the staffs of the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and Game and Fish Division of the Conservation Department was entered into the record at the opening of hearings on the controversial Northern States Power Co. (NSP) proposal last month

without fanfare and so far has escaped public notice.

HOWEVER, to date it represents the only material submitted on technical effects of the plant on the waters of the St. Croix besides the testimony of NSP witnesses.

And it is on these issues—the company's request to divert 660 cubic feet per second of river water to cool the coal-fired plant boiler and return it 17 degrees warmer—that the hearings are being held and on which the decision of whether to approve the application will be made.

The hearings, recessed after four days in Stillwater a month ago, enter their sec-

ond stage at 9 a.m. today in the St. Paul Armory Building. Most of the time during this second phase is expected to be devoted to testimony of recreation-minded foes of the proposal, headed by Save-the-St. Croix, Inc.

The report by the Pollution Commission and Conservation Department staffs does not dictate the final position that will be taken by those agencies.

The report does not contain a blunt conclusion about the plant proposal—such a section was in fact deleted by the commission in order that it would not be in the position of prejudging the case. However, a section-by-section piecing together of

the report appears to make the position of the technical staffs evident.

THIS POSITION generally is that there is no basis for denying the permit from the standpoint of pollution hazards, subject to conditions the commission may want to impose. There are no dangers that cannot be controlled within the range of existing technology.

In general, this is the same sort of position taken in a staff-drawn resolution for the State Board of Health, giving the plant its blessing from the air pollution standpoint. It found no health hazard from that direction, although it recommended monitoring to watch especially for the possible effect of sulfur dioxide from the plant smokestack on ground vegetation.

The Pollution Commission staff report rather quickly disposes of any pollution question arising from such sources as ash disposal, coal pile drainage, barge unloading and cleaning, chlorination of the cooling water, plant sewage disposal and storage of liquids at the plant.

THE COMPANY'S general position was that the heating effects on the water would be confined to the top 1 to 5 feet of the 25-foot-deep river and would be quickly dissipated, extending only a maximum of 1 1/4 miles downstream.

There would be no killing of fish or other biological life, although there would be some alterations around the plant outlet in warm-weather months.

The company opposed installation of cooling towers on grounds the chemicals needed to clean them might create a pollution hazard.

On this key question of cooling towers, the report makes no recommendation. But it appears to say that if these are made a condition of issuing a permit, their use is technically feasible.

It also lays greater emphasis on the probable production of obnoxious blue-green algae by the heated discharge—unsightly, odorous and potentially harmful to fish and wild life.

On the question of the effect on fish life, the report makes this statement—considerably stronger than that by company representatives:

"IN OUR OPINION the proposed thermal discharge is not desirable, but should not significantly deteriorate the local fishery. There is a potential of periodic minor fish kills and possibly also some interference with normal spawning by some species."

Paul Thuet, attorney for Save-the-St. Croix and also

Liberal minority leader in the Minnesota Senate, is expected to call his own battery of experts in the fields of biology, air pollution and engineering to the stand this week. They will claim much greater potential damage from the proposed plant to fish and general biological life than has been brought out to date, he indicated last week.

Thuet also is expected to attack the NSP petition on several legal grounds.

The company's claim that it is asking for a "non-consumptive" use of river water is refuted by its admission of the large amounts of water that will be lost through evaporation, he says, and the heating effects on the river water constitute an appropriation of the property of the state.

Other technical information is expected to come from a joint federal-state task force created last fall by former Gov. John Reynolds of Wisconsin to investigate the power plant proposal. Its report is likely to be presented when Wisconsin representatives appear at the third and final round of the hearings March 1.

## NSP Opponents Present Their Testimony To State Officials

ST. PAUL — (UPD) — C. Raymond Humphries, a Stillwater area chemical engineer, said Tuesday the proposed Northern States Power Co. generating plant at Oak Park Heights would "constitute a potential air pollution hazard no matter where it is located."

Humphries, a member of the Save the St. Croix Committee which opposes the proposed plant, said about 270 million pounds of sulfur dioxide would be emitted into the air each year by the facility. And a huge addition to the proposed plant planned for construction eventually by NSP would up the sulfur dioxide total to about 645 million pounds a year, he said.

Humphries, a chemical engineer for the 3M Co., spoke at a hearing on the proposed plant being conducted by the Minnesota Water Pollution Commission and the State Department of Conservation.

He also criticized findings in a report by the Minnesota State Board of Health on the proposed plant.

The Board of Health last month adopted a resolution which stated that there are "no foreseeable objections" as far as health effects of air pollution from the proposed plant.

Humphries criticism was generally that the board acted on insufficient evidence.

James Taylor Dunn, president of the St. Croix River Association, also opposed Northern States Power Company's request to build a \$67.5 million power plant on the St. Croix river at Oak Park Heights.

Dunn, also chief librarian for the State Historical society, said there were two distinct eras in

the use of the St. Croix river.

Before World War I there was a commercial era because of logging activities, he said, but since the end of World War I the river has been developed more and more into a recreational facility.

Opponents of the proposed plant also showed a 45-minute film showing recreational uses of the St. Croix river during the four seasons.

NSP completed its testimony in support of its request Monday by telling how much more it would cost to build elsewhere.

# Health Service Admits Error, Says NSP Plant Would Pollute

2/2/65

By DICK CUNNINGHAM

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

A U.S. Public Health official said Monday his organization erred in saying that a proposed Northern States Power Co. (NSP) plant would not pollute the air of the St. Croix Valley.

The proposed plant would produce sulphur dioxide gas in excess of allowable concentrations, said Jean J. Schueneman, chief of the technical assistance branch of the Division of Air Pollution, testified at a joint hearing of the Minnesota Conservation Department and the Water Pollution Control Commission at the St. Paul Armory.

ON THE BASIS of his department's earlier report the State Board of Health gave NSP a clean bill of health as far as air pollution was con-

cerned. Dr. Robert N. Barr, executive officer of the health board, said he had notified his board of the new figures. He said he did not know whether the board would modify its earlier report.

Schueneman said the first report in January discounted a weather phenomenon called an inversion breakup because the meteorologist did not believe it would occur a significant number of times in the area of the proposed plant at Oak Park Heights on the St. Croix River.

By discounting this phenomenon, his technicians decided that sulphur dioxide would not exceed 0.5 parts per million more than 0.01 per cent of the time, or two half-hour periods per year.

HOWEVER, Schueneman said yesterday, other meteorologists on his staff said the

phenomenon would occur a significant number of times.

Schueneman said another office of the Public Health Service had asked the St. Paul Weather Bureau station for more accurate figures on

St. Croix

Continued on Page Six

## St. Croix

Continued from Page One

how often the phenomenon would occur.

His department suggested a three-month delay before beginning the plan to analyze this data, he said.

Taking the phenomenon into consideration would result in concentrations of 0.75 parts per million 0.01 per cent of the time, he said. This is beyond allowable concentrations, he said.

"We honestly made a mistake," he said.

Under cross-examination by NSP attorneys, the Public Health Service official admitted that the standards for allowable sulphur dioxide concentration were not law. He agreed that the health service might change them tomorrow.

BUT, he said, the changes over the last several years have been downward.

The joint board is considering whether to allow NSP to withdraw water from the St. Croix to cool the generators in the planned \$63-million coal burning plant, then return the water to the river.

Members of a federal-state task force from Wisconsin delivered their report to the hearing yesterday. While they made no recommendations, three of five sections of the report tended to be critical of the plant proposal. The material in the report was made public last week in Madison, Wis. The hearings will continue today in the St. Paul Armory.



# Attempt for Vote on St. Croix Told

By DICK CUNNINGHAM  
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

A group of Northern States Power Co. (NSP) stockholders sought a stockholders' vote that might have blocked the company's proposed St. Croix power plant, it was learned Tuesday.

The group was turned down by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Feb. 24.

The stockholders' group asked NSP last December to include a proposal on the notice of the annual meeting and provide an opportunity for shareholders to vote. They acted under an SEC rule that forces management to include certain proposals in the annual proxy statement even if management is opposed to them.

NSP CLAIMED, and was supported by the SEC last week, that the proposal "related to the ordinary business operations" of the company and therefore did not fall under the rule.

The stockholders claimed, on the other hand, that the proposal to build the plant at Oak Park Heights on the St. Croix represented a change in "basic policy of the company."

The sparkplug of the stockholders was George Richter, 1206 Watson Av., St. Paul, an employment agency owner who has a summer place on the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix.

HE GATHERED some 25 NSP stockholders representing "several thousand shares" through a personals ad in a newspaper. Douglas Thornsjo, Minneapolis attorney acting for the group, drafted the proposal as follows:

"Resolved that NSP not attempt to erect coal-burning, generating plants in geographic areas presently devoted to recreation, and to avoid opening recreational areas to industrialization by way of such plants, so that the company will be spared the expense of defeating citizen groups formed to protect such recreational areas, and so that an aroused and militant public body will not impose retributive rate regulation upon the company."

In its objection to the SEC, NSP called the proposal "too vague and indefinite to permit rational comprehension by either stockholders or the management of the company."

NSP ALSO said plant location and construction is, "by its very nature, an indispensable aspect of management entrusted by necessity as well as by state law to management rather than to the stockholders."

NSP claimed that the objectors were all active in a group (presumably Save the St. Croix, Inc.) opposed to the

nate site on the Minnesota River, where the water might not have been as clean as on the St. Croix.

He said: "In a sense, the pure waters of the St. Croix, which would not have as readily corroded boiler tubes, have corroded NSP's public image, have cost the company legal fees and have delayed the obligation to supply power."

Save the St. Croix does not contemplate an independent proxy solicitation, said Richter.

Save the St. Croix witnesses testified yesterday at a hearing of the state commissioner of conservation and the state Water Pollution Control Commission.

Dr. Samuel Eddy, professor emeritus of biology at the University of Minnesota and a national authority on fish, said warm water discharged from the proposed plant would probably turn the river into a vile-smelling, scum-covered lake during part of the summer.

The hearings will resume at 9 a.m. Saturday at the State Capitol.

NSP also said, "Management objects to the entire tenor of the proposal and supporting statement as attempting through inference, innuendo, unfounded speculation and inflammatory charges to create an impression of a deliberate and ruthless management policy in derogation of and oppressive to all considerations of public welfare and concern."

IN HIS answer Thornsjo referred to a possible alter-

# Wisconsin Task Force Reports Completed On NSP Plant Plans

MADISON, Wis. — (UP) — A majority of committees of the Wisconsin task force to study the effects on the St. Croix river basin by construction of a power plant indicated tentative disapproval of the building project yesterday.

The five subcommittees of the task force set up by former Gov. John Reynolds submitted reports which will be condensed into a final task force report expected to be presented to Gov. Warren Knowles on Friday. Minnesota's governor Karl Rolvaag has so far failed to take a public stand in the matter.

The task force was created after the Northern States Power Co., St. Paul, Minn., proposed construction of a \$68 million power plant on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix river, which divides the two states.

The task force's committees on water quality, air pollution and recreation and navigation, indicated

ted Wisconsin should oppose construction of the 550,000 kilowatt power plant despite the economic improvements it would offer to both Minnesota and Wisconsin residents.

Committees on economic development and fuel power indicated, however, Wisconsin should not oppose the project. Minnesota regulatory agencies have scheduled another hearing on the project for Monday.

Concern by the Wisconsin task force has centered on the effects of the power plant, which will take in water from the St. Croix and discharge it at a higher temperature.

Concern also has been voiced over alleged air pollution through coal burning operations of the plant and the alleged hazards to recreation traffic on the river which plant opponents claim will come from coal barges hauling fuel to the plant.

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NUMBER 285

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1965

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## New Developments in the St. Croix Fight

FOES of the proposed NSP plant on the St. Croix have tried a new tack in their efforts to get NSP to put the plant elsewhere. Led by a St. Paul man who owns a summer place on the St. Croix, a small band of stockholders proposed that all NSP stockholders vote on the issue at the company's annual meeting this spring. The idea has properly been turned down by the SEC.

Anyone who has ever attended a corporate annual meeting will recognize the proposal as an effort to harass, embarrass and otherwise pressure the company into changing its mind, but not as a serious effort to get a vote with any real expectations of winning such a vote. Unlike democratic elections where each man's vote counts for as much as any other man's vote, a corporate election counts numbers of shares owned—and except in unusual or extreme cases shareholders vote almost down the line for the proposals of management. Asking NSP stockholders

—a goodly number of whom probably never have heard of the St. Croix—to say where the plant should be is almost so preposterous as to be funny.

Not so funny, from NSP's standpoint, however, was an amended U.S. Public Health Service report indicating that sulphur dioxide from the plant's 785-foot smokestack might at times be a threat to humans, as well as testimony from an aquatic biologist that warm water discharged from the plant would probably turn the river into a vile-smelling, scum-filled lake during part of the summer.

Although we recognize that NSP has its own stable of experts who disagree with such conclusions, we think enough doubts have been raised in the public's mind that NSP would now be serving even its own interests as well as those of the public if it put this plant on the site it owns near Red Wing and saved the St. Croix site for a future atomic plant.

*The suggestion would take more votes from NSP—and they much know this*



At State Hearings In St. Paul

# Wisconsin Report On NSP Published

By WILLIAM FOX

ST. PAUL, Minn. —(UPI)— A Wisconsin study group said today the proposed \$68 million power plant on the St. Croix river would make a big addition to the tax base of the area but create several undesirable conditions.

The conclusions of the Wisconsin task force study were presented to Minnesota officials conducting hearings on Northern States Power Co.'s application to build the plant at Oak Park Heights south of Stillwater.

The work of five committees went into preparation of the Wisconsin report. These included committees on air pollution, water quality, alternate fuels and sites, economic impact and navigation and recreation.

The report said the plant would cause air and water pollution problems and would create a navigation hazard because of barges delivering coal to the proposed plant.

However Dr. William Lord, associate professor of agriculture at the University of Wisconsin and task force chairman, said the study was based only on available information. He said additional research is needed to provide answers in some areas.

Dr. Lord appeared as hearings resumed before the Minnesota conservation department and the Minnesota water pollution control commission.

Dr. Lord said the task force found that the plant would cause "a loss of opportunities" by both Minnesota and Wisconsin residents in the St. Croix valley and by recreational users, primarily from the Twin Cities.

He said the plant would result in "likely sulfur oxide damage to agricultural crops and trees and occasional an-

noyance to people, adverse aesthetic effects to some caused by the coal piles, the 785-foot stacks and a 20-story building."

Lord said other drawbacks included "the inconvenience, annoyance and potential hazard to some river users from heavy commercial navigation, altered fish populations and increased growth of noxious blue-green algae, and the potential detrimental effects on waterfowl and winter recreation of a large area of open water during the winter."

Lord said the group's evaluations "are thought to be approximately correct even though inexact."

Part of the task force report was a study done by a water quality committee headed by Albert Prinz, a U.S. Public health service official in Minneapolis. Prinz testified that the St. Croix is a relatively clean river.

He said the "thermal discharge" would most likely suppress the fish population near the plant area because of the increase in water temperature.

The higher temperatures would result in a substantial increase of green and blue-green algae, which would also restrict the use of the water for recreational purposes "because of resulting vile odors and nuisance conditions," he said.

The report said the economic impact of the plant "is almost entirely a question of local advantage."

"Some local community will enjoy a large addition to its tax base and an increase in employment and income," the report said.

It estimated the annual tax levy would be about \$1.3 million causing a drop in property tax rates of up to 40 per cent for the immediate area.

Taxes throughout the school district, which includes about

a third Washington county would drop about 80 mills while rates for the rest of the county would decline by about 13 mills, the report said.

It also noted that about 50 to 60 new jobs would be provided for workers in the Oak Park Heights, Bayport and Stillwater areas and that the plant would have an annual payroll of about \$500,000.

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir:

Once again I am forced to take issue with the St. Paul Pioneer Press in their reporting of the news with regard to the NSP Plant proposed for Oak Park Heights.

I call your attention to a front page news article appearing in the Minneapolis Star of Feb. 26, 1965 which headlined as follows:

STATE SEES NO BASIS  
FOR NSP DELAY

The article goes on as follows: "There is 'no basis' for blocking construction of a St. Croix River Power Plant for three months while the U.S. Public Health Service makes a new air pollution study, a Minnesota health official said today."

"Dr. Warren R. Lawson, chief of the radiation and occupational health section of the Minnesota Health Department, said the U.S. Public Health Service has come up with no 'significant' new information warning of air-pollution danger."

"Revisions in the original federal study, on which the Minnesota Board of Health partly based its finding that there is no foreseeable danger, are 'small' and have 'just altered the emphasis,' he said."

No comparable news item appeared in the Pioneer Press, however, on Tuesday March 2, 1965 this same paper carried the following headline:

U.S. ADMITS STATE GOT  
WRONG DATA ON NSP PLANT

The article is quite lengthy and carries the following paragraph:

"Officials of the Save the St. Croix Committee, which opposes the proposed plant, have criticized the board of health report as being prepared without sufficient evidence."

The same committee has criticized people of this area who have tried to help NSP with their plans to locate here. The same committee has made charge after charge against NSP supporters and the St. Paul papers have carried these charges in sensational-type stories with big headlines.

When I tried to refute some of these charges in a letter to the editor the St. Paul papers didn't even have the courtesy to even print the letter. I understand many other residents of this area have never had letters published that were sent in to St. Paul. I think the public should be made aware of this.

Yours truly,  
Robert W. McGarry  
2213 Oak Ridge Road

## 'U' Profs Cite Effects Of NSP Plant On Fish

ST. PAUL —(UPI)— Two University of Minnesota professors testified today that the proposed power plant on the St. Croix river would have adverse effects on fish.

They were called as witnesses by Paul Thuet, attorney for the Save The St. Croix organization which is fighting the proposed Northern States Power Co. (NSP) plant at Oak Park Heights south of Stillwater.

The testimony was presented before the joint hearing by the state conservation department and the state water pollution control commission.

Lengthy technical papers were offered by Dr. E. R. G. Eckert, professor of mechanical engineering, and by Dr. Samuel Eddy, biology professor emeritus.

"Irresponsible exploitation has changed most of our major rivers into aquatic slums," Dr. Eddy said.

"Some call this progress and forget to differentiate between exploitation and conservation of clean water, our most valuable natural resource."

Dr. Eddy said thermal pollution "is the most outstanding of the several disturbances which will be caused by the location of the plant and its discharge of heated water into Lake St. Croix."

"The effect of this warm water will be to change certain ecological conditions which through various interactions will change the plants and animals including the fishes of the lake," Dr. Eddy said.

Dr. Eckert presented statistical evidence in support of his testimony that the warm water along with weather and wind conditions would combine to produce harmful effects.

He said his calculations indicated that algae conditions would likely develop.

At the hearing yesterday, a U. S. public health official said his agency made a mistake in reporting earlier that the plant would not pollute the air in the valley.

He said the plant would produce sulphur dioxide in excess of allowable concentrations.

This testimony raised the possibility of a change in the ruling of the state board of health. The board, acting on the information supplied by the federal agency, had found that air pollution would not be a problem.

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If Necessary

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3/4/65

# NSP May Build Cooling Tower For New Plant

Earl Ewald, president of Northern States Power Company, testifying about NSP's proposed 550,000-kilowatt generating plant on the St. Croix before a joint hearing of the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and the state Conservation Department Saturday, committed NSP to future construction of a cooling tower to reduce water temperatures if the operation of the plant should result in harm to the river.

"This proposed power plant represents the best design that modern technology can develop and it is the equivalent of power plants being built throughout the United States at this time in our great metropolitan communities," Ewald said.

"We have gone to extra expense in the design of precipitators and in constructing a high stack to minimize the effects of combustion gases.

"In co-operation with the Minnesota Department of Health, we will establish, as soon as possible, an air-monitoring network in the vicinity of the plant."

The Minnesota Department of Health has determined that there will be no air pollution detrimental to health from the plant.

NSP has also conducted studies for and with the Water Pollution Control Commission in connection with its plants on the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers.

"We plan to extend such studies and monitoring on the St. Croix river as may be requested by the commission," Ewald continued.

"If in the future the Water Pollution Control Commission should determine that the discharge of heated water from the plant is in fact harmful, NSP will, if requested by the commission, install cooling towers to reduce the temperature of such heated discharges. The proposed plant is designed so that a cooling-tower installation can be added at any time," Ewald declared.

## Rep. Albertson Asks For Ruling On NSP By April

State Rep. Howard Albertson, in a letter to Wayne Olson, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation, requested that the Conservation department and the Water Pollution Control Commission present their findings on the proposed Northern States Power plant at Oak Park Heights "as soon as possible and no later than April 1, 1965."

Rep. Albertson in his letter stated, "The construction of this plant is very important to my county and I'm sure you are aware that the original time schedule in the proposed construction has now been long delayed.

"As chairman of the committee on Metropolitan and Urban Affairs, I am well aware of the explosive population growth the seven county metropolitan area is experiencing. The northeastern part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area is faced with an acute power shortage and the timely construction of this plant is necessary to meet this great need."

Rep. Albertson ended his letter by commending the commission for "patiently receiving all of the testimony and for the long hours devoted to this matter."

Rep. Albertson told the Gazette today that because of legislative activities he had been unable to attend all of the hearings but from what he had observed at those hearings he felt the proponents of the plant appeared to be

"winning in court."

Far from contributing to pollution of the air, large, efficient generating plants have done much to eliminate air pollution. Use of electric energy, Ewald said, "eliminates the necessity of multitudinous individual energy consumers burning fossil fuels in small inefficient burners. Thus the existence of electrical energy has made great contributions to society in the avoidance of air pollution.

"The industry has been in the forefront of research and development efforts for over half a century to constantly improve the efficiency of large boilers and to study the effects of combustion gases in the atmosphere in order to avoid problems of air pollution."

Ewald also stressed the need by NSP customers for the output of this generating plant. "The shortage of electric service would represent a community disaster which cannot be risked," he said.

"The commission has patiently taken the time to hear in great detail all of the technical facts involved, to hear all of the testimony and counter-testimony, and now it is vital that an early decision be reached to avoid the catastrophe which could otherwise occur in 1968. The welfare of two and one-half million people cannot be jeopardized."

NSP's system will be deficient in generation capacity starting in 1966 and these deficiencies will be met by purchasing power from neighboring utilities until 1968, Ewald explained. "By 1968 we will have exhausted the capacity of the transmission ties to import power and the deficiencies will have assumed such magnitude that it will be necessary at that time that this additional plant be in operation on our system.

"All of the plans of all of the co-operating utilities in the entire upper midwest area are geared to the operation of this plant by May 1, 1968. Our power purchase contracts terminate at that time and the installation of generation by all of the utilities involved is coordinated on this basis," the NSP president concluded.



# The Tribune's Page for Editorials and Opinions

LETTERS TO THE TRIBUNE

3/4/65

## Points Answered by St. Croix Group

To the Editor: In the Feb. 15 editorial ("The St. Croix Hearings, Round 2") the Tribune asked two questions of the Save the St. Croix Committee. The committee welcomes these questions. Our statement of policy answers both in a general way, especially in this paragraph:

"To merit support, Save the St. Croix must work within the framework of a policy that is socially acceptable. A policy confined to narrow selfish ends can find no wide support and deserves none. We must, therefore, urge the expansion of the recreational uses of the St. Croix River by the establishment of more parks and campsites along its shores."

THIS BRINGS us to your first point, that a comprehensive program is needed and that none exists, and to your very pointed question, "How far is Save the St. Croix prepared to work for this development of the valley as a genuinely public resource?"

Our answer is that we have so worked, are working and are prepared to work yet more.

We tried to get the problem into the hands of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. This was blocked by people who wanted the plant in Oak Park Heights.

However, because we had brought the problem under public scrutiny, there was created the Joint State-Federal Task Force to study the St. Croix controversy. On this task force are represented the appropriate agencies of the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the federal government. The task force is studying water and air pollution, recreation, navigation and fuel and power alternatives for the region. This is ground-work for planning.

OUR DEFENSE of the St. Croix has focussed national attention and made this dispute the cutting edge of a general drive for conservation. Such wide support will settle for no less than genuine public use of the lower St. Croix River.

Another result of our work was the hearing before the senate subcommittee on public works at Stillwater in December and the bill introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Nelson and Mondale seeking to promote "broad recreational use and more intensive types of recreational use of the portion of the St. Croix River downstream from the dam near Taylors Falls, to its confluence with the Mississippi River."

It is also aimed at "protecting, developing, and making accessible the nationally significant outdoor recreation resources of such river segments for the use and enjoyment of all the American people, the St. Croix National Scenic Waterway is hereby established."

Now for your second question, "What are Save the St. Croix proposals for tax policy in the valley?"

We contend that the problem of equitable taxation should be approached as a tax problem. It should not be side-stepped by selling part of the St. Croix River to a corporation for a tax contribution, which, to compound the injustice, is collected

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MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE

Sun., March 7, 1965

## NSP Tells Plan to Avoid Harm to River Life

By DAVID MAZIE

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Northern States Power Co. (NSP) promised Saturday to build cooling towers to reduce water temperatures if its proposed St. Croix River generating plant should result in harm to the river.

The pledge was made by NSP President Earl Ewald at the final day of testimony on the proposed \$63 million, 550,000-kilowatt plant, to be located at Oak Park Heights below Stillwater.

The Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and the State Conservation Department have held 10 days of joint hearings since mid-January on NSP's request for permits to withdraw cooling water from the river and return warmed water.

ATTORNEYS from both sides will present brief final arguments on March 26. The pollution commission and conservation department then will have 60 days to decide whether to grant NSP the permits.

One major contention of opponents is that warm water discharged from the plant would harm the fish and plant life in the St. Croix.

Ewald, the final witness to appear at yesterday's five-hour hearing in the State Capitol in St. Paul, said:

"If in the future the Water Pollution Control Commission should determine that the discharge of heated water from the plant is in fact harmful, NSP will, if requested by the commission, install cooling towers to reduce the temperature of such heated discharge."

THE TOWERS would cost between \$1 million and \$3.5 million, an NSP spokesman estimated.

Ewald warned that if a new power plant is not in operation at some location by 1968 the area would face a shortage of electrical service that "would represent a community disaster which cannot be risked."

Also testifying yesterday were 10 rebuttal witnesses, 3 presented by NSP and 7 by opponents of the plant, led by Save the St. Croix Inc.

Several University of Minnesota professors gave conflicting testimony on the effects the heated discharges would have on aquatic life in the river.

OTHER PERSONS argued that recreational facilities would be harmed by the increased barge transportation on the river that would result from the plant.

Mayor Demetrius Jelatis of Red Wing, Minn., suggested that the plant be built on a Mississippi River site near Red Wing.

"As a user of electricity," I am concerned about power rates," said Jelatis, "but I don't feel low electric power rates should take supreme precedence over conversation and public health matters."



St. Croix Valley  
League of Women Voters

March 12, 1965

Mrs. Lois Mann  
State Water Resource Chairman  
League of Women Voters  
638 W. Laurel  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

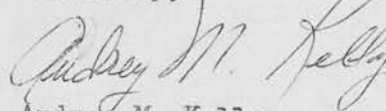
Dear Mrs. Mann:

Enclosed are news clippings pertaining to the latest hearings on the NSP issue. It is difficult to know how this controversy will end. I had intended clipping a quote from an official under Secretary Udall who said that in many of their decisions there was right on both sides, but they must still make a final determination. This is certainly the case here.

Many tactics have been attempted to prevent the construction of this plant. The latest is the statement from the Hudson, Wisconsin, city council stating that they should also have to approve a permit for construction of the plant. If this were so, of course, every community along the St. Croix would also have the right to issue or refuse permits for this construction.

There is being established a joint committee from Minnesota and Wisconsin to study future plans for the St. Croix, though this would have no bearing on the present issue.

Sincerely,



Audrey M. Kelly  
Local Water Resource Chairman

# Share The St. Croix Begins New NSP Fact Sheet Series!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the various tales, charges, and propaganda sheets that have been distributed in the St. Croix Valley during the past few months regarding plans to build a new generating plant on the river here, it has become necessary for businessmen of the region to organize together to try and set the record straight. Two officials of the newly formed "Share The St. Croix" committee have written a series of articles on "facts and fairy tales" regarding NSP's proposed plant. They will be run in The Gazette 12 times, starting today. These articles have also been sent in to the wire services and Twin City newspapers with the hope that with their "help" the entire metropolitan area can become better acquainted with the "facts".

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath

## SHARE THE ST. CROIX INFORMATION BULLETIN AND FACT SHEET — NO. 1

### THE FAIRY TALE IS —

**THAT THE WATER OF LAKE ST. CROIX WILL BECOME DISASTROUSLY HEATED!** The Opponents of the N.S.P. Plant would have you believe that the discharge water from the proposed Oak Park Heights Plant will heat the waters of Lake St. Croix all the way to Prescott to such a degree as to be dangerous to fish life, swimming, and other recreational uses.

### THE TRUTH IS —

That Lake St. Croix is more than 23 feet deep, except for three sandbars, for its entire length — that the cooling water for the plant will be taken from 20 feet below the surface, where the temperature is perceptively cooler, as every school-boy knows from experience, it is warmed from 10 to 17 degrees depending on the season of the year, and then discharged on the surface of the water.

Scientific tests prove that the discharge water spreads out in all directions as a layer on the surface of the water about one foot in thickness and, due to the cooling effects of evaporation, the temperature steadily decreases until it returns to normal at a distance of one half mile from the plant.

The above summarizes in capsule form the testimony of Dr. Silverman, leading authority in the field, regarding the scientific tests made under his direction last year at the University of Minnesota Hydrology Laboratory on a scale model of Lake St. Croix constructed for the purpose. Complete detailed information regarding this point is available to anyone desiring it.

This is No. 1 of a series of SHARE THE ST. CROIX INFORMATION BULLETINS and FACT SHEETS that will appear regularly in 12 consecutive articles. We suggest that you cut each one out and make a file for ready reference on the various FAIRY TALES the opponents have spread during the past few months.

St. Croix Group Says

# Barge Traffic Won't Hinder Use Of River

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath

## SHARE THE ST. CROIX INFORMATION BULLETIN AND FACT SHEET — NO. 2

### THE FAIRY TALE IS —

**THAT COAL BARGES ON THE ST. CROIX WILL HINDER USE OF PLEASURE CRAFT.**

Many people have come to believe that when the N.S.P. plant is built a steady stream of coal barges bringing coal up Lake St. Croix during the towing season will seriously hamper the use and enjoyment of pleasure boats, yachts, water skiing, and the like.

### THE TRUTH IS —

**COAL BARGES WILL NOT HINDER PLEASURE CRAFT IN THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE.**

The probability is that people yachting on Lake St. Croix will never see a towboat pushing coal barges to the N.S.P. plant, even if they spend every weekend and every afternoon and evening of each work week all summer long on the lake.

This is necessarily true because Northern States Power Company's program calls for bringing coal barges up Lake St. Croix only on weekdays from Monday through Friday between the hours of midnight and noon.

A witness with more than 25

years experience and who operates barge transportation all over the United States and the Gulf of Mexico, testified that towboats on the Ohio River do not interfere in any way with pleasure craft despite the following facts:

(1) the tonnage on the Ohio River now is sixty (60) times what the tonnage on Lake St. Croix will be after the plant is built,

(2) there are a tremendous number of pleasure boats on the Ohio due to the many large cities along its banks, and

(3) Lake St. Croix is much greater in width than the Ohio is along much of its course.

How could anyone seriously argue, in the light of these facts, that the tows of coal barges would hamper pleasure boating?

Statements of some opponents of the N.S.P. plant would tend to cause, and have caused, people who were not familiar with the facts to believe that Lake St. Croix is a virgin recreational Paradise in its pristine natural state, foreign to commerce, industry and the bread and butter pursuits of man, and that the construction of the plant would be a calamity since it would totally change its character and ruin its wild state.

### THE TRUTH IS —

THAT P. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAVE USED LAKE ST. CROIX FOR 126 YEARS!

Lake St. Croix has been used continuously each year for steamboat and towboat navigation since the steamboat PALMYRA came up the St. Croix in July, 1838 — and that adds up to a total of 126 years of continuous usage!

Beginning with the lumber industry Lake St. Croix became a major artery of commerce. Some idea of the tremendous tonnage of freight and cargo that has used this waterway can be gleaned from the fact that in a single season 364 huge tows of logs and lumber left Stillwater for cities downriver all the way to St. Louis.

The modern era of river transportation on Lake St. Croix began with the construction of the Stillwater Barge Terminal in 1929. Over the past 5 years the Alple Towing Co. has averaged over 20 tows a year handling more than 32,000 tons of freight annually through the terminal.

St. Croix Group Says

# NSP Plant Won't Hurt Wild River

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath

## SHARE THE ST. CROIX INFORMATION BULLETIN AND FACT SHEET — NO. 3

### THE FAIRY TALE IS —

**THAT THE CHARACTER OF LAKE ST. CROIX AS A WILD RIVER WILL BE DESTROYED!**

Statements of some opponents of the N.S.P. plant would tend to cause, and have caused, people who were not familiar with the facts to believe that Lake St. Croix is a virgin recreational Paradise in its pristine natural state, foreign to commerce, industry and the bread and butter pursuits of man, and that the construction of the plant would be a calamity since it would totally change its character and ruin its wild state.

### THE TRUTH IS —

THAT P. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAVE USED LAKE ST. CROIX FOR 126 YEARS!

Lake St. Croix has been used continuously each year for steamboat and towboat navigation since the steamboat PALMYRA came up the St. Croix in July, 1838 — and that adds up to a total of 126 years of continuous usage!

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St. Croix Group Says

## New Plant Won't Be A Terrible Eyesore

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath  
SHARE THE ST. CROIX INFORMATION BULLETIN  
AND FACT SHEET — NO. 4

### THE FAIRY TALE IS:—

THAT THE N.S.P. PLANT WILL BE A TERRIBLE EYESORE!

The story has been widely circulated that the new N.S.P. Plant will spoil the scenic beauty of Lake St. Croix and constitute an eyesore blighting forever the natural charm of our valley.

### THE TRUTH IS:—

THE N.S.P. PLANT WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL, MODERN BUILDING SURROUNDED BY LANDSCAPED GROUNDS.

The plans that have been drawn by N.S.P. for the new plant show a beautiful modern building enhanced by the use of new building materials and designs, and surrounded by landscaped grounds of lawn and shrubbery that will be infinitely prettier than the swampy area that now exists at the site.

Anyone having the slightest qualms regarding the phony arguments being made that the plant will be an ugly eyesore in the valley is referred to the reprint in the Stillwater Gazette of Feb. 3, 1965, of a remarkable, unsolicited letter appearing in the University of Minnesota Daily written by a student from Granite Falls describing a similar coal-burning N.S.P. generating plant on the Minnesota River just outside his home town.

He states that N.S.P. plant is attractively built, painted, lighted and maintained, that the grounds are so well landscaped and cared for that they look like a park, that the plant does not affect recreational facilities located on the river on both sides of the plant and practically adjacent thereto, that it does not affect the fishing near the plant which is the best in the area, that the people of Granite Falls are proud of the plant and they have painted pictures of it hanging in their banks and medical centers.

How could one more effectively prove the falsity of this particular FAIRY TALE?

St. Croix Group Says

## New NSP Plant Won't Kill All Fish In River

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath  
SHARE THE ST. CROIX INFORMATION BULLETIN  
AND FACT SHEET — NO. 5

### THE FAIRY TALE IS:

THAT THE NEW NSP PLANT WILL DESTROY THE FISH LIFE IN LAKE ST. CROIX!

Many people have been led to believe that the very popular sport of fishing has been put in jeopardy since the NSP plant at Oak Park Heights is about to kill or seriously damage all of the fish and marine life in Lake St. Croix. Therefore all people interested in conservation and the great outdoors, and that includes just about everybody, should immediately rush in to do battle.

### THE TRUTH IS:

THAT FISHING IN LAKE ST. CROIX WILL BE SOMEWHAT IMPROVED!

According to the testimony of Prof. Chas. H. Wurtz, Ph.D., Philadelphia, Pa., eminent marine biologist and a recognized authority in the field of fish life, fishing will not be harmed in any way by the construction and operation of the NSP plant.

In fact Dr. Wurtz stated that recreational fishing will be enhanced and improved by the operation of the NSP plant because the fishing season will be extended and fish will be more productive, and he submitted much scientific evidence in support of his testimony.

The opposition introduced a witness who testified regarding studies involving trout and salmon, neither species of which have ever been found in abundance in Lake St. Croix. From the evidence produced it would appear that stories about the demise of fish life on Lake St. Croix are somewhat in the category of Mark Twain's famous remark about the reports of his death, namely, that they were rather greatly exaggerated.



Rounds

— Any word —

— Pete ?

— Rentley press

—  
—  
—

— Calls to Larson

" " Vogtman

—

XERO COPY  
St. Croix Group Says

## NSP Site Is In Industrial Zone On River

By Sherm Crane and  
R. M. Hadrath

SHARE THE ST. CROIX  
INFORMATION BULLETIN  
AND FACT SHEET — NO. 6

### THE FAIRY TALE IS:—

THAT THE PLANT SHOULD  
BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE  
THE AREA IS NOT INDUS-  
TRIAL!

Statements have been made and widely spread, leading people not familiar with the facts to believe that the building of the N.S.P. plant will bring industry to an area that is practically a virgin recreational river untouched by the works of man.

### THE TRUTH IS:—

THAT THE AREA WAS EF-  
FECTIVELY ZONED INDUS-  
TRIAL BEFORE THERE WAS  
ANY INDUSTRY IN ST. PAUL  
OR MINNEAPOLIS, OR BE-  
FORE THERE WAS ANY  
MINNEAPOLIS FOR THAT  
MATTER, AND WHILE ST.  
PAUL WAS A FRONTIER  
TRADING VILLAGE.

Beginning in 1843, heavy indus-  
try moved into the upper end of  
Lake St. Croix with the coming  
of the first sawmill and spread  
rapidly along the upper three  
miles of the lake, which area in-  
cludes the proposed site of the  
new N.S.P. plant, and this was at  
a time before there was a Minne-  
apolis and while St. Paul was yet  
a small trading village grouped  
around H. H. Jackson's store. And  
this three miles or river shore has  
remained solely industrial and  
commercial to this day with a  
total elapsed continuous history  
of more than a century and a  
quarter.

As anyone can see who wants  
to take the trouble to journey  
along Lake St. Croix south from  
Stillwater this three miles of  
shore contains in succession the  
N.S.P. Pole Yard, the Phosphates  
Barge Warehouse, Barge Coal  
Docks, the Aiple Towing Co.  
Repair Dock, the Sunny Side Ma-  
rina, the Stillwater Sewage Dis-  
posal Plant, the proposed site of  
the new N.S.P. plant, the Ander-  
sen Corporation plant, with the  
Minnesota State Prison Industry,  
across the highway and Railroad  
tracks, thrown in for good meas-  
ure.

It is hard for local citizenry, fa-  
miliar with the area since child-  
hood, to understand why anyone  
would believe this particular Fairy  
Tale since the evidence is laid out  
on the ground for all to see.

XERO COPY  
St. Croix Group Says

## Share The St. Croix Fact Sheet -- No. 7

SHARE THE ST. CROIX FACT SHEET — NO. 7

### THE FAIRY TALE IS:—

THAT LAKE ST. CROIX SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE  
USES OF RECREATION ALONE!

The opponents of the N.S.P. plant have convinced a lot of  
people, not conversant with the facts in the case, that Lake  
St. Croix should be restricted to PLAY purposes, and have a  
permanent sign put up for all time: "OFF LIMITS TO COM-  
MERCE AND NAVIGATION."

### THE TRUTH IS:—

THAT LAKE ST. CROIX IS MORE THAN BIG ENOUGH TO  
MEET THE NEEDS OF THE N.S.P. PLANT AND SHOULD  
BE SHARED BETWEEN THE TWO!

Recreation is important — but let's put it in its proper per-  
spective — man must work to eat before he can play! It is  
all very true that all work and no play made a very dull boy  
out of Jack — but what would all play and no work do to  
Jack?

Economic development is the well spring from which pros-  
perity sufficient to pay the cost of recreation arises; if you  
do not have the job opportunities and work available which  
results from economic development, there is no wherewithal  
for recreation. To restrict our natural resources only to rec-  
reational ends when the particular resource is ample enough  
(and then some) for both the requirements of the N.S.P.  
plant and recreation is not only profligate, but downright  
selfish, unconscionable and stupid.

We have no quarrel with recreation — but where there is  
more than enough room, let's develop both our recreational  
and economic potential for the general welfare of all our  
people!

## NSP Hearings Adjourned Until March 1

ST. PAUL — (UP) — After more  
pros and cons were presented in  
the continued hearings concern-  
ing a proposed Northern States  
Power Co. plant on the St. Croix  
river, the hearings were adjourned  
until March 1.

Persons in favor of the plant  
presented favorable arguments  
from persons of varied profes-  
sions yesterday.

A consulting engineer from  
Chevy Chase, Md., who has been  
active in air pollution control,  
Louis C. McCabe, said the amounts  
of sulphur dioxide that would be  
concentrated in the area by the  
plant would not be harmful, even  
to alfalfa, which is sensitive to  
the chemical.

A home owner near the pro-  
posed site of the plant, George  
Richter who lives (at 1206 Wat-  
son) in St. Paul, argued that the  
plant would require an increase  
in barge traffic which would  
create a danger to persons using  
the river for recreation.

When the hearings resume  
March 1, conducted jointly by the  
Minnesota Water Pollution Con-  
trol Commission and the State  
Conservation Commission, the  
Save the St. Croix, Inc., commit-  
tee and Wisconsin representatives  
in opposition to the plant, will  
present additional testimony.

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St. Croix Group Says

2/22/65

## Share The St. Croix Fact Sheet No. 8

### THE FAIRY TALE IS:

THE COMING OF THE N.S.P. PLANT WILL MONONGAHELIZE THE ST. CROIX VALLEY!

Opponents of the N.S.P. would have you believe that the new N.S.P. plant will bring in its train numerous big industrial plants, all belching forth smoke, to rival the steel plants along the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers near Pittsburgh and fill the valley with smog and worse.

### THE TRUTH IS:

THAT THE N.S.P. PLANT WILL NOT BRING OTHER BIG INDUSTRIAL PLANTS TO THE VALLEY.

The reason why this is so should be obvious to everyone — large industrial plants are built, and only built, where economic factors are such as to dictate their location. Among those factors are the following: (1) nearness of bulky raw materials needed for manufacturing, such as the coal, limestone and iron ore in the Pittsburgh area, (2) location on intersection of commerce routes such as Chicago, (3) large port for ocean-going vessels, and (4) in the midst of a large city. None of these factors are present, and furthermore, a neighboring plant would not get cheaper power since electric rates are the same for the whole metropolitan area.

In addition, there is no land available along the shores of Lake St. Croix suitable for industrial expansion. The bluffs rise steeply along the shore and what little flat land there is was preempted long ago by industries or municipalities. N.S.P. purchased the site on which the plant will stand over 20 years ago, and the swampy character of this site was such that only an operation of the magnitude proposed could develop the area.

If additional proof of the falsity of this particular fairy tale is required, look at other large electrical generating plants built in areas such as this, away from large urban centers, and you will find that they have not brought other large plants in their train, simply because the economic factors that dictate plant location are not present.



## St. Croix Group Says

### Share The St. Croix Fact Sheet No. 9

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath

#### THE FAIRY TALE IS:

The opponents would have you believe that the N.S.P. plant at Oak Park Heights will fill the air of the valley with poisonous gases to such an extent that it will harm all living things and ruin paint, metals, tires, household articles, and in fact make life itself quite intolerable.

#### THE TRUTH IS:

THAT THIS IS A RIDICULOUS, INACCURATE, ABSURD STATEMENT, THE NATURAL EFFECT OF WHICH WOULD BE TO SCARE PEOPLE UNCONSCIONABLY!

Paint has been checking, and draperies fading, and tires deteriorating, and metals oxidizing in this valley for a long, long time and they will continue to do so after the N.S.P. plant is built — but not because the plant is built!

In the first place there will be practically no fly ash or solid products of combustion emitting from the stack because the plant will be equipped with the latest electrical precipitators located between the boiler and the stack. These are modern scientific marvels which are guaranteed to remove 98% of all fly ash particles and in practice do considerably better than that.

With regard to the gaseous products of combustion, expert witnesses have testified that the expected concentration of sulphur dioxide from the plant will be only 0.43 parts per million which would be equal to no more than two one-half hour periods a year; that this amount is so small that it will not be harmful to human beings; that it will in no way contribute to or aggravate existing illnesses; that it will have no physiological effect on human beings; that it will not be detectable by human beings; that it will not be harmful to alfalfa or other plant life; and that sulphur has long been recognized as a component in the air that surrounds us normally.

And on the basis of all the evidence our State Board of Health could find no health hazard from the air pollution standpoint! Where do you think that leaves the calamity proclaimers who have so assiduously spread this Fairy Tale?

### Share The St. Croix Fact Sheet No. 10

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath

#### THE FAIRY TALE IS:

THAT THE NEW N.S.P. PLANT WILL CONTAMINATE AND POLLUTE THE WATERS OF LAKE ST. CROIX BY DISCHARGING CHEMICALS AND WASTES INTO THE LAKE!

With this canard, which is separate and apart from the one about the dire results to be expected from the thermal changes in the water, many people have been led to believe that the plant will discharge waste or used chemicals, sewage, refuse from barge cleanings, and other miscellaneous wastes into the lake, pollute the water, and thus kill what few fish and other marine life were lucky enough to survive the thermal changes.

#### THE TRUTH IS:

THAT THE PLANT WILL NEITHER CONTAMINATE NOR POLLUTE THE WATERS OF LAKE ST. CROIX BY CHEMICAL OR ANY OTHER KIND OF WASTES.

The truth of the matter is that the only chemical that will be used at the plant and discharged into the water is the same one used to purify drinking water, namely, chlorine, but in a much smaller proportionate quantity or concentration than municipalities use to safeguard your water supply. There will be no barge tailings discharged into the water, and the sanitary sewage of the plant will be connected to a municipal sewage system.

How in this wide world could even a biased adult mind seriously argue that the waters of Lake St. Croix will be contaminated or polluted to the detriment of fish life, swimming, boating, water skiing, or any other recreational activity, by the chemical waste discharge from the N.S.P. plant — when the only chemical introduced into the water or occurring in the discharge water from the plant will be the same one used to purify drinking water, and that in much lesser concentration than municipalities regularly use to protect their water supply?

### Share The St. Croix Fact Sheet -- No. 11

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath

#### THE FAIRY TALE IS:—

THAT THE BUILDING OF THE N.S.P. PLANT IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST!

#### THE TRUTH IS:—

THAT THE N.S.P. PLANT IS DECIDEDLY IN THE INTEREST AS THE FACTS QUICKLY DEMONSTRATE.

1. The American taxpayer has spent more than \$145,000,000.00 to build the 9 foot channel on the Upper Mississippi Waterways of which Lake St. Croix is an integral part, so that this area could have the advantages of low cost barge transportation. The opponents would prevent use of the waterway for the very thing you spent your money for — where is the public interest best served?

2. The work force of every industry on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix comes from both sides of the river. Therefore, every living person in the St. Croix Valley will benefit to a greater or lesser degree from the construction and operation of the plant and the increased prosperity that it will necessarily bring to the valley — doesn't that serve the public interest mightily? And recreation will not be hindered in the slightest.

3. The 69th Congress of the United States ordered a general plan for the development of water resources of the St. Croix and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, complying with the request, has stated in various reports, "the St. Croix from its mouth to Stillwater is particularly well adapted to navigation," "the plan for development of the St. Croix which is in accordance with the best use of the stream" is to give the same depth as on the Mississippi from St. Louis to Minneapolis, and bringing the 9 foot channel to Stillwater "would not affect any other use of the stream." It would appear that hauling coal by river to the new plant involves the public interest.

4. The Minnesota State Legislature has by joint resolution encouraged "the improvement, development, maintenance, and protection" of the St. Croix River "for the purposes of navigation" and the increase in the transportation service of that river. That sounds as though the State Legislature must have thought the public interest was involved in barge transportation of commodities on the St. Croix.

5. There is expert testimony in the case that it would cost N.S.P. \$6,800,000.00 additional to build equal generating capacity at another site. Since all expense suffered by a utility is eventually passed on to the consuming public in the form of rates for electrical energy, it would appear that there is a very important public interest in having the N.S.P. plant built at the Oak Park Heights site.

### Share The St. Croix Fact Sheet No. 12

By Sherm Crane and R. M. Hadrath

#### THE FAIRY TALE IS:—

THAT THE PROPONENTS OF THE N.S.P. PLANT ARE MOTIVATED BY SELFISH REASONS!

#### THE TRUTH IS:—

THAT SHARING WAS NEVER THE HALLMARK OF SELFISHNESS — BUT SAVING OFTEN IS!

1. Which is the more selfish idea — to Save the St. Croix for the interest of Recreation alone, or to Share the St. Croix between the interest of Recreation and Commerce?

2. Since Lake St. Croix is more than big enough to serve the interests of both Recreation and Commerce in full measure, then to argue and campaign for the idea that it must be reserved to the interests of Recreation alone is manifestly a Dog-in-the-Manger attitude.

3. The N.S.P. plant will provide many job opportunities both in its construction and later in its operation, will add materially to the tax base of every unit of government including the municipality, the school district, the county, and the state, and will bring prosperity to some degree to all the people of the St. Croix Valley living on both sides of Lake St. Croix. Is this a selfish idea?

4. Some people in opposing the plant have suggested that a question of ethics is involved in their position — and with that one might readily agree — but whether their position, in view of all the facts and the evidence, is ethically good or ethically bad, is left to the reader's judgment.

This SHARE THE ST. CROIX BULLETIN AND FACT SHEET NO. 12 completes the arguments that have been used in one way or another in opposition to the construction of the N.S.P. plant at Oak Park Heights, and the Facts regarding them. We suggest that you take all twelve, review and study the stories that have been told, and the evidence contradicting them, and then express your own opinion by writing a letter to various newspapers, talking to your friends and neighbors, or by any other means that might serve to correct a lot of misinformation.

# St. Croix Hearings: Round Two

(Taken from Minneapolis Tribune, Monday, Feb. 15)

Opponents of NSP's proposed St. Croix River power plant will state their case in a hearing beginning today (Monday). Their success is likely to depend largely on how far they can move beyond narrow technical questions, and on their ability to develop a really positive program for "saving the St. Croix."

To be sure, only technical questions are officially at issue in the hearings on NSP's application for a permit to use the river to cool its 550,000-kilowatt plant.

A staff report to the Water Pollution Control Commission has, however, indicated there probably will be no air or water pollution sufficient to warrant denying the permit. Save the St. Croix Inc. may feel otherwise, or may have other evidence to offer. But it can hardly be optimistic about winning its case on technical grounds alone.

Instead, its hopes for a future development of the valley as primarily an "open" residential and recreational area must rest largely on its ability to counter the two main

arguments used by advocates of the plant.

First: NSP points out, correctly, that stopping the plant will not, by itself, "save" the valley. Without a really comprehensive program for managing the river, its shoreline and its entire watershed, pollution of various kinds will continue. No such program exists today. How far is Save the St. Croix prepared to work for this development of the valley as a genuinely public resource?

Second: Local officials point out, also with validity, that a "residential and recreational" policy — desirable though it may be — should not come without changes in the present system of financing local public services. What are Save the St. Croix proposals for tax policy in the valley?

A constructive, practical attitude on the part of those who want the valley conserved, together with some specific proposals from the Wisconsin task force due to report next month, may yet provide a way out of what has become, for all parties, an unhappy dilemma on the St. Croix.

Regarding Proposed Plant On River Here

## NSP Completes Testimony At State Water Hearings

ST. PAUL —(UPI)— Northern States Power Co. (NSP) completed testimony Monday in support of its request to build a power plant on the St. Croix river by showing how much more it would cost to build elsewhere.

"The proposed 550,000-kilowatt plant at Oak Park Heights would cost \$67.5 million," Arthur Dienhart, chief civil engineer for NSP, told a joint hearing of the state conservation department and water pollution control commission.

It is estimated the plant itself would run \$63 million with the substation and additional construction bringing the total cost to around \$67.5 million.

"A similar plant at Red Wing, Minn., would cost \$6.8 million more and one at Monticello, \$13.7 million more," said Dienhart.

"To produce 550,000 kilowatts elsewhere, it would be necessary to build smaller additions to any two of three sites in the Twin Cities area," he said.

"Combining the high bridge site in St. Paul and the Riverside site in Minneapolis would cost \$23 million more. Combining Riverside and the Black Dog plant at Burnsville would cost \$21.1 million more and combining Black Dog and High Bridge would cost \$22 million more," he said.

Paul Thuet, South St. Paul attorney who is handling the case against NSP for an organization called Save the St. Croix, Inc., asked Dienhart if it wasn't true that an atomic energy plant was under consideration by NSP to supply some of the additional two million kilowatts it will need in 10 years.

Thuet referred to a story in Monday's Wall Street Journal in which NSP President Earl Ewald was quoted as saying atomic energy has closed the cost gap with coal-burning plants in this region.

Ewald said his company is seriously considering atomic power for a second new plant it expects to have in operation by about 1970.

Dienhart, however, said he knew of no firm plans for such a plant.

Earlier, an NSP official testified that one tow a day, five days a week, would be adequate to supply the estimated 1.8 million tons of coal the plant will need yearly.

Leonard E. Peterson, general superintendent of traffic for NSP, said the tows would operate at hours when Lake St. Croix was least busy with recreational boaters.

Nine barge tows would leave a "fleeting area" near Prescott, Wis., at 8 a.m., arrive at the plant at noon, leave empty at midnight to arrive at Prescott at 3 a.m.



# Who's Really "Saving The St. Croix"?

There's more behind the scenes than what you have been told by the gigantic, intensive publicity campaign that heroically proposes to "Save the St. Croix."

An impression has been created to the effect that a proposed Northern States Power Co. plant will suddenly ravage miles and miles of natural wilderness. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Look carefully at the map of the St. Croix river.

POINT A is the proposed site of the NSP plant. It is at Oak Park Heights, near Bayport, on Lake St. Croix.

Next, look carefully at AREA B in which Point A is located. This is a 3-mile portion of what is known as Lake St. Croix. This area is heavily industrialized and commercialized and has been since 1849. (Identification is shown in the box in the opposite column.)

Actually, this 3-mile stretch on the Minnesota side can never be used for recreational purposes because it is bounded on the North by a sewage disposal plant, on the South by the largest window manufacturing plant in the nation, and in between there is nothing but swamp and sawdust. This is NOT the "wild river" portion of the St. Croix. It is NOT virgin territory. In fact, the site on which NSP proposes to build, and which it acquired in 1942, is mostly marsh area and bare ground that is unsuitable for anything except the type of industrial development that is proposed.

On the Wisconsin side, the shore between the Stillwater bridge and North Hudson has remained undeveloped because bluffs rising steeply from the water's edge make use of that land impossible. No large scale development of camp or picnic grounds is really possible within this area simply because no land is available.

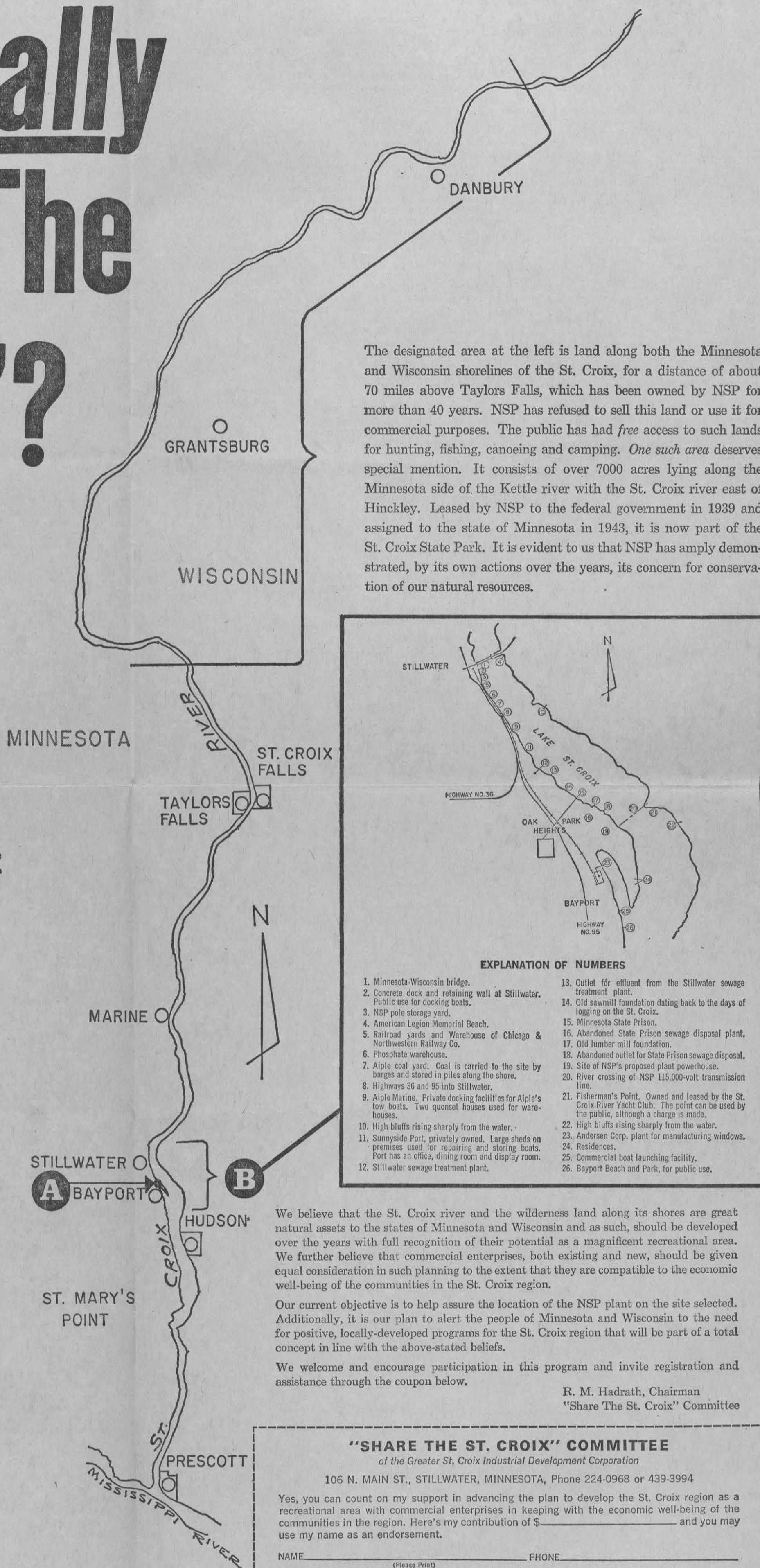
Those of us who live and work in the Stillwater-Hudson area have a great love for the St. Croix. We do not wish to have the natural beauty of our St. Croix destroyed or changed to any degree, and if we thought this might happen, we naturally would be against any development of this type.

Right now, we feel that what can happen here has been misrepresented and that certain users of Lake St. Croix have gone too far in purporting to speak for our area.

Our objective right now, is to present a reasoned case in support of the proposed NSP plant as the first phase of an orderly development in the St. Croix region. We advocate recreational development in this region, not just as it might affect present users, but with total consideration given to the use of the St. Croix by all who live in the metropolitan area of the Twin Cities and all who may visit this region in the years to come.

It does not make sense to advocate stopping every business enterprise simply because it is "commercial." To do so would wreck this area economically to the end that people would have to move away. It must be understood that if we are to survive in this region, sensible and substantial businesses must be encouraged to locate here. If we are to live here and raise and educate our children, we must have the schools and municipal services that can only be financed through taxes that come from proportionate business development. Under the existing system of property taxation in Minnesota, it is impossible to expect tax assistance from areas beyond Washington county.

Our goal is to SHARE the St. Croix through a planned development wherein industry, commerce and recreation can all live side by side in a most magnificent natural wilderness and water area. It is our intention to stay here and fight for what we believe.



We believe that the St. Croix river and the wilderness land along its shores are great natural assets to the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and as such, should be developed over the years with full recognition of their potential as a magnificent recreational area. We further believe that commercial enterprises, both existing and new, should be given equal consideration in such planning to the extent that they are compatible to the economic well-being of the communities in the St. Croix region.

Our current objective is to help assure the location of the NSP plant on the site selected. Additionally, it is our plan to alert the people of Minnesota and Wisconsin to the need for positive, locally-developed programs for the St. Croix region that will be part of a total concept in line with the above-stated beliefs.

We welcome and encourage participation in this program and invite registration and assistance through the coupon below.

R. M. Hadrath, Chairman  
"Share The St. Croix" Committee

## "SHARE THE ST. CROIX" COMMITTEE

of the Greater St. Croix Industrial Development Corporation

106 N. MAIN ST., STILLWATER, MINNESOTA, Phone 224-0968 or 439-3994

Yes, you can count on my support in advancing the plan to develop the St. Croix region as a recreational area with commercial enterprises in keeping with the economic well-being of the communities in the region. Here's my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and you may use my name as an endorsement.

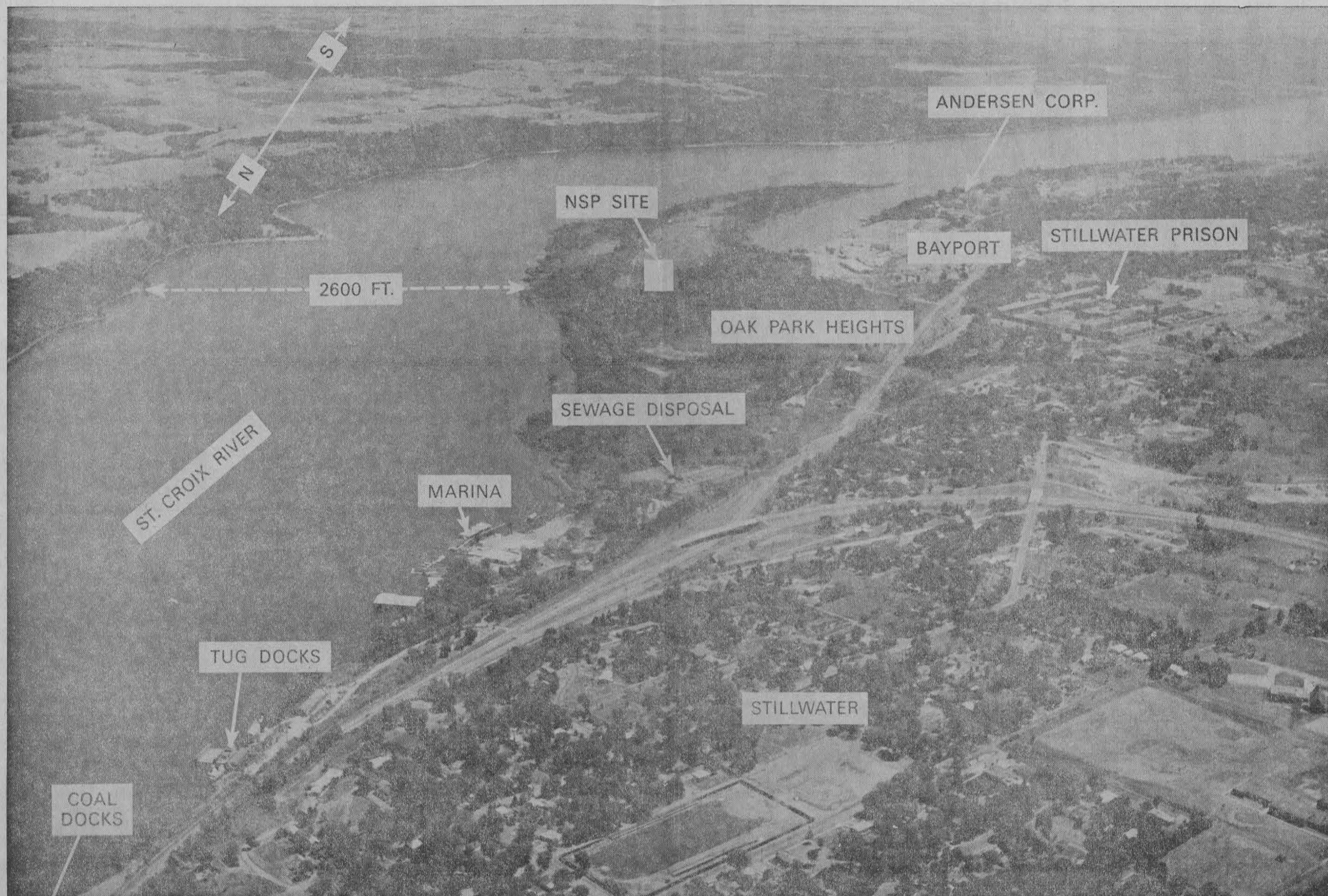
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

(Written Signature)





# There's room for *both* industry and recreation on the St. Croix

*when industry is located in the manner planned at Oak Park Heights!*

Oak Park Heights, on the St. Croix, is already industrialized. It is not "virgin" territory. It is not the "wild river" portion of the St. Croix — as the photograph above certainly proves. Actually, this area where NSP proposes to locate its new plant has been industrialized and commercialized since 1849. The land on which the plant would be built is bounded on the North by a sewage disposal plant, on the South by the largest window manufacturing plant in the nation, and in between there is nothing but swamp and sawdust.

It is incorrect to say that the proposed NSP plant would affect the recreational potential of the St. Croix river. If such were the case, we would not be in favor of it. But the plans for the plant and the procedures under which it will be operated more than justify this community's faith in encouraging its location in our area.

It has been said that fishing will be spoiled because the operation would result in warming of the water. The fact is that the water in the area immediately adjacent to the plant would be slightly warmed only at the top one-sixth of its depth and the remaining twenty-five feet would be at normal temperature. Experts have testified that fishing will actually be more productive.

Much has been mentioned that barge towing necessary to the operation of the plant will crowd recreational boaters off the St. Croix. Again, this information is not correct. Barge movement will take place only in the morning hours, starting at midnight — and never on weekends. Chances are that few boaters will ever see a movement of the barges.

The plans of NSP call for the building of an ultra-modern plant that will be a pride to this community. Electro-static precipitators, coupled with an extremely high stack, will remove 98% of the ash particles from the air. Some water vapor will be visible, but it will not be a cause for concern.

Commercial enterprises in selective locations that have a bearing on the economic life of existing communities in the St. Croix region most certainly should be supported by the people of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Industry can live side by side with recreation in this area, where it is planned in keeping with what the communities need and want.

We believe that the St. Croix river and the wilderness land along its shores are great natural assets to the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and as such, should be developed over the years with full recognition of their potential as a magnificent recreational area. We further believe that commercial enterprises, both existing and new, should be given equal consideration in such planning to the extent that they are compatible to the economic well-being of the communities in the St. Croix region.

Our current objective is to help assure the location of the NSP plant on the site selected. Additionally, it is our plan to alert the people of Minnesota and Wisconsin to the need for positive, locally-developed programs for the St. Croix region that will be part of a total concept in line with the above-stated beliefs.

We welcome and encourage participation in this program and invite registration and assistance through the coupon below.

R. M. Hadrath, Chairman  
"Share The St. Croix" Committee

## "SHARE THE ST. CROIX" COMMITTEE

of the Greater St. Croix Industrial Development Corporation

106 N. MAIN ST., STILLWATER, MINNESOTA, Phone 224-0968 or 439-3994

Yes, you can count on my support in advancing the plan to develop the St. Croix region as a recreational area with commercial enterprises in keeping with the economic well-being of the communities in the region. Here's my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and you may use my name as an endorsement.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

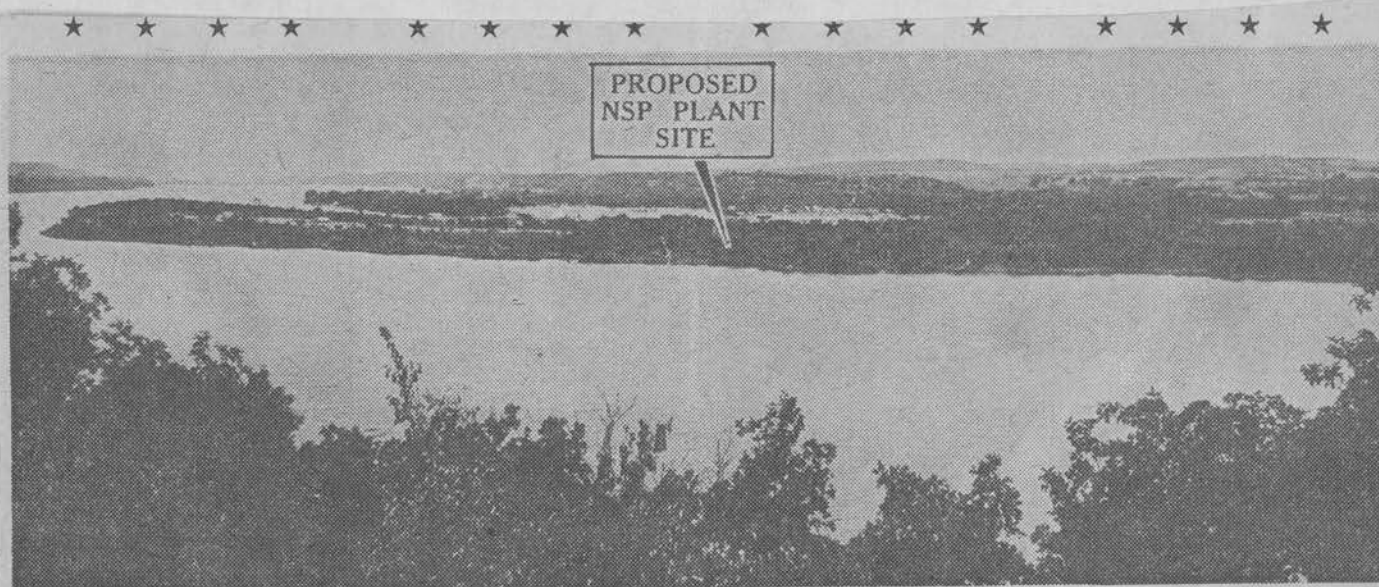
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(Written Signature)

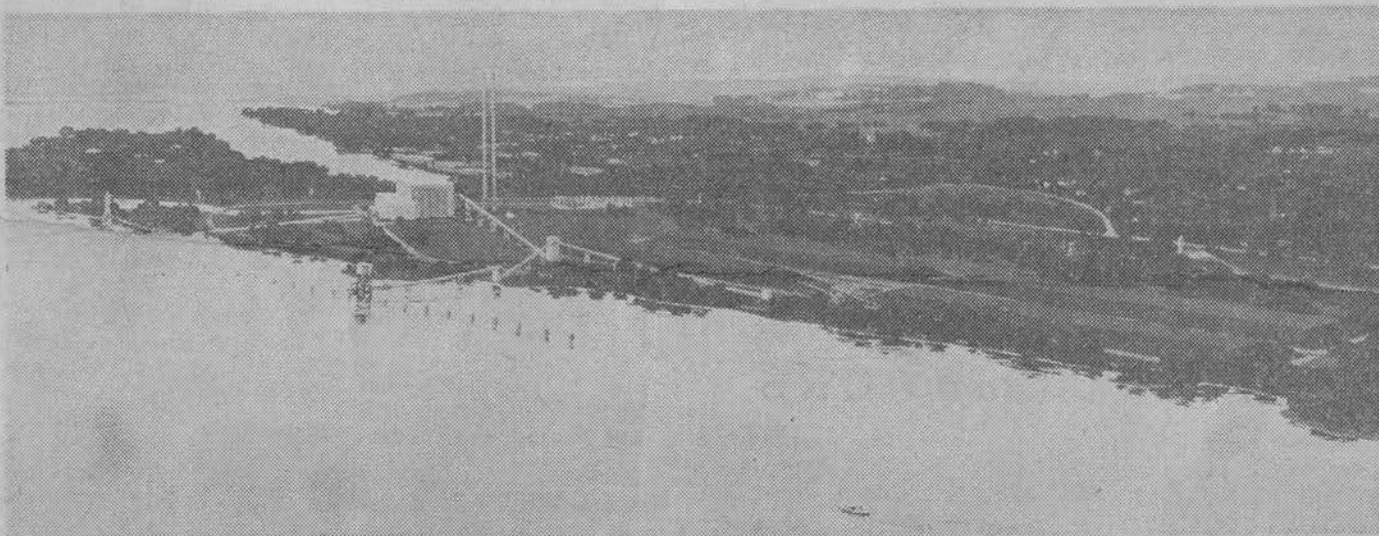


# St. Croix Dispute a Complex Issue



SITE OF PROPOSED NORTHERN STATES POWER CO. PLANT

Company started buying land 20 years ago



NSP SAYS PLANT WILL BE ATTRACTIVE; FOES CALL IT 'EYESORE'

Drawing shows two stacks; first unit will have just one

# PLANT DATA

The plant:

**BUILDING:** 200 feet high, 200 feet by 350 feet, with 785-foot smokestack.

**COST:** \$63 million.

**CAPACITY:** 550,000 kilowatts—21 per cent of NSP's expected capacity in 1968.

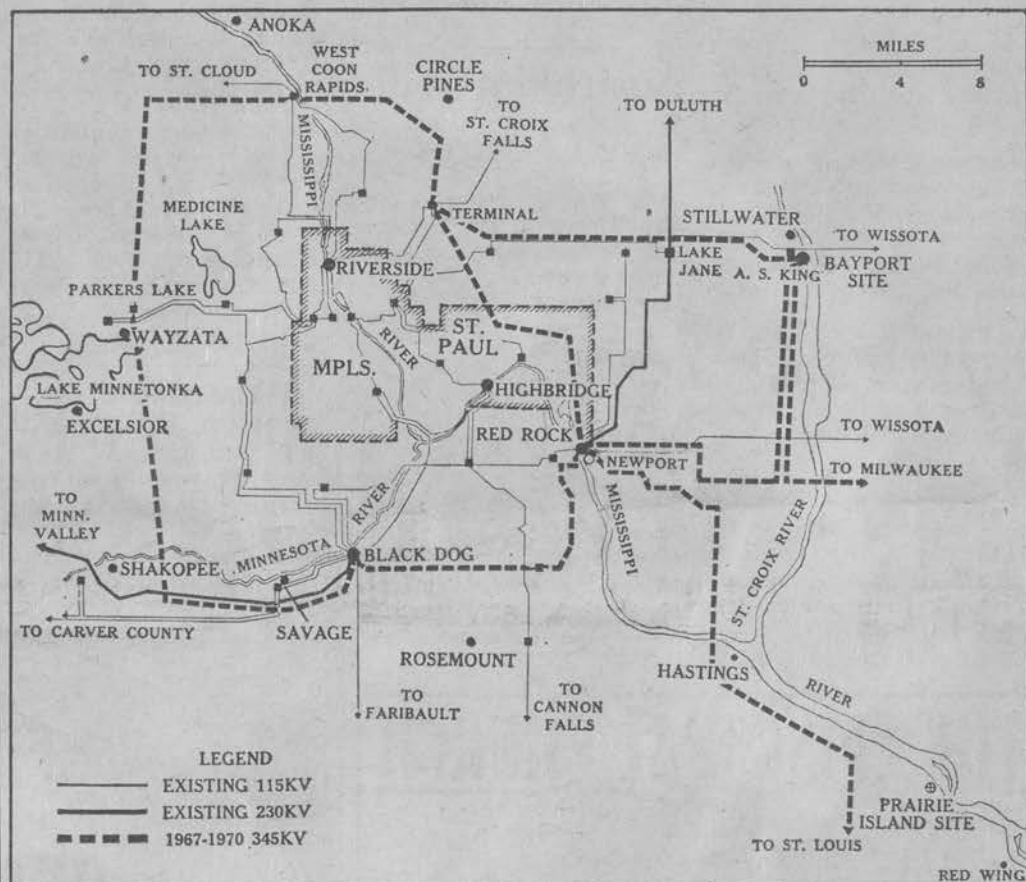
**EMPLOYMENT:** 60 men with a \$500,000 a year payroll.

**WHY NEEDED:** To meet NSP's requirements — which double every 10 years.

**FUTURE:** Second unit, possibly larger, tentatively planned at site.

**FUEL:** 1.8 million tons of coal a year.

**COOLING WATER:** 230,000 gallons of water from St. Croix per minute, to be returned to river 17 degrees warmer.



**NSP PRESENT AND PROPOSED TRANSMISSION SYSTEM FOR TWIN CITIES AREA**  
345-kilovolt lines mounted on towers would ring metropolitan area

Mpls  
St Paul  
New 6



# The Arguments

## IN FAVOR AGAINST

*"There is no reason why industry and recreation cannot live amicably side by side in this area—at least such an industry as represented by the proposed generating plant, which does not discharge sewage or industrial wastes into the river."* — Earl Ewald, president of Northern States Power Company.

● The lower St. Croix is historically industrial and commercial. Examples: Federal maintenance of the 9-foot channel from Prescott to Stillwater; other industrial and commercial uses of the river.

● The area—particularly the growing Stillwater School District—needs the tax base of a \$63-million plant, which according to one estimate would yield \$1.36-million a year, shaving 80 mills off the Stillwater School District levy.

● By installing mechanisms to remove 99 per cent of the solids from material leaving the tall stack, air pollution would be minimal and harm neither man nor vegetation.

● Warm water discharged to the river would form a one to two-foot layer atop 100 acres of Lake St. Croix. It would cool fairly quickly, causing no harm to fish. The discharged water would be clean.

● The 9-barge tows needed to bring coal to the plant would operate only on weekdays, and then only between midnight and noon, the period of least interference with pleasure boaters. There would be just one round trip daily.

*"The St. Croix is the last large clean river near a major metropolitan area in all of the Midwest. If we don't halt commercial exploitation here, where shall we stop?"*—Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis.

● The St. Croix is too valuable a recreational asset to permit further industrial inroads. Since World War I, and especially since World War II, the prime use of the river has increasingly been recreation.

● The area needs more tax base to support schools, but the need is for tax reform, which would more widely distribute revenues from utilities serving wide areas.

● Weather data has not been collected for the St. Croix Valley, so there is no assurance that the 785-foot stack will disperse sulfur dioxide and other flue wastes effectively to prevent irritating concentrations from reaching ground level on occasion.

● Because of a lack of weather information for the valley, there is some doubt that the warm water would merely "layer" at the surface and not be rolled downward by winds, trapping fish and causing fish kills.

● The warm water would cause fish kills and encourage the growth of undesirable varieties of blue-green algae which may be poisonous to wildlife and could cause unpleasant odors.

● The towboat and barges would be a hazard for the unskilled pleasure boaters on the St. Croix, many of whom stay off the Mississippi River because of heavy barge traffic.

Con't.

Favor

● The plant would be attractively laid out and planned. The structures at the plant would be "an interesting part of the landscape."

● NSP started assembling the 180-acre tract 20 years ago, so this should come as no surprise to anyone.

● NSP's other potential plant sites would be more expensive to develop. Planning for the Oak Park Heights is much more advanced than it is for any of the other sites and NSP needs the 550,000 kilowatt capacity early in 1968.

● Use of nuclear energy instead of coal, to reduce air pollution, would require more water than a coal-fired plant. Furthermore, nuclear plants have not been used long enough to make it safe for NSP to rely on one for such a large part of its capacity. Natural gas is not available for the plant.

● There is limited public access to the river.

Against

● NSP owns a number of other potential power plant sites, which it intends to develop anyway, and should use one of them.

● Any additional costs for NSP—from building a plant elsewhere or for additional safeguards — would be passed on to the public by slowing the rate of decline of electric prices.

● Once NSP's huge plant is on the river it is unlikely that any other industry could be kept off, no matter how undesirable, because its impact would be less than that of the power plant.

My's  
STAV

March 6

by GORDON SLOVUT  
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

The question appears simple.

Should Northern States Power Co. be granted permits from the Minnesota Conservation Department and the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission to build and operate a generating plant in Oak Park Heights on the St. Croix River?

The ramifications of the question are anything but simple, however, and have stirred local and national comment on the broad question of the role of government in safeguarding the rights of individuals when these rights come in conflict with industrial development.

Hearings on the permits opened Jan. 15, and in these NSP has consistently maintained that both Conservation Commissioner Wayne Olson and the antipollution commission should be concerned only with possible pollution of the river.

The plant, which would be the largest in the Upper Midwest, would require large amounts of river water to cool condensers. This water would be returned to the river 17 degrees warmer.

Testimony was permitted, over NSP's objection, on possible air pollution, at the joint hearings which were expected to end today.

Olson, who presided, said he would rule later on whether the air pollution testimony could be considered in the decision on issuing the permits.

A 1957 state law gives the Minnesota Board of Health power to make air pollution regulations and set up a permit system to control "atmospheric pollution which may be injurious or detrimental to public health . . ."

The board never adopted air pollution standards because sufficient funds never were appropriated, according to Health Department staff members.

However, the board had an air pollution study made by a private company and received a report from the U.S. Public Health Service technical assistance branch before deciding there would be "no foreseeable" air pollution danger to humans from the first 550,000-kilowatt unit at the site.

The Health Service subsequently amended its report to say there may be some hazard and that the original federal report erroneously did not consider all possible weather conditions.

Experts hired by NSP on weather and the effects of sulfur dioxide, the gas which worries plant opponents most, said there is no danger to humans.

The law governing Olson's role says he shall grant the permit if the "plans of the applicant provide for the most practical use of the waters of the state and will adequately protect public safety and promote the public welfare . . ."

Olson can reject the application if he concludes that the proposed use of the river "is inadequate, wasteful or impractical, or detrimental to the public interest."

The Water Pollution Control Commission is authorized to issue or deny permits "under such conditions as it may prescribe for the prevention of pollution (of waters) . . ."

"Pollution" is defined, in the law, as "contamination of any waters of the state so as to create a nuisance or render such waters unclean, or noxious, or impure so as to be actually or potentially harmful or detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, to domestic, commercial, industrial or recreational use, or to livestock, wild animals, bird, fish, or other aquatic life."

Mx/b  
STAV  
March 6



## Announcement

## Seminar on Water Resources

The Water Resources Research Center, University of Minnesota, will sponsor a seminar on Tuesday, March 30. The seminar will be held at 7:30 pm in the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory, Mississippi River at 3rd Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Professor Edward Silberman, St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory and Professor Lloyd L. Smith, Department of Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife will speak on the physical and biological factors, respectively, of The Thermal Pollution Problem on Lake St. Croix. The talks are scheduled to start at 8:00 pm and formal presentation will end about 9:00 pm, leaving adequate time for questions. Coffee will be available during a social period following the discussion of papers.

The model of Lake St. Croix at the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory will be operated between 7:30 and 8:00 pm to demonstrate the stratified nature of the flow and the spreading of the stratified water if the proposed thermal discharge occurs. (The Laboratory as a whole will not be open for inspection at this time.)

St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory may be reached by driving from the Minneapolis Campus along University Avenue toward Minneapolis. At the semaphore at 3rd Ave. S.E. (which is the first semaphore after crossing 10th Ave. S.E.), turn left and proceed downhill toward the river along 3rd Ave. S.E. for 3 blocks, where the road ends in the Laboratory parking area. Automobiles may be parked heading into a canal wall at the end of the road or along the fence opposite the wall. The Laboratory is entered by crossing a bridge, which may be seen on the right while approaching along 3rd Ave. S.E.

This notice is being sent to you at this time so that you may make plans to attend. You are urged to contact your colleagues and inform them of the seminar. If you have questions concerning the seminar please call 373-5168.

William C. Walton  
Director, Water Resources  
Research Center

# Tribune

## MORNING

DAY, MAY 13, 1965

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# NSP Granted Permit for Plant on St. Croix

## Must Build Towers to Cool Water

By DICK CUNNINGHAM  
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Northern States Power Co. was granted permission Wednesday to build a generating plant on the St. Croix River at Bayport.

As a condition, the company must build cooling towers so its discharge water will not injure game fish.

The towers would add from \$1 to \$3 million to the cost of the \$63 million plant, a company spokesman said.

He said the firm will have to study the conditions before announcing a starting date for construction.

**CLEARANCE** for the plant was granted by the Minnesota Water Pollution Control Commission and Wayne Olson, state conservation commissioner.

The action climaxed nine months of controversy during which the plant was opposed by recreational users of the St. Croix Valley and by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis.

Save the St. Croix, Inc., principal opponent of the plant, said it is considering several moves to block its construction.

Carl A. Pemble, River Falls, Wis., president of the group, said "it might be necessary for Wisconsin to seek an injunction against NSP" until public hearings on the proposal could be held in that state.

He noted that Wisconsin has had no official voice in the decision although "half of the St. Croix River belongs to the people there."

A Wisconsin-federal task force delivered testimony on the project at hearings before the Minnesota agencies.

**MAIN** objections to the plant had involved air pollution, barge traffic and esthetic considerations.

At the outset, the Water Pollution Control Commission said yesterday, it did not consider any testimony except as it affected water pollution.

It found also that there was no danger of water pollution from gases emitted by the plant's smoke stack.

The commission concluded, "Operation of the plant at the proposed site on the St. Croix can be compatible with the continued recreational use of the river."

**THE COMMISSION** noted that the water discharged by the plant would be 17 degrees above river temperature in the summer and 30 degrees above it in the winter.

Cooling facilities would have to be constructed to prevent the discharge water

from rising above 86 degrees, the commission said.

It determined that warmer discharge water might promote the formation of nuisance algae and injure game fish.

The commission decreed:

**"NO INDUSTRIAL** waste or other wastes treated or untreated shall be discharged into the waters so as to cause any nuisance conditions, including without limitation, the presence of substantial amounts of floating solids, scum, oil or dust sheens or slicks, suspended solids, discoloration, obnoxious odors, visible gassing, sludge deposits, slimes or fungus growths, or other offensive effects; or so as to cause any substantial change in any characteristics which may impair the quality of the water so as to render it objectionable or unsuitable for fish and wildlife or as a source of water for municipal industrial or agricultural purposes."

The company is required to pay for studies of the water required by the commission.

The clearance was granted on the same day the Minnesota Senate Civil Administration Committee approved a bill by Sen. Gordon Rosenmeier, Little Falls Conservative, which would do away with the necessity for private industry to get permits to use river water.

Olson said the bill would relieve NSP of the conditions imposed by the Water Pollution Control Commission.

Dear Lois - These articles from this morning's Trib. have me confused. They seem to conflict. Do you know what the deal really is?

I thought you'd be interested in these if you hadn't seen them. A bill

to establish a statewide planning commission passed out of committee in the House yesterday.

See you next week.

Marion



# Wisconsin Studies Possibility of Action to Block NSP Plant

By TRYGVE M. AGER  
Minneapolis Tribune  
Wisconsin Correspondent

MADISON, Wis.—The office of Atty. Gen. Bronson LaFollette was busy last week trying to determine what, if anything, can be done about halting the Northern States Power Co.'s (NSP) plan to build a huge coal-burning generating plant on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River.

Telegrams by the scores were pouring into the office of Gov. Warren P. Knowles.

Many of these came from residents of Minnesota obviously unhappy about the green light given NSP's building plan by Minnesota's conservation commissioner and its Water Pollution Control Commission.

Mrs. Robert J. Setzer, 474 Crescent Av., St. Paul, wired:

"MY STATE seems to have little regard for the continuation of the St. Croix as a recreational area. Please help us save our natural resource before we reach the point of no return."

The R. H. Thomssen family of Rt. 1, Hudson, Wis., wired:

"Minnesota gave NSP permission for the St. Croix plant. We have faith that the more enlightened conservation policies of Wisconsin will stop the rape of this river."

Other telegrams pleaded for injunctions, "legal action," public hearings, and just about anything short of calling out the National Guard.

UNDER the circumstances both Knowles and LaFollette found occasion to issue statements.

Knowles said he is summoning the federal-state joint task force back into action to review the orders issued by Minnesota authorities in granting permission to NSP to proceed with construction.

The task force will then submit an "analysis and evaluation" to the governor. This is the same group that studied the project last winter and submitted testimony at Stillwater public hearings on NSP's plan.

age or injury because of air or water pollution there may be grounds for action, he said.

"THERE is precedent for one state suing another in such a situation," he said. "Likewise the 'concurrent jurisdiction' the state of Wisconsin and Minnesota hold over boundary waters could conceivably provide a basis for action."

Wisconsin's jurisdiction, as established by early court decisions, extends to the so-called centerline of the waterway and includes everything above and below the surface of the water."

U.S. Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson, D-Wis., who was here during the weekend and who was one of the early opponents of the NSP construction plans, told questioners he regarded the action by the Minnesota agencies as "a tragic mistake."

HE SAID there is nothing the federal government can do now to stop the project "except pass a law."

Nelson has introduced a bill aimed at preserving St.

Croix as a "wild river," and he is optimistic over its chances for passage. But the bill would not affect present plans for the new plant, he said.

In a speech here he praised NSP for its expressed willingness to negotiate the transfer to an appropriate government agency of land it owns on each side of the St. Croix River for a distance of 70 miles and which the company has preserved in its natural state.

Knowles also declared he is determined to see to it that the interests of Wisconsin are "fully protected" and that the rights of Wisconsin citizens are "respected."

LaFOLLETTE'S statement pointed out "our office is in the process of reviewing the entire transcript of the hearings held by the Minnesota agencies involved, with particular reference to the technical evidence submitted in relation to the impact of the proposed plant on air pollution, water pollution and recreation."

He said a decision probably will be reached this week as to any action that will or can be taken.

He said the Minnesota agencies which granted the permission apparently did not take the factor of air pollution into consideration since it is not within the scope of their authority.

If the scientific evidence indicates Wisconsin residents stand to suffer serious dam-

MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE

Sun., May 16, 1965

## Enforcing Anti-pollution Standards

THE MINNESOTA House ought to look with great care at the implications of S.F. 1963, a bill authored by Sen. Gordon Rosenmeier, which would fundamentally revise the basis on which the state may regulate the discharge of sewage and industrial wastes into public waters.

Few persons will quarrel with the principle behind the bill: that administrative agencies ought not to be in a position arbitrarily to grant or deny requests, perhaps using different rules for each application. Pollution-control authorities, Rosenmeier argues, ought to set firm and specific standards so that industry can know clearly what it may and may not do when it wants to use the rivers for waste disposal.

If the standards mean anything at all, however, they mean that only a limited amount of capacity in a river will be available for waste disposal. The problem facing the state regulatory agency is how this limited capacity can be allocated equitably among a growing number of users.

And the problem raised by S.F. 1963

is how capacity can be allocated at all if the agency's power to review and approve plans for waste treatment plants is to be restricted to publicly-owned facilities.

All the recent concentration on public disposal plants treating domestic sewage should not make us forget that the most serious and most spectacular pollution incidents in recent years have involved industrial wastes and industrial accidents—oil leakage into the Minnesota River from tank farms, acid spills from railroad cars, packing-house wastes poured at far-too-great strength into lakes and rivers.

Standards, yes—if the public can be assured they will, as a practical matter, prove workable.

JAN 21 1965

332 North Ninth Street  
Bayport, Minnesota  
January 19, 1965

Mrs. Lois Mann  
State Water Resource Chairman  
League of Women Voters  
State Organization Service  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55455

Dear Mrs. Mann:

Enclosed are notes taken at the Senate Hearings last December. At these hearings the only people permitted to ask questions were the two Senators conducting them. Those who had questions or rebuttal were to submit the same to the Senators in writing prior to December 18, following which all reports, etc. would be included in the printed report. I would suggest that you ask your Representative to send you a copy of these hearings.

Because of illness I did not attend the hearings in January though individual League members did attend as was possible. Our feeling still remains the same that as a League we could not enter into this controversy as we would do more harm to the unity of our group than if we let each one participate in this controversy according to their own dictates. As informed citizens they are keeping apprised of current events.

I will attempt to give you a sketchy report of our recent hearings from what I have read in our local Gazette and from the Minneapolis Morning Tribune. At these hearings it was permitted to interrogate the individuals who testified which prolongs the hearings considerably, but is also fairer when there are doubts raised about the testimony.

President Ewald again appeared, this time with completed studies and plans for the plant. The water will now go directly into the main stream rather than into Andersen Bay as originally planned. Studies by Prof. Silberman of the Univ. of Minn. indicate that temperatures ranged from 93 degrees within 100 acres of the plant discharge to 80 degrees 10,000 feet downstream, and 80 degrees 4000 feet upstream from the plant outlet. At these points the hot water will have dropped to a depth of five feet under the surface at which time the normal river temperature (80 degrees) will have been reached. His studies also showed that it would take about 12 hours for a given amount of water to return to normal in the river. In the winter about 3000 feet of open water would exist on either side of the plant outlet.

NSP superintendent Ralph Duncanson testified that an electrostatic dust precipitator would extract 99% of the dust from the plant allowing a maximum of two tenths of one per cent of ash to escape up the stack. (Just prior to the hearings the State Board of Health ruled that there would be no serious air pollution problem with regard to health. They have no jurisdiction over crops, foliage, etc.)

Dr. Wurtz of LaSalle college said that the discharge will not destroy biological activity in any part of the river; biological alterations will be limited to the



upper few feet of the river during the warm-weather season; fish life will not be altered, but may be excluded from the upper few feet of the river during the warm-weather season; recreational fishing will be enhanced by the discharge from the plant because the season will be extended and fishing will be more productive.

NSP did consider nuclear power for this plant but studies showed they couldn't chance it because of the time schedule, uncertainty of the dependability of the necessary reactor and cost.

Senator Gaylord Nelson appeared at these hearings in opposition. The first day the Wisconsin legislature met, both houses passed a bill requesting that the final decision be delayed until the Joint Task force complete its study.

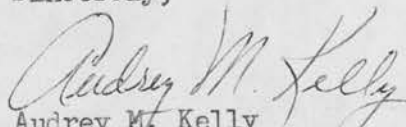
Quoting from the Mpls. Trib. of Jan. 15: "Nelson had said that pollution control questions in the case may be handled without much difficulty but that there is a more fundamental issue involved: Which comes first on the St. Croix--power development or recreation and conservation?"

The hearings have now been recessed until February 15 when they will convene at the State Capitol.

Prime opposition is coming from Wisconsin and the Twin Cities. As Senator Nelson above stated, they would like to keep the river strictly for recreation. This is a fine idea, but our County officials cannot even find any land along the river to purchase for the people's use. They cannot afford private landowner's prices. We therefore have a few parks along the river for the people's recreation or they must own a boat to enjoy the beauty of the river. Even the marinas in the area are filled to capacity requiring some boat owners to travel quite a distance for their boating. (Our local agenda this year was parks and recreation. For our own population we have inadequate recreation sites, but of course many from the metropolitan area come to this area to enjoy our lovely valley which exaggerates our problem more.)

I hope that the above information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

  
Audrey M. Kelly  
Local Water Resource Chairman