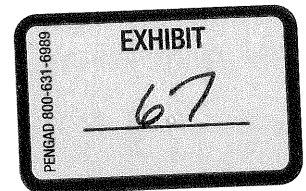


2006R-516
**RESOLUTION
of the
CITY OF
MINNEAPOLIS**



3

By Benson, Glidden, Gordon, Hofstede, Lilligren, Remington, Schiff, Hodges

Opposing the expansion of the Big Stone II coal-fired power plant and the proposed new transmission lines to carry the power.

Whereas, Global Climate Change has been acknowledged by the worldwide scientific community as an immediate and increasingly critical problem that must be addressed by reducing carbon dioxide emissions significantly without delay; and

Whereas, The Mayor has demonstrated Minneapolis' commitment on this issue by signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and, by creating a sustainability plan, Minneapolis has demonstrated leadership by actively encouraging clean, renewable energy choices rather than unsustainable coal-fired plants; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has passed a mercury reduction ordinance and fought hard for the Riverside Coal plant conversion, progress which would be diminished by the significant new emissions of mercury from the Big Stone II expansion; and

Whereas, harmful particulate matter and mercury from Big Stone II will routinely blow eastward and will significantly impact Minneapolis air quality; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has committed, in its sustainability plan, to aggressively reducing its carbon dioxide emissions, and the projected 4.7 million tons or more of carbon dioxide the proposed Big Stone II expansion will emit would more than offset the City's proposed carbon reduction measures; and

Whereas, the estimated cost of construction for Big Stone II and associated transmission lines, costs which will ultimately be born by the ratepayers, have now mushroomed from \$1.2 billion to \$1.8 billion; and

Whereas, \$1.8 billion could be used to build approximately 1500 MW in wind power generating capacity, or more than double the capacity of Big Stone II; and

Whereas, ratepayers will face significant cost increases from carbon taxes predicted to be imposed on utility companies' coal-fired generators, as well as from the constantly rising cost of coal; and

Whereas, renewable energy alternatives to the proposed Big Stone II expansion and transmission lines do exist, and their fuel is clean and free, forever; and

Whereas, the Public Utilities Commission will be receiving public testimony on Big Stone II on October 16th, and public comments will be accepted until October 31st;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis opposes the expansion of the Big Stone II coal-fired power plant and the proposed new transmission lines to carry the power.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis urges the Minnesota Public Utility Commission and the participating utilities to seriously examine alternatives that will create pollution-free, renewable energy whose generation will not emit the global warming gas carbon dioxide.

Certified as an official action of the City Council. *[Signature]*

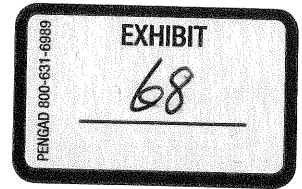
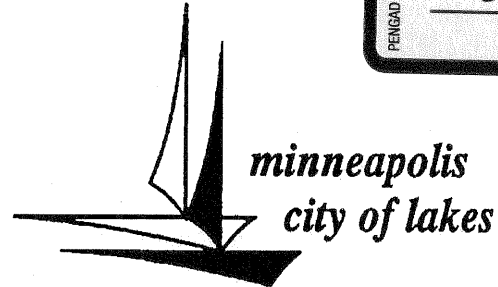
RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE (X INDICATES VOTE)													
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	NOT VOTING	ABSENT	VOTE TO OVERRIDE	VOTE TO SUSTAIN	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	NOT VOTING	ABSENT	VOTE TO OVERRIDE	VOTE TO SUSTAIN
Ostrow	X						Glidden	X					
Gordon	X						Schiff	X					
Hofstede	X						Remington	X					
Johnson	X						Benson	X					
Samuels	X						Colvin Roy				X		
Lilligren	X						Hodges	X					
Goodman	X												

ADOPTED OCT 6 2006
DATE

APPROVED NOT APPROVED VETOED

ATTEST *[Signature]*
CITY CLERK

[Signature] OCT 12 2006
MAYOR RYBAK DATE



City of Minneapolis 2007 Budget Proposal for Energy and the Environment

Prepared Remarks by Mayor R.T. Rybak

Thursday, September 28, 2006

It is virtually impossible to describe Minneapolis without talking about the environment. That's because the city and its natural setting have been woven together since the beginning of our history. Native peoples, and later settlers, were drawn to the magnificent beauty of the only natural waterfall on the Mississippi River, and that river later powered us as we became an economic powerhouse.

The city founders had the extraordinary wisdom to craft an unparalleled park system. While other cities allowed a privileged few to won their greatest amenities, our founders preserved mile after mile of lakes, creeks, the river and great parkways for everyone to enjoy.

Today Minneapolis has the greatest natural environment, and the greatest access to the environment of any American city.

I think about this when I see those sweeping Chamber of Commerce photographs of Minneapolis' skyline with the river or lakes in the foreground. I also think about it when I see groups of our new immigrants swimming at a city beach, or walking through one of our parks. I'm proud they have come from around the world to a special place where you don't have to be rich or powerful to have full access to greatest natural treasures.

But the story of Minneapolis and the environment goes far beyond what we can see and experience. Minneapolis is also a leader in the environment because we have an overwhelming concentration of active citizens and organizations that make it their mission to protect the land, water and air. There is almost no environmental movement in the country that does not have a strong presence of Minneapolis residents and organizations. We lead by activism and we lead by example.

In the past two years alone:

- The Sierra Club called Minneapolis one of America's "Cool Cities" for our leadership in fighting global warming.

- Minneapolis was named one of America's 10 greenest cities by Homestore.com for our work on clean air and water, renewable energy use and recycling programs.
- Minneapolis was recognized as one of the best cities for commuters by the Environmental Protection Agency because of our work offering alternatives to single-passenger cars.

Green values are deeply embedded in the core values of those of us who live here and I take that legacy very seriously. I know my actions as Mayor of Minneapolis need to reflect the green values of the people I represent.

- I was proud to be one of the first Mayors in the country to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection agreement, which has now been signed by 200 other mayors.
- I worked with a strong coalition of citizens to win approval to convert the Riverside Coal Plant to cleaner natural gas.
- And I was pleased to secure half a million dollars from the Home Depot Foundation to build environmental sustainability into our redevelopment projects in north Minneapolis.

But it has also been necessary to think about city government in a new, more activist way. Shortly after coming into office we launched the city's groundbreaking Sustainability Plan.

We engaged more than 100 citizens with dozens of community meetings and established 23 indicators that will be tracked and measured. Two indicators are our top priority

- Reducing CO2 emissions and
- Increasing our use of renewable energy.

Our goal is to reduce CO2 emissions by 12% by 2012 and by 20% by 2020. We also plan to increase renewable energy usage to 10% above state and federal mandates.

It is important to note that every sustainability indicator will have a clearly identified staff person accountable to their progress and every city department is integrating these indicators into their business plans.

Even before our plan was in place, we were taking action steps to implement change in our city by focusing on two of the leading sources of CO2 emissions: buildings and transportation.

Buildings

We directed a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to install solar panels on three city buildings, including the one we are in today. These panels generate 53 kilowatt hours daily and annually reduce 23,000 pounds of CO2 – about 3 cars worth. Following my comments today, there will be tours of this facility's solar panels. Thanks to the leadership of Council Member Cam Gordon, we also waived city fees to help homeowners install solar water heaters. Thanks also to the Center for Energy and the Environment for matching the city's contribution.

Thanks to the leadership of Council Member Lisa Goodman, we created a Green Roof Task Force to expand the number of public and private green roofs downtown, including the Central

Library and City Hall. We are also excited to host the 2007 national Green Roof conference in Minneapolis.

Transportation

We are reducing our city car fleet and increasing our use of hybrids and renewable energy vehicles. We now have 6 hybrids and 99 E85 vehicles in our fleet. We also added an E85 fueling station for city vehicles.

We launched a groundbreaking partnership with the HOURCAR car-sharing service that allows city employees to use HOURCAR's fleet of gas-electric hybrid Toyota Priuses for city business, which allowed us to reduce our fleet by 184 vehicles. We also negotiated parking ramp discounts for HOURCAR.

And we created miles of new bike lanes in north and northeast Minneapolis to encourage more people to get out of their cars and on their bikes.

While there has been good progress, it is also clear to me that this work did not have the visibility it deserved and needed to be more directly tied into each department's business plan.

The solution to both of those challenges came with Council Member Scott Benson, with a large assist from Council Member Lisa Goodman, who led the formation of the new city council committee on Health, Energy and Environment. While forming a committee does not sound revolutionary, I know that in our form of government, it is an essential step in weaving our sustainability plan more deeply into the daily operations of city government.

Chair Benson, and Vice Chair Council Member Cam Gordon, have been great partners in this work and have already accomplished a great deal. An example is setting a standard that every city building will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified.

As I did this year I was also able to work with Council Members Benson, Gordon and their committee to include a series of energy and environment initiatives we hope to support next year. These proposals come in three forms: **conservation, innovation and inspiration.**

First is **Conservation.** And let me say, I believe this is the most important aspect because no matter what new technology or practices we develop, nothing is more important right now than simply using less. The three conservation elements in my plan are:

First, continuing to re-organize city government to elevate and focus our environmental efforts by hiring additional staff and moving our entire environmental energy team into the city coordinator's office. This will give our work a stronger, more city-wide scope.

Second, I propose to hire a city energy manager to audit and direct every city department on ways to reduce energy consumption.

Third, I want to add more resources for us to better work directly with our citizens on a specific steps the government, business and the public can take to reduce CO2 emissions in Minneapolis.

In the area of **Innovation**, I propose to:

- Implement our 10-year Transportation Action Plan. This includes reorganizing downtown traffic, improving transit and aggressively studying ways to reintroduce street cars in Minneapolis.
- Work with Kandiyohi Development Partners to break ground this year on the Midtown Eco Energy biomass energy facility at the former Phillip transfer station. Due online in early 2009, this facility will have the capacity to provide 170,000 megawatts of power annually to serve 18,000 Minneapolis households.
- Complete the installation of 2,400 LED lights on City street signals. This may sound minor, but this single action will use 85% less energy and lower our maintenance costs due to the longer life of these lights. We will save \$116,000 per year in reduced energy use alone with these lights, paying back the costs of the lights in only two years.
- Fund a Hiawatha Public Works Facility that will be the first LEED Gold certified building in the state. We are setting this exceptionally high standard with this very significant building because we want to inspire others to follow our lead.

The final goal of my energy proposal is **Inspiration**.

Inspiration is critically important right now because while city government can provide leadership, we can make monumental progress in improving our environment if we also inspire business and citizens to join our actions. While it is important to inspire that work in all areas of environmental stewardship, one area emerges far above all others and that is clearly our urgent need to address the climate change crisis.

This is no longer a theory. This is no longer a problem. This is a shocking fact, an inconvenient truth, which literally threatens the very lives we lead.

I know that even some who agree with the challenge question whether this is the right role for city government. To them I say it would be grossly irresponsible for us to know the crisis we face and do nothing. City government was not defined to address global terrorism but in the past five years we have appropriately spent tens of millions of dollars. As serious as global terrorism is, the threats posed by the climate change crisis are far worse...and we have to act.

Early next month I will be announcing with Saint Paul Mayor Coleman an energy challenge in partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment to mobilize citizens of Minneapolis and St. Paul to reduce their CO2 emissions. The first step of that campaign will be a series of workshops and you can learn about them by picking up the brochures in the back of the room. This campaign will be driven by the new energy staff person that I just proposed to work directly with citizens on what they can do to reduce energy consumption.

My proposed budget will also:

- Support the Change a Light, Change the World campaign to encourage residents in Minneapolis to pledge to switch at least one light bulb in their home to an energy efficient light bulb. If every citizen in Minneapolis changed just one light bulb to an ENERGY STAR light bulb, the combined action would prevent over 170 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions – the equivalent of removing 2,713 cars from the road – and save enough energy to light 51,380 homes for a year!
- And for the second year in a row, we will continue our partnership with Tree Trust to again distribute over 1,000 more trees to residents to plant in their yards and boulevards. Over their lifespan, these 1,000 trees will reduce CO2 emissions by half a million pounds per year, (by both absorbing CO2 and reducing heat and cooling needs) the equivalent of taking 51 cars off the road each year.

It is also important to speak out on energy and environmental issues that affect our world and our community. For example, it is right and just for us to oppose the expansion of dangerous pollution expansion, such as the proposed Big Stone II coal plant in South Dakota, and other coal-fired power plants that put us on the wrong path for a clean, renewable energy future. It is inconsistent with our sustainability plan and carbon dioxide reduction goals to support coal-fired power. This is why we are converting the Riverside coal plant in north Minneapolis and this is why we should speak out against Big Stone – which if built would emit more CO2 into the air than every car in South Dakota and more than negate all of the energy conservation achieved in Minneapolis.

Next steps:

We must work together to make these and more goals a reality. The City Council will vote on my proposed budget in December. I need your help to get these initiatives adopted.

Let's also look ahead to develop an even deeper agenda in 2007, especially to expand our efforts to increase the use of renewable energy sources for years to come.

This climate change crisis is not going to go away on its own. It is up to us to make a difference and to rally our friends and neighbors into a collective action unlike anything seen before in the City of Minneapolis.

We need to act before the next ice shelf falls off the polar ice caps. With less than 5% of the world's population, the United States produces more than 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions and those emissions are growing.

It's important for City government to play a role on this issue. As our federal leaders fail to address this climate crisis, I believe that the courage and leadership to reduce energy use and increase the use of renewable energy should and is emanating from city and county local officials. Thank you for your partnership in this effort.

