



OFFICE OF

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HERBERT W. BERGSON, Mayor

Mayor
March 3, 1995

(715) 394-0212

Mr. Robert Dempsey, Project Engineer
Management and Evaluation Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-St. Paul District
Army Corps of Engineers Centre
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

Dear Mr. Dempsey:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my letter. I appreciate the correction on the address as well.

I won't dwell on the dispute over fact, fiction and rumor; there's certainly enough of that. My argument on this matter centers around the fact that the government seems to treat others differently than it treats itself. The City of Superior was termed a responsible party on the recent clean-up of a Superfund site in northeastern Minnesota. The petroleum landfill clean-up costs should run between \$40-60 million.

Cost was never an issue for the small businesses and municipalities that were devastated by clean-up costs imposed upon them for the clean-up. The lead agency on that matter was the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. I find it upsetting that the MPCA could now suggest that cost is a factor in part, because the responsible party is our government itself.

I suggest to you that the \$400,000-500,000 spent on extraction thus far is artificially high because of the initial start-up and much of the research costs. (I'm certain you would agree that the per capita cost of extraction would be reduced if all barrels were removed.)


Using a very high estimate of \$40,000 per barrel to estimate the total cost of extraction, I find that the total cost would be \$58,000,000. Because that figure is the same range

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as the cost of clean-up for the Arrowhead Refinery site (mentioned earlier), I suggest that cost should not be a factor in this case either.

Treatment should be fair and equal. In this case, it is not. I hope you are able to empathize with my position.

Sincerely,



Herb W. Bergson
Mayor

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cc: Mayor Gary Doty, City of Duluth, Minnesota
Members of the Common Council, City of Duluth, Minnesota
Members of the Common Council, City of Superior, Wisconsin
Congressman Dave Obey, Wisconsin
Congressman Jim Oberstar, Minnesota
Arnold Overby, President, Save Lake Superior Association

bc: Blaise Taylor
Dan Conley
Greg Price