

Daniel Marich

I am very concerned on the situation of the remediation process of the old Hibbing Gas Plant that ceased operations in 1969. I am also concerned and opposed to the construction of the proposed Hibbing HRA Housing Project. How did the process of commencing this housing project even get Federal Grant approval before this contamination was addressed. With contamination of coal tar, coal ash, boiler slag and benzene. Yes..benzene! A very dangerous contaminant. I understand that if this contaminated area is remediated, that it would only be approved for either industrial or commercial use, NOT residential as Mandated For Public Safety by the State of Minnesota. This proposed housing project cannot continue until this issue is addressed and resolved. I also understand that the remediation costs could exceed 2 million dollars and that the Minnesota State Legislature will be asked to fund this clean up. The Minnesota State Legislature doesn't go back into session until early 2027. I also question if an EAW would be required and even advance to a full EIS Statement.

How and why didn't the Hibbing HRA and City of Hibbing Engineering Department not consult with the Hibbing Public Utilities before even considering this land area for a possible housing project? I don't think the City of Hibbing, City of Hibbing Engineer and Hibbing HRA did their proper "due diligence" prior to attempting to move forward with this possible housing development. I fully encourage totally ceasing this project in its entirety and not disturbing the contaminated land as it has been laying undisturbed since 1969. I am concerned for mine, and all close by property owners, health safety if that contaminated land is disturbed, especially when it contains benzene. With the City of Hibbing being the "largest" City in the State of Minnesota, by land area, being 126 square miles in size, I think they could find a more suitable, "clean" parcel(s) of land to build this proposed housing project.

Respectively submitted,
Dan Marich