

# Mesaba Energy Project Cultural Resources Compliance

*Iron Range, Minnesota*



The 106 Group worked closely with Excelsior Energy (Excelsior) and the Department of Energy (DOE) on the permitting and Section 106 compliance needs for the environmental impact statement for the siting of a new coal-fired plant and its various infrastructure components including transmission lines, pipelines, and roadways. Multiple sites for development were reviewed; each site containing a range of historic, archaeological, and cultural resources.

GIS was used to assist archaeologists in predicting the location of potentially significant archaeological sites within the plant site and associated utility corridors. The GIS-based predictive model distinguished between high, medium, and low potential areas for archaeological sites.

The 106 Group also worked with Excelsior to identify areas that would not be impacted by the proposed project, thereby reducing the overall amount of survey work to be completed. Additionally, the 106 Group assisted both the DOE and Excelsior in drafting a Programmatic Agreement to detail compliance obligations under the Section 106 process.

