

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 3035

(SENATE AUTHORS: TOMASSONI, Bakk and Saxhaug)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/21/2016	5158	Introduction and first reading Referred to Finance

1.1

A bill for an act

1.2

relating to metals; requiring feasibility study of extracting rare earth metals from

1.3

fly ash resulting from coal combustion; appropriating money.

1.4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

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Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; COAL ASH METALS STUDY.**

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\$..... in fiscal year 2017 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner

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of natural resources for a grant to the Natural Resources Research Institute at the University

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of Minnesota-Duluth to study the technical and economic feasibility of using currently

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available extraction techniques to recover economically viable concentrations of rare earth

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metals, whose atomic numbers range from 57 through 71, from fly ash resulting from coal

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combustion. By July 1, 2017, the findings and recommendations of the study must be

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submitted in a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of

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representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over mining. The report must include:

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(1) a summary of the extant literature reporting measurements of the concentration

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of rare earth metals in fly ash resulting from coal combustion;

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(2) analysis of the technologies available to extract and concentrate rare earth metals

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from fly ash;

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(3) results of tests to measure the concentration of rare earth metals in representative

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samples of fly ash taken from coal-burning power plants located in Minnesota; and

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(4) estimates of the costs of extracting and concentrating rare earth metals from the

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fly ash samples measured in clause (3) and a comparison of the costs with current and

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projected market prices for the metals.