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**//For Immediate Release//**

## **Cloverland Electric Responds to UP Energy Agreement**

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.—August 15, 2016

The agreement announced today between Cliffs Natural Resources and WEC Energy Group by Governor Snyder may bring benefits to the Marquette area and western Upper Peninsula, but no study has ever shown that.

“We have been presented with a solution without planning” stated Cloverland’s President and CEO Dan Dasho. “When proposing investments that cost 100s of millions of dollars, there needs to be comprehensive, integrated least-cost planning. These solutions, brokered by the Governor’s administration, may well be putting Cloverland’s membership at risk again for future SSR payments.” Cloverland Electric’s primary concern is that the one sentence iron ore mine exemption that started this state and federal challenge more than two years ago is still in the energy legislation under debate in Lansing. Cliffs Natural Resources has a new 20-year energy agreement with WEC Energy Group, so the ore mine exemption is no longer needed and can be removed.

The costs of the new gas-fired power plant will have to be paid for by a new UP-only utility and its 35,000 ratepayers and if worse comes to worse. Cloverland may be caught in future SSR payments for something that may not be the best reasonable solution for the UP.

“I will be providing testimony at the Senate Energy and Technology Committee requesting a long-term planning study for the UP be conducted before any new plants are built” stated Dasho. I also believe that the mine exemption must go.”

*Cloverland Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned utility located in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. It serves over 42,000 homes and businesses in Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac, Luce, and Schoolcraft counties.*