

# INTERVIEW ABSTRACT

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Foundational Environmental Laws Oral History Project

NARRATOR NAME: Grant Merritt

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 9/21/2016

INTERVIEWER NAME: Stephanie Hemphill

DATE and LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Mr.. Merritt's home office, New Hope

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW (hrs): 45 min.

His interest in the Reserve Mining case, which pushed him into DFL politics. His association with Wendell Anderson, as advisor on Reserve and other environmental issues, and later as executive director of MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Advocacy for MERA in bipartisan effort "like we haven't seen since." Names of environmental activists in MN Environmental Control Citizens Assn. (MECCA) and other groups. MERA is "the most important environmental law we have." His use of MERA in case on viral hemorrhagic septicemia, which he lost. His return to law practice, when he had to change firms because he had "stepped on too many toes." Quick summary of the book he is writing, an autobiography.