



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025

Date: August 11, 2008

To: Parties on the EAW Distribution List
Other Interested Parties

From: Bill Johnson, EIS Project Manager
Environmental Policy and Review Unit
Division of Ecological Resources, Box 25

RE: Mesabi Nugget Phase II Project
Scoping EAW/Draft Scoping Decision Document

Enclosed is the Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and Draft Scoping Decision Document the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has prepared to assist in identifying the issues and analyses to include in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposal to reactivate the former LTV taconite mine and construct a new crusher and concentrator for the Mesabi Nugget Phase II Project near Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota.

The DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are going to prepare of a joint EIS that would satisfy both state and federal environmental review requirements for the project. The DNR and USACE invite comments on the proposed EIS scope during the 30-day scoping period that concludes Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 4:30 PM. Comments should address the accuracy and completeness of information presented, and suggest issues for investigation in the EIS. The DNR will hold a public scoping meeting on Wednesday, September 3, beginning at 6:00 PM, at the Aurora Community Center, 15 West First Avenue North, Aurora, Minnesota.

The Scoping EAW discloses information about the project, its setting, and identifies potentially significant impacts. The Draft Scoping Decision Document gives the public a preliminary view of the intended EIS scope and only reflects information available at this time. The DNR and USACE will revise the document based on the full scoping record, and will issue a Final Scoping Decision to serve as the "blueprint" for EIS preparation.

Please address any comments to me at the address provided in the EAW, or send an email to Environmental.Review@dnr.state.mn.us with "Mesabi Nugget" in the subject line. If using the email address, please include your name and mailing address so that you can be added to the mailing list.

Thank you for your interest.

Enclosure: Scoping EAW/Draft Scoping Decision Document