



NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange

Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement

Fact Sheet

What is the Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement and who prepared the document?

The Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is an agency review draft of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange. It is a joint state/federal environmental review document prepared by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Forest Service. These agencies are collectively referred to as the Co-lead Agencies.

The Co-lead Agencies are using the consulting services of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) for document development. The Co-lead Agencies worked with ERM to respond to public comments and revise the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). ERM has compiled all the information into the Preliminary Final EIS for agency review.

Who reviews the Preliminary Final EIS?

This document is intended for review by the Co-lead and Cooperating Agencies. The Cooperating Agencies are the Environmental Protection Agency, Fond du Lac Band, Grand Portage Band, and Bois Forte Band.

What happens during this review period?

Prior to this review period, the EIS document has been updated to include responses to comments submitted on the SDEIS. During this review period, the Co-leads and Cooperating Agencies review the document as a whole for the first time since including the responses from the SDEIS.

The Co-leads and Cooperating Agencies review the updates and provide comments. The Preliminary Final EIS is likely to change due to responses from the Agencies. Once the Agencies comments have been incorporated into the document, the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be released.

What should the public do?

The Preliminary Final EIS is not a document for public review. The Co-lead Agencies are not soliciting comments from the public on the document and any received will not be part of the official record. When the Final EIS is released, the public will be encouraged to comment on the adequacy of the document and comments submitted at that time will become part of the official environmental review record.

The Final EIS is a document intended to provide decision-makers and the public with objective facts about the significant environmental, social, and economic effects of a proposed project. It also looks at ways to avoid or minimize the significant effects and analyzes alternatives to the project, so those effects can be addressed in the permitting phase.

Are any decisions made from the Preliminary Final EIS?

The Preliminary Final EIS is not a decision-making document. It will not approve or deny the proposed NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange. This document, along with the Final EIS, informs potential future permit decisions, but no permitting decisions are made as a result of the Preliminary Final EIS document.

Can the public see the Preliminary Final EIS?

The Preliminary Final EIS is not a document for public review. However, the document will be provided to groups and individuals who request it under the Data Practices Act. Requests may be submitted to Sheila Deyo, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Data Practices Officer, at sheila.deyo@state.mn.us.

For additional information on the NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange environmental review process, visit mndnr.gov/polymet.