



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District



February 27, 2014

RE: NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Request for Comment Period Extension

Dear interested party:

The Co-lead Agencies have received correspondence requesting an extension of the public review and comment period for the NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS).

The Co-lead Agencies have carefully considered these requests and supporting rationale. We have concluded that the Co-lead Agencies fully considered this rationale at the time we established the 90-day public comment period. We also note that the three public meetings held in January 2014 were very well-attended and were quite effective in both educating the public about the proposed project and offering people an opportunity to comment in a public forum. Finally, we have examined comment timeframes both within Minnesota and nationally and found that a 90-day period is at the upper end of public comment periods typically provided for similarly complex environmental review documents.

Therefore, the Co-lead Agencies will not be extending the comment period. The public comment period for the NorthMet SDEIS will end on March 13, 2014, as previously announced. The Co-lead Agencies look forward to receiving and considering comments on the SDEIS.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barb Naramore".

Barb Naramore
Assistant Commissioner
Minnesota DNR
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara Cameron".

Tamara Cameron
Branch Chief
Regulatory - St. Paul District
US Army Corps of Engineers
180 5th Street East, Suite 700
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/s/

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