

Public Meetings – Aurora and Duluth NorthMet Mining Project Draft Permits

Welcome to today's public meeting on draft state permits for PolyMet's proposed NorthMet Mining Project. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) are pleased you are here. Our two agencies have a total of four draft permits for the NorthMet Project open for public review and comment at this time.

- **DNR draft permit to mine**
- **MPCA NPDES/SDS water quality permit**
- **MPCA air quality permit**
- **MPCA 401 certification**

Information about these permits is provided later in this packet. Two public meetings are being held on these draft permits:

- (1) Wednesday, February 7, 2018 (*Back-up date: February 21, 2018*)
Mesabi East High School
601 N 1st St W, Aurora, MN 55705
- (2) Thursday, February 8, 2018 (*Back-up date: February 22, 2018*)
DECC - Duluth Entertainment Convention Center
350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802

Your input and feedback is important!

Several opportunities for commenting are available at the public meetings:

- **Oral comments** may be made **publicly** during the Public Comment Forum portion of the meeting, and will be recorded by stenographers. We anticipate there may be more people wishing to speak than we will be able to accommodate during this evening's forum. We will select speakers at random. Please complete a sign-up card if you would like to be included in the speaker drawing. Additional details are included in the attached oral commenting guidelines.
- **Oral comments** may also be made on an individual basis to one of two **stenographers** (see site map in packet) during the open house. One stenographer will remain in this area during the Public Comment Forum, until 9:00 p.m. *Comments made orally to agency staff will not be considered part of the official record.*
- **Written comments and objections** may be placed in **comment boxes** located in the open house area.
- **Written comments and objections** may be submitted during each permit's comment period via the state's portal for the project: <http://polymet.mn.gov/>.

Please note that petitions for a contested case hearing on the draft permit to mine must be in writing and submitted by U.S. Mail or delivery by 4:30 p.m. February 28, 2018 to: MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 45, St. Paul, MN 55155-4045.



SIGNING INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE

In order to provide accessibility at tonight's public meeting, there are signing interpreters available.

If you would like to make an oral comment, interpreters will be available with the stenographers during the Open House, up until the public comment forum at 6 p.m. Please proceed to the stenographers' area as indicated on your venue map and make your request to comment.

During the public comment forum there is a designated section near the front for you to sit. An interpreter will be in that area signing the public forum comments.

Proposed NorthMet Mining Project Public Meeting

Aurora

Mesabi East High School

Agenda

4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Open House

Staff from the state will be available to answer questions on the DNR draft permit to mine and MPCA draft permits on air quality, water quality and 401 certification.

Refreshments are provided in the open house area.

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Public Comment Forum

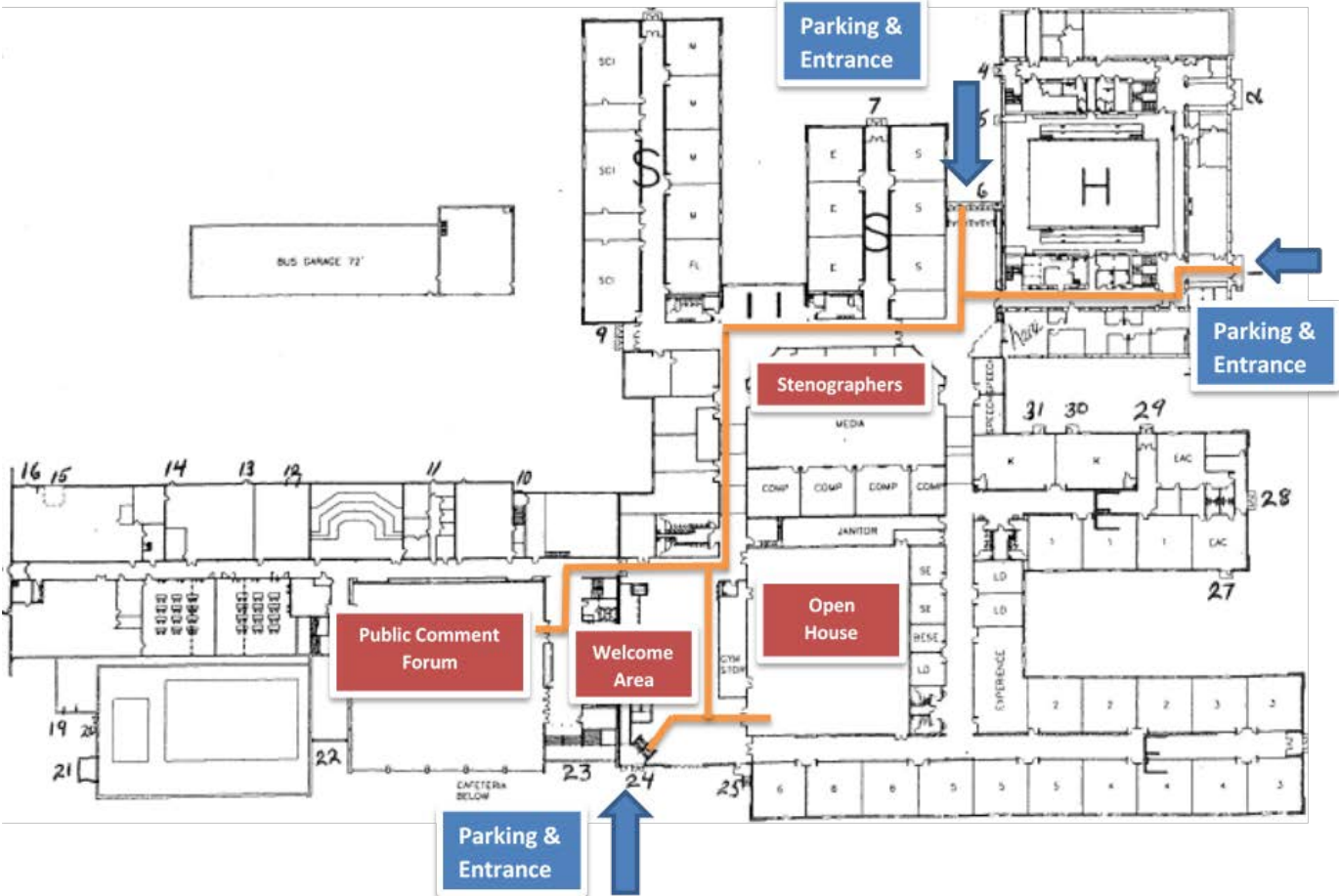
Agency leadership from DNR and MPCA will be in attendance to listen to public comments. Comments will be recorded by stenographers for the agencies' consideration.

4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Stenographers available

See site map for location of stenographers available to record individual oral comments on the DNR draft permit to mine and MPCA draft permits on air quality, water quality and 401 certification. Two stenographers are available from 4:00 – 5:45 p.m. and one stenographer will be available from 5:45 – 9:00 p.m.

Site Map - Mesabi East High School, Aurora



Proposed NorthMet Mining Project Public Meeting

Duluth

The DECC

Agenda

1:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Open House

Staff from the state will be available to answer questions on the DNR draft permit to mine and MPCA draft permits on air quality, water quality and 401 certification.

Refreshments are provided in the open house area

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Public Comment Forum

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1:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Stenographers available

See site map for location of stenographers available to record individual oral comments on the DNR draft permit to mine and MPCA draft permits on air quality, water quality and 401 certification. Two stenographers are available from 1:00 – 5:45 p.m. and one stenographer will be available from 5:45 – 9:00 p.m.

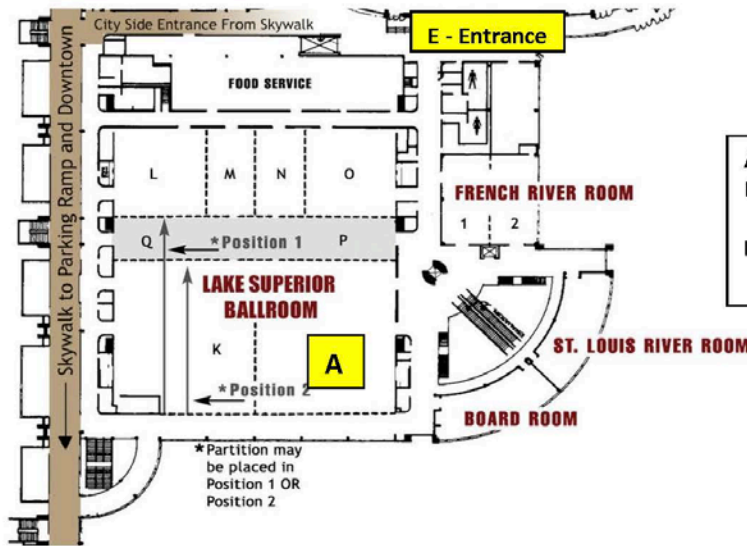
Site Map - DECC, Duluth



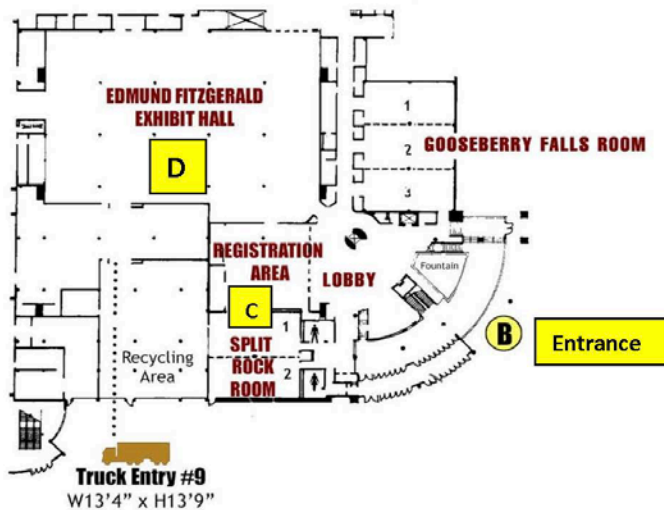
Duluth Entertainment
Convention Center

Site Map, DECC

CITY SIDE CONVENTION CENTER | SKYWALK LEVEL



CITY SIDE CONVENTION CENTER | GROUND LEVEL



NorthMet Draft Permits Open for Comment

The State of Minnesota has four draft permits for PolyMet's proposed NorthMet Mining Project open for public review and comment at this time.

DNR draft permit to mine

- The NorthMet draft permit to mine consists of PolyMet's permit application and DNR's draft special conditions. The draft permit also includes PolyMet's proposed wetland replacement plan.
- State law provides that qualified individuals and entities may submit formal objections or petitions for a contested case hearing on the draft permit to mine.
- Comments and written objections will be accepted through **March 6, 2018** on this draft permit. Written petitions for a contested case hearing will be accepted through **February 28, 2018**.

MPCA NPDES/SDS water quality permit

- A water quality permit establishes specific limits and requirements to protect Minnesota's surface and groundwater quality for a variety of uses, including drinking water, aquatic life and recreation.
- Comments will be accepted through **March 16, 2018** on this draft permit.

MPCA air quality permit

- An air permit is a regulatory document that contains legally enforceable requirements. A permit identifies the units at each facility that generate air pollutants, details the conditions under which the facility must operate to comply with rules and regulations and, where applicable, sets limits on those emissions.
- Comments will be accepted through **March 16, 2018** on this draft permit.

MPCA 401 certification

- The draft 401 certification is a water quality certification from the state that would become a part of the US Army Corps of Engineers' Section 404 permit. In the 401 certification the state reviews the proposed activity in order to determine if it will comply with applicable water quality standards, and identifies any conditions needed to ensure compliance. If the review finds that water quality will be protected, the 401 certification is issued and the certification and conditions become part of the 404 permit.
- Comments will be accepted through **March 16, 2018** on this draft certification.

How to comment on permits

- Comments on the draft permit to mine, NPDES/SDS water quality permit, air quality permit, and 401 certification are being accepted at this public meeting tonight.
- During the public comment period for each permit, comments may be submitted via the state's portal for the project at <http://polymet.mn.gov/>. The relevant deadlines are shown on the previous page and below. Objections on the draft permit to mine may also be submitted through the portal, but the DNR cannot accept petitions for a contested case hearing through the portal.
- Written comments and objections on the DNR draft permit to mine may be submitted at any time through **March 6, 2018** by U.S. Mail to:

MN Department of Natural Resources
Division of Lands and Minerals
500 Lafayette Road N, Box 45
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045

Petitions for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing to the address above. Hand-delivered petitions must be received by **4:30 pm on February 28, 2018**. Petitions sent by U.S. Mail must be postmarked on or before **February 28, 2018**.

- Written comments on the MPCA draft water quality permit, draft air permit, or draft 401 certification may be submitted at any time through **March 16, 2018** by U.S. Mail to:

PolyMet Draft Air Permit/Water Quality Permit/401 Certification Comment – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045

Please specify which permit you are commenting on in the address.

Guidelines for Oral Comments during the Public Comment Forum

Several opportunities for commenting are available at today's public meeting. However, it is unlikely that there will be time for everyone who wishes to comment orally during the meeting to do so publicly. To ensure the process is equitable, names of speakers will be randomly drawn by impartial, volunteer community mediators immediately before and during the Public Comment Forum. The speaker selection process is designed to provide the opportunity for many perspectives to be presented in the time allotted.

Please see the first page of this packet for details regarding other commenting opportunities during and after the public meetings. **All comments, written objections, and contested case hearing petitions will be fully considered prior to making final permit decisions.**

If you wish to speak, please complete the PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKER FORM and place it in the clear "Public Comment Speaker Forms" box located in the open house area (please print legibly). Note this is NOT the same as the "Submit Written Comments Here" box.

- At 5:30 pm, the box will be moved to the front of the public comment forum room.
- The names of the first speakers will be drawn from the box, typed up and displayed on the screen at the front of the Public Comment Forum room starting at 5:45. ***Anyone who wishes to be seated early and observe this process is welcome to do so.*** Volunteers will continue to draw names and add to the speaker list throughout the public comment forum (the forum ends at 9:00 p.m.)
- Those who wish to put their name in the box **after 5:30** can hand a completed PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKER FORM to a community mediator volunteer, who will be available during the public comment forum.
- **Two microphones** will be available, and attended by volunteers. Using two different colors, the facilitator will direct speakers to one of two microphones in the order their names are drawn. The moderator will provide additional instructions at the beginning of the public comment forum.
- You **must be present** at the time your name comes to the top of the speaker list in order to comment publicly. *If you are not present, you will not be able to provide your comment publicly.*
- If you wish to **give your time to someone** else, you may do so by accompanying that person to the microphone and stating that you are giving your time to them. That speaker will need to clearly state his/her name and city of residence for the record before giving comments.
- Only **one speaking opportunity per person** during the public comment forum (if you are given time by someone else and your name is drawn later, you will not have a second opportunity to publicly comment, nor will you be able to turn your time over to someone else).
- All speakers are allowed a maximum of **three minutes** to speak in order to allow for as many speakers as possible.