



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
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Date: April 29, 2011

To: Parties on the EAW Distribution List
Recipients of the Minnesota Steel Final EIS
Other Interested Parties

From: Lisa Fay, SEIS Project Manager
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RE: Essar Steel Minnesota Modifications Project
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) has prepared the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Essar Steel Minnesota Modifications Project. Essar Steel Minnesota (Essar) is the Project Proposer.

The proposed project consists of modifications to Essar's taconite mine and processing plant (previously approved and currently under construction) in Itasca County, near Nashwauk, Minnesota. The project would increase the production of taconite pellets from 3.8 million metric tons per year (mmtpy) of low flux taconite pellets to 6.5 mmtpy of high flux pellets, or 7.0 mmtpy of low flux taconite pellets. This will require the addition of a crusher/concentrator line, and the installation of a larger pellet furnace, to the project evaluated in the original Minnesota Steel Project EIS (June 2007). Essar is also proposing to decrease the length of the mine plan time period from 20 to 15 years. Other modifications related to the increase in pellet production are discussed in the Draft SEIS.

The Draft SEIS is available electronically at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/essar/index.html>

The MNDNR invites comments on the Draft SEIS during the public comment period that begins on May 2, 2011 and ends June 8, 2011 at 4:30 PM. Comments should address the accuracy and completeness of information presented and suggest improvements. The MNDNR will hold a public comment meeting Tuesday, May 24, 2011, beginning at 6:30 PM, at the Nashwauk-Keewatin High School, 400 Second Street, Nashwauk, MN, 55769.

Please submit comments to Lisa Fay at the address in the header, or send an email to environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us. You must include the words "Essar SEIS" in the subject line of the email. All emails should include a name and legal mailing address.