

Attachment B

Townley, Jill (DNR)

From: Mike Conrad <conrad@mninter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 11:25 AM
To: *Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Minntac Extension EAW – Request for EIS

Dear Ms. Fay,

Dear Commissioner Landwehr, Ms. Fay:

I am asking that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 483-acre Minntac Expansion.

For decades, Minntac has been expanding piecemeal, destroying streams and wetlands, violating water quality standards, contributing to mercury contamination of fish and disrupting Lake Superior and Rainy River Basin watersheds. An EIS is needed to make sure that significant and cumulative harm resulting from this proposed Expansion is minimized and reduced:

- Minntac has been violating permits and water quality standards for decades, particularly through discharge of huge volumes of sulfates. With larger waste rock piles and the addition of 550,000,000 cubic yards of tailings, downstream wild rice will be harmed and methylation that contaminates fish with toxic mercury will be increased.
- The proposed Minntac Expansion will directly destroy 4,002 feet of streams, impacting two streams listed in Rules as trout streams. Adding together the cumulative impacts of this Expansion and prior Minntac mining activities, 100 percent of stream contributing area and streamflow will be destroyed for several creeks and tributaries.
- The proposed Minntac Expansion will destroy more than 72 acres of wetlands. This is on top of 76 acres of wetlands impacts from a 2011 “Western Pit Progression” at Minntac and a loss of 275 acres of wetlands in a 1996 expansion.
- There are no specific plans to mitigate the cumulative destruction of streams and wetlands or ensure that the function of the St. Louis River Watershed is not harmed by U.S. Steel’s piece-by-piece destruction of the aquatic system.
- The Minntac Expansion increases mine dewatering discharge by 5 percent, potentially affecting municipal and private wells as well as streams. Minntac appropriates 8,789,000,000 gallons of water per year – equivalent to a foot of water per year from a 27,000-acre lake.

The Minntac Expansion has huge potential direct and cumulative environmental effects that require an EIS. Thank you for holding Minntac accountable to minimize and reduce its harm to streams, wetlands, fish, wild rice, public health, wells, and watersheds.

Sincerely,

Mike Conrad
10132 Brookside Ave
Bloomington, MN 55431

Townley, Jill (DNR)

From: Dale Dahlquist <mrdaled@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 9:04 PM
To: *Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Minntac Extension EAW – Request for EIS

Dear Ms. Fay,

Dear Commissioner Landwehr, Ms. Fay:

I am asking that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 483-acre Minntac Expansion.

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Sincerely,

Dale Dahlquist
1005 Argyle St
St. Paul, MN 55103

Townley, Jill (DNR)

From: Jedidiah Krauss <jfkrauss@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2012 11:53 AM
To: *Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Minntac Extension EAW – Request for EIS

Dear Ms. Fay,

Dear Commissioner Landwehr, Ms. Fay:

I am asking that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 483-acre Minntac Expansion.

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Sincerely,

Jedidiah Krauss
1014 Sunnyview Ln
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Townley, Jill (DNR)

From: Rebecca Lucking <iver0170@tc.umn.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 10:21 AM
To: *Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Minntac Extension EAW – Request for EIS

Dear Ms. Fay,

Dear Commissioner Landwehr, Ms. Fay:

I am asking that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 483-acre Minntac Expansion.

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Sincerely,

Rebecca Lucking
320 Fairmont Ave South
Montrose, MN 55363

Townley, Jill (DNR)

From: HEYWARD NASH <HLNASH2006@YAHOO.COM>
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2012 11:44 PM
To: *Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Minntac Extension EAW – Request for EIS

Dear Ms. Fay,

Dear Commissioner Landwehr, Ms. Fay:

I am asking that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 483-acre Minntac Expansion.

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Sincerely,

HEYWARD NASH
2625 PARK AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407

Late

Fay, Lisa (DNR)

From: Bob Tammen <bobtammen@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 11:07 PM
To: *Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: USS Corp Minntac West Pit Extension Requesting EIS

As a Minnesota resident, former Minntac employee, and homeowner downstream of Mintac's leaking tailings basin, I request that you prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Minntac expansion.

As a Minntac employee, I saw grease barrels that were reportedly buried on Minntac property. The status of those barrels should be updated in the light of the latest hydrological knowledge.

Sulfate levels in Lake Vermilion near my home are above 10 mg/l. The contribution of Minntac to those sulfate levels should be addressed and a plan prepared to reduce sulfates to a level that will not methylate mercury.

The economy of northern Minnesota is not robust despite having six taconite mines including Minntac, the largest taconite operation in North America. I request that you address the Resource Curse in your EIS as it applies to the Iron Range and all of Minnesota as an economic unit.

Sincerely,

Robert Tammen
PO Box 398
Soudan, MN 55782
218-753-2393