

MILE POST 7 WEST RIDGE RAILROAD RELOCATION, DAM EXTENSIONS, AND STREAM MITIGATION PROJECT EAW
RECORD OF DECISION - ATTACHMENT A
FINDING OF FACT 15 - FORM EMAIL NO. 2

From: on behalf of
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Please order an Environmental Impact Statement for the Mile Post 7 Expansion proposal
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:04:19 PM

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Dear Bill Johnson,

The proposal by Northshore Mining to expand the Mile Post 7 tailings storage facility upstream of Lake Superior is of significant concern for Minnesotans. If the dams at this facility were to collapse, the environmental results could be devastating – to nearby residents, to aquatic habitats and wildlife, to Lake Superior, and to those who rely on it for drinking water. A 40-year-old study conducted according to 1970s environmental review standards is not sufficient to show the dams are safe. Nor are company studies that aren't disclosed to the public. DNR should fully study dam safety and the significant environmental effects that would occur if the dams failed, before it makes a decision regarding this proposal, especially considering that dam design has changed since the earlier review.

The lack of a dam safety permit is further evidence of the need for full environmental review of the current proposal. It is not enough for DNR to point to its own regulation of the facility to conclude no significant environmental effects will occur. We need the additional safeguards and public review that a dam safety would involve. Because the EAW does not have information about dam safety or the environmental effects of a collapse, DNR should order an Environmental Impact Statement for the Mile Post 7 Expansion proposal and require a dam safety permit with a full public notice and comment process.

Sincerely,
Name
Address
Email