



Division of Ecological and Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

January 19, 2023

Dean Korri,
Director: Civil & Tailings Basin Engineering
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.
10 Outer Drive
Silver Bay, MN 55614

RE: Northshore Tailings Basin Dams, NID MN01477, Lake County

Dear Mr. Korri,

Engineers from MNDNR Dam Safety performed a high-level Inspection of the Northshore Mining Company's Milepost 7 Tailings Dams on September 15, 2022. Such inspections are conducted on a regular basis as required by Minnesota Rules. Class I (High Hazard) Dams, such as Milepost 7 Tailings Dams, are normally inspected annually.

Dam Safety found the Milepost 7 Tailings Dams to be in good condition and well maintained. No major Dam Safety issues were noted. The Milepost 7 Tailings Dams are expected to function normally in all loading conditions for which they were designed.

Specific items related during our inspection are as follows:

- At the time of our site visit, the Northshore Mining Company's Plant was idle, and no tailings were being deposited.
- No active dam construction was occurring on the date of our site visit, but maintenance crews were observed working near dam 2. Additional construction related to the dam 2 raise is expected once the plant returns to regular operations.
- Dam 5 has been completed to its final slope at the current interim crest elevation and nicely contoured. A vegetative cover has not yet been established.
- No construction on Dam 1 was occurring at that time.
- The seepage collection dams were not inspected in 2022.
- Over the past two years, Northshore Mining has been engaged in a program of replacing and upgrading monitoring instrumentation and adding new instruments as appropriate.
- The Emergency Action Plan, including a dam breach analysis, has been revised and updated in 2022. MNDNR Dam Safety was involved in that review and provided comments. Northshore Mining has also met with local officials and emergency responders to inform them of the Emergency Action Plan.

MNDNR does not have the resources available to perform a detailed inspection of the Milepost 7 Dams. Therefore, our inspection is limited to a high-level inspection. The annual Barr Engineering Inspection Report should be referred to for a highly detailed inspection report.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the (651) 259-5663 or at dana.dostert@state.mn.us, or Jason Boyle at (651) 2595715 or Jason.boyle@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Division of Ecological and Water Resources

Dana Dostert, PE, PG
Senior Engineer – Dam Safety

CC: Jason Boyle, Minnesota State Dam Safety Engineer
Kim Boland, MNDNR Area Hydrologist
Cliff Bentley, MNDNR District Manager

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