



Division of Ecological and Water Resources

Date: 06/24/2022

To: EQB Distribution List
Other Interested Parties

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION ONLY

From: Bill Johnson, Mining Planning Director

RE: Decision to Terminate Big 39 & Little 39 Creek Mitigation Project Environmental Assessment Worksheet

On June 21, 2022, Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc., through one of its mining subsidiaries Northshore Mining Company (collectively Proposer), notified the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that it is withdrawing its January 24, 2022, data submittal and proposed Big Thirtynine and Little Thirtynine Mitigation Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project was subject to preparation of a mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) pursuant to Minn. R. 4410.4300, subp. 26. Since the time DNR deemed the data submittal to be complete, the Proposer has had the opportunity to finalize preliminary engineering on an additional four segments of proposed stream mitigation design that was not available at the time of the original data submittal.

An EAW for the Proposed Project was noticed in the EQB *Monitor* on March 15, 2022. The Proposer has requested DNR to stop work on the EAW and anticipates providing a new data submittal in the near future that takes advantage of the additional project detail available now, including actions proposed at the Mile Post 7 tailings disposal facility. DNR will re-implement the procedures under Minn. R. 4410.1400 upon receipt of the modified data submittal.

Through this correspondence DNR is notifying the EQB Distribution List and other interested parties about the termination of the Big Thirtynine and Little Thirtynine Creek Mitigation Project EAW. Parties that commented on the EAW will be notified of the availability of a new EAW when that occurs. Questions or inquiries regarding the decision to terminate the EAW can be directed to Bill Johnson at bill.johnson@state.mn.us.

cc: Melissa Kuskie

Randall Doneen