NewRange Request to Supplement Environmental Impact Statement
Finding of Fact 69A - NewRange SEIS Request

NEWRANGE COPPER NICKEL

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July 29, 2026

Commissioner Strommen
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Request to Supplement a Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Commissioner Strommen:

In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 4410.3000, subpart 4, NewRange Copper Nickel LLC is requesting a supplement to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and United States Forest Service (USFS) prepared joint state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NorthMet Mining Project consisting of the proposed copper-nickel-platinum group elements (PGE) mine and former LTVSMC processing facilities and tailings basin in northeastern Minnesota. The joint EIS was completed in November 2015 in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) and the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA; Minn. Stat. Ch. 116D).

The proposed project includes changes associated with the production rate, ore conveyance, and the management of tailings, water, and land area. NewRange is requesting a Supplemental EIS so that MDNR can evaluate the proposed changes and their potential environmental effects through the state environmental review process. The project remains subject to governmental decisions and has not been completed; accordingly, NewRange understands that the exemption in Minnesota Rules, part 4410.4600, subpart 2 does not apply.

To support MDNR in reaching its decision within 30 days after receipt of this notice, NewRange has provided a copy of this request to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and included a draft preparation notice for MDNR's consideration in determining the schedule, issues, and scope of analysis for the Supplemental EIS.

We look forward to working with MDNR through its review and decision process. Please direct questions or requests for supplemental information regarding this request to me or to Christie Kearney, P.E., Environmental and Permitting Manager. Christie will serve as NewRange's primary point of contact for the request and will coordinate NewRange's responses to agency questions and requests for supplemental information. Christie may be reached at christie.kearney@newrangecoppernickel.com or 218-461-7746.

Sincerely,



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Attachments

cc: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Jess Richards (MDNR), Caroline Oswald (MDNR), Bill Johnson (MDNR)

NewRange Copper Nickel LLC
NorthMet Mining Project
Supplement to Final Environmental Impact Statement
Preparation Notice – July 2026

I. Title of Environmental Impact Statement Being Supplemented and Dates of Completion

Final Environmental Impact Statement, NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange, Babbitt and Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, completed November 2015.

II. Description of Situation Necessitating Preparation of the Supplement

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and United States Forest Service (USFS) prepared a joint state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Poly Met Mining, Inc.'s (PolyMet) proposed copper-nickel-platinum group elements (PGE) mine and former LTV Steel Mining Company (LTVSMC) processing facilities and tailings basin in northeastern Minnesota. The joint EIS was completed in November 2015 in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) and the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA; Minn. Stat. Ch. 116D).

PolyMet's original NorthMet Project involved mining copper-nickel-PGE and processing to produce copper concentrate and nickel concentrate final products.

On November 1, 2018, the MDNR issued the permit to mine and other state permits for the NorthMet Project. On December 20, 2018, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issued its state permits, and on March 21, 2019, the USACE issued the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. In 2021, the USACE suspended the project's Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and rescinded the permit on June 6, 2023. Following a conversion and name change under Minnesota Statutes §§ 302A.682-692 in February 2023, Poly Met Mining, Inc. is now NewRange Copper Nickel LLC (NewRange). NewRange is "for all purposes the same entity that existed before the conversion." Minn. Stat. § 302A.691, subd. 1. Thereafter, on February 15, 2023, Teck American Inc. and PolyMet US, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of PolyMet Mining Corp., formed an independent joint venture, each owning 50% of NewRange. On November 7, 2023, PolyMet Mining Corp. became a wholly owned subsidiary of Glencore.

To address concerns raised during the previous permitting processes and to enhance environmental safeguards and operational performance, the NorthMet Project design has been modified, and NewRange has developed a revised mine plan. The key changes include:

- Relocation and redesign of the tailings storage facility (TSF)
- Updates to water management and water treatment
- A change in ore conveyance from rail to conveyor between the Mine Site and Plant Site
- Revisions to the mine plan layout
- Increase in production capacity from 32,000 short tons per day (stpd) to 40,000 stpd, reducing mine life from 20 years to 16 years

These principal changes are summarized in more detail in Table 1 and are compared against the final 2015 NorthMet EIS (FEIS) action and permitted NorthMet Project designs. Figures 1 through 3 show the project changes as compared to the 2015 FEIS design.

On May 25, 2023, the Supreme Court of the United States narrowed the definition of water of the United States in *Sackett v. EPA*, which will affect the scope of the review of federally jurisdictional wetlands subject to 404 permitting requirements by the USACE. The USACE has selected to complete the NEPA review process as a standalone federal review. The NorthMet Project originally included a land exchange with the USFS, which has been completed and would no longer be part of the NEPA review.

Because NorthMet mining and processing operations have already been reviewed through the EIS process, State environmental review requirements for NewRange's modified NorthMet Project will be met by preparing a SEIS. With no other federal agency involvement, this State SEIS for the modifications to the originally reviewed NorthMet Project proposed by NewRange will be a state-only environmental review.

III. Scope of Supplement: Alternatives, Issues, and Studies

Minnesota Rules, part 4410.3000, subpart 5, requires the scope of the SEIS to be limited to alternatives, impacts, and mitigation measures not addressed, or inadequately addressed, in the FEIS.

A. Alternatives.

The SEIS will address two alternatives: 1) the new Proposed Action (modified NorthMet Project); and 2) No Action Alternative, which is the original "Proposed Action" evaluated in the FEIS. Because the No-Action Alternative has previously been reviewed in an EIS, the analysis for the SEIS will be limited as described in Section B below.

B. Issues. The SEIS will address the following potential issues:

1. Compatibility with Land Use Plans and Regulations – Changes in compatibility with land use plans and regulations due to alternative tailings siting and alternative ore conveyance.

2. Water Resources – Changes in impacts to water resources (surface water and groundwater) due to alternative tailings siting, including dewatering of former mining pits, and reconfiguration of water management, supply, and water treatment.

3. Wetlands – Changes to wetland impacts due to reconfiguration of mining infrastructure, alternative ore conveyance, and alternative tailings siting.

4. Vegetation – Changes in impacts to vegetation due to alternative tailings siting where vegetative baseline data and impact assessments did not occur.

5. Wildlife – Changes in impacts to wildlife due to alternative tailings siting and use of an overland conveyor with wildlife crossings.

6. Aquatic Species – Changes in impacts to aquatic species due to alternative tailings siting adjacent to and over water resources where aquatic species baseline data and impact assessments did not occur.

7. Air Quality – Changes in impacts to air quality due to decreased mine life, increased ore processing rates, change in Mine Site traffic patterns, change in tailings design, and change in ore conveyance between Mine Site and Plant Site, including the relocation of the crusher to the Mine Site.

8. Noise and Vibration – Changes in impacts to noise and vibration modeling due to increased ore processing rates, change in ore conveyance between Mine Site and Plant Site, and relocation of the TSF.

9. Cultural Resources – Changes in impacts to cultural resources due to modifications in land use, primarily at the new TSF location.

10. Socioeconomics – Updated social and economic impacts related to the reconfigured NorthMet Project.

11. Recreation and Visual Resources – Changes in impacts to recreation and visual resources due to modifications in land use, primarily associated with the new TSF location and design and changes in stockpile design.

12. Wilderness and Other Special Designation Areas – Adequately addressed in FEIS.

13. Hazardous Materials – Adequately addressed in FEIS.

14. Geotechnical Stability – Changes in geotechnical stability due to waste rock stockpile design, TSF design, and lined tailings storage facility (LTSF) design.

15. Human Health Considerations – Changes to previously assessed human health considerations due to modifications in NorthMet Project design, including in-pit tailings disposal within the TSF.

C. Special Studies or Research

1. Compatibility with Land Use Plans and Regulations – A land use compatibility study will include an assessment of the following areas:

   - Tailings Siting – Tailings management will include in-pit disposal. The TSF is located south of the process plant within the Plant Site. The TSF includes filling four former Area 2/3 mine pits with tailings and will result in an in-pit TSF and a TSF with raised embankments to contain low-sulfur tailings over former minelands and a former railroad embankment.

   - Alternative Ore Conveyance – The conveyor will run from the new crusher at the Mine Site, utilize approximately 3.5 miles along the existing LTVSMC railroad corridor before running adjacent to the Dunka Road and generally following the Dunka Road corridor to the Plant Site.

2. Water Resources – Water resource studies will include assessments of surface water and groundwater quality data within the new TSF location as well as from downstream and adjacent water resources. These assessments will also include a risk assessment on whether in-pit disposal of tailings within the TSF could potentially degrade groundwater quality. Surface water and groundwater quality and quantity will be assessed relative to the change in water management, supply, and water treatment design. Additionally, an unnamed tributary to Wyman Creek was identified within the TSF footprint, and additional fieldwork will be undertaken to characterize the stream for mitigation needs.

3. Wetlands – Wetlands will be delineated and classified within areas not previously assessed. These areas are primarily located within the new TSF location and along the Transportation and Utility Corridors (TUC). In addition, a revised approach for determining potential indirect wetland impacts will be developed and will support indirect wetland impact assessments and future monitoring plan development.

4. Vegetation – Vegetative resources within areas not previously evaluated will be assessed using on-site surveys and native plant communities online database maintained by the MDNR. These areas are primarily located within the new TSF location and along the TUC.

5. Wildlife – Wildlife data will be evaluated on a regional scale. An updated assessment of endangered, threatened, and species of special concern located within the area of the NorthMet Project will be conducted.

6. Aquatic Species – Macroinvertebrate and fish monitoring and habitat assessment surveys will be conducted at locations downstream of the new TSF location.

7. Air Quality – Air quality studies will include assessments of the following criteria:

    - Updated air emission inventory:
        - Mine life decreasing from 20 years to 16 years.
        - Ore processing rate increasing from 32,000 stpd to 40,000 stpd.
        - Changes in Mine Site traffic patterns and TSF design.
        - Ore conveyance method change from rail to overland conveyor between the Mine Site and Plant Site.

    - Updated Class I, Class II, and Air Emissions Risk Assessment analyses will be completed based on the updated air emissions inventory.

    - Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory:
        - Updated assessment of climate trends in the NorthMet Project area and how NorthMet Project design will interact with the climate trends.
        - Updated inventory of Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emission sources, with the change in Scope 1 expected to decrease due to the shorter active mine life with an increased production rate, change from trains to conveyor, change in TSF design, and relocation of the truck shop, offices, and mine support facilities from the Plant Site to the Mine Site. The change in Scope 2 is also expected to decrease due to Minnesota Power's commitment for renewable generation (i.e., 51% renewable now with a commitment to be 100% renewable energy by 2040).

8. Noise and Vibration – Noise and vibration modeling will include assessment of the changes in mining and processing rates, the change in ore conveyance between Mine Site and Plant Site, and the relocation of the TSF.

9. Cultural Resources – Cultural resources will include assessment of the new TSF location and incorporate cultural resource assessments completed after the FEIS was published.

10. Socioeconomics – Socioeconomics will include assessments of updated social and economic data from the U.S. Census Bureau, State of Minnesota, St. Louis County, and other appropriate resources.

11. Recreation and Visual Resources – Recreation and visual studies will include identification of potential key observation points for line-of-sight analyses, sky quality assessment, and baseline data collection for the new TSF location.

12. Geotechnical Stability – Geotechnical stability studies will include assessments of stockpile design, tailings design, and LTSF design.

IV. Proposed Time Schedule

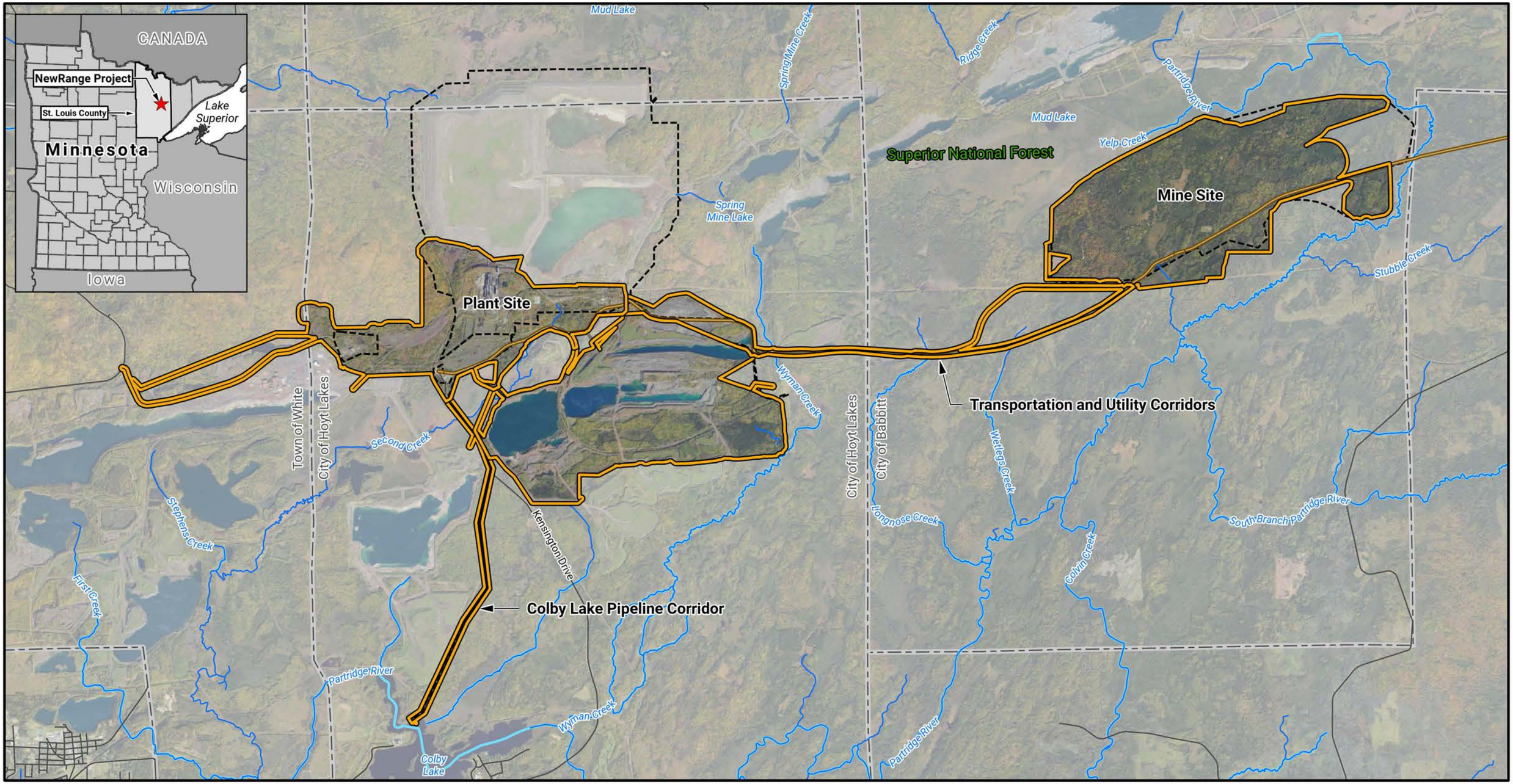
Preparation Notice Publication	October 27, 2026
Preparation Notice Comment Period Ends	November 30, 2026
Distribution of Draft Supplemental EIS	July 26, 2027
Distribution of Final Supplemental EIS	February 22, 2027
Determination of SEIS Adequacy	June 19, 2028

Table 1
Primary Project Changes

Project Component	NorthMet FEIS Action (2015 FEIS Action)	Changes to the Final EIS Action During Permitting	NorthMet SEIS Action (2026 SEIS Action)
Tailings Storage Facility (TSF)	Tailings managed within a FTB constructed on top of the existing LTVSMC tailings basin Cells 1E and 2E.	No change	Tailings managed in the TSF south of the processing plant within the Plant Site. The TSF includes filling four former mine pits with low sulfur tailings and will result in a TSF with raised embankments utilizing centerline dam construction to contain tailings over former minelands and a former railroad embankment.
	Perimeter dams of the FTB raised using an upstream construction method with compacted LTVSMC tailings. Geotechnical stability increased through the placement of rock buttresses from MDNR-approved material sources. Cement deep soil mixing also used to stabilize the existing tailings and peat layers in the northern dam prior to constructing the FTB. Bentonite mixed into the exposed outer slopes of the FTB to restrict oxygen and water infiltration.	Additional engineering refinement occurred during permitting, removing the cement deep soil mixing and increasing the size of the northern rock buttress; however, general FTB configuration and location remain the same as in the 2015 FEIS Action.	Whole tailings deposited into one former mine pit until capacity reaches the pit rim (in-pit TSF). While fine tailings are deposited in the remaining three mine pits, centerline embankments are constructed using coarse tailings produced from cycloning tailings to separate the fine and coarse tailings.
	Seepage capture systems utilized to collect and manage seepage from the tailings basin. Collected seepage pumped back to the FTB pond and/or WWTP for treatment and discharge to the environment.	No change	Seepage management systems utilized to collect and manage seepage from the TSF.
	FTB decant water pumped back to the processing plant for reuse and/or to the WWTP for treatment and discharge to the environment.	No change	TSF decant water and collected seepage pumped to processing plant for reuse and/or pumped to Pit 3 for storage until needed for future reuse. Excess water routed to WWTP for treatment and discharge to the environment.
	During closure, addition of a bentonite layer into the beaches and over the pond bottom to restrict oxygen and water infiltration from the pond.	No change	Upon closure, a coarse tailings cap placed on each TSF will promote surface runoff and dry closure conditions.
	High sulfur tailings blended into the copper concentrate to be shipped off site.	No change	High sulfur tailings blended into the copper concentrate to be shipped off site. Excess high sulfur tailings that cannot be disposed offsite would be stored in a separate LTSF constructed over the existing LTVSMC Emergency Basin. This facility utilizes the design of and replaces the HRF from the 2015 FEIS Action. Similar to the HRF, during closure, this facility will be drained, covered, and reclaimed. (Note: The Hydrometallurgical Plant will not be constructed in the 2026 SEIS Action.)
Mine Site components and layout	Development of three open pits (West, Central, and East) that, upon closure, would include one backfilled pit wetland and one flooded pit void.	No change	Development of two open pits (West and East) that, upon closure, would include one backfilled and flooded pit and one flooded pit void.
	Construction of one permanent and two temporary waste rock stockpiles, a temporary OSLA, and a temporary OSP. Stockpiles located as follows: • Category 1 (<0.12% sulfur) waste rock stockpile northwest of the West pit • Category 2/3 (>0.12% and <0.6% sulfur) waste rock stockpile southeast of the East Pit, also includes saturated mineral overburden • Category 4 (>0.6% sulfur and all Virginia Formation) stockpile over the unmined Central Pit, also includes saturated mineral overburden • the OSLA and OSP centrally located south of the mine pits	No change	Construction of one PRSF, one TRSF, a temporary OSLA, and a temporary OSP. • PRSF will contain Category 1 (<0.20% sulfur) waste rock located in the same general location as the 2015 FEIS Category 1 stockpile and will have similar seepage management system. • TRSF will contain Category 2, 3, and 4 (≥0.20% sulfur and all Virginia Formation) waste rock, saturated mineral overburden, and ore on an engineered, geomembrane-lined foundation. When compared to the 2015 FEIS Action Category 2/3 Stockpile location, the TRSF has been moved away from the Partridge River and is now centrally located, immediately south of the mine pits. • OSLA located west of the PRSF. • OSP located west of the crusher and south of the OSLA, with an engineered, geomembrane-lined foundation.

Project Component	NorthMet FEIS Action (2015 FEIS Action)	Changes to the Final EIS Action During Permitting	NorthMet SEIS Action (2026 SEIS Action)
Mine Site components and layout (continued)	Construction and operation of a Rail Transfer Hopper (for loading ore on trains) with railroad spur track, Fueling and Maintenance Facility, and other Mine Site support infrastructure. Major equipment maintenance completed in Area 1 Shops (Plant Site) with mine offices, change-houses, and support facilities at Area 2 shops (Plant Site).	No change	Ore handling facilities include a crusher, overland conveyor, and an OSP, all located west of the West Pit. Mine support facilities (fueling facilities, maintenance facilities, offices, change-houses, etc.) are now located southwest of the West Pit. Major equipment maintenance completed at the Mine Site.
	Construction and operation of a WWTF west of the Rail Transfer Hopper.	WWTF removed from Mine Site and combined with WWTP at Plant Site.	WWTP located at the Plant Site.
	Construction and operation of equalization basins and central pumping station/pond collocated with the WWTF.	Equalization basins and central pumping station/pond moved to the south side of Dunka Road.	Equalization basin located within the West Pit. The equalization basin will store contact water collected at the Mine Site before it is pumped via a pit-to-plant pipeline to the Plant Site for reuse.
Water management and water treatment design	Mine Site contact water collected from the mine pits, waste rock stockpiles, OSP, and ancillary mine features would be managed and treated at the Mine Site WWTF with the treated water pumped to the FTB via a Mine-to-Plant Pipeline, which is located within the TUC. Mine Site WWTF includes chemical precipitation and membrane filtration treatment technologies, adding reverse osmosis or similar membrane separation technology in closure.	WWTP and WWTF are combined into a single WWTS at the Plant Site. Mine-to-Plant Pipeline to move water from the Mine Site to the Plant Site along the TUC increased from one to three.	Mine Site contact water collected from the mine pits, rock storage facilities, OSP, and ancillary mine features is managed in an equalization basin in the West Pit. Water within the equalization basin is pumped via a pit-to-plant pipeline, located within the TUC, to the Plant Site for reuse.
	FTB seepage and FTB decant water, as needed, collected and routed to the Plant Site WWTP for treatment and discharge to the environment.	No change	TSF decant water and collected seepage pumped to processing plant for reuse and/or pumped to Pit 3 for storage for future reuse. Excess water within Pit 3 routed to WWTP for treatment and discharge to the environment. Water within Pit 3 utilized as make-up water during times when the processing plant needs cannot be maintained by directly pumping from the TSF decant pond.
	Plant Site WWTP includes reverse osmosis or similar membrane separation technology. Reject concentrate from the WWTP transported to the WWTF at the Mine Site via rail tank cars.	WWTS components include a mine water treatment train (chemical precipitation and membrane filtration) and a tailings basin treatment train (membrane separation technology and stabilization).	WWTP treatment train includes equalization, chemical precipitation, biological treatment, filtration, membrane separation, and stabilization.
	FTB decant pond utilized as the primary source of water for the beneficiation process with additional make-up water obtained from Colby Lake.	No change	Pit 3 provides water management flexibility, providing excess storage capacity during times of surplus water conditions, provides make-up water during periods of water shortage, and attenuates flows to the WWTP.
Ore conveyance to Plant Site	Ore conveyance using trains along the existing railroad within the TUC. This will require construction of a new rail connection track.	No change	Ore conveyance using a covered overland conveyor system within the TUC. This will include construction of an adjacent maintenance road when not located along Dunka Road and wildlife crossings.
Ore production	32,000 stpd	No change	40,000 stpd

Abbreviations:
FEIS = Final Environmental Impact Statement
FTB = Flotation Tailings Basin
HRF = Hydrometallurgical Residue Facility
LTSF = Lined Tailings Storage Facility
LTVSMC = LTV Steel Mining Company
MDNR = Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
OSLA = Overburden Storage & Laydown Area
OSP = Ore Surge Pile
PRSF = Permanent Rock Storage Facility
SEIS = Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
stpd = short tons per day
TRSF = Temporary Rock Storage Facility
TSF = Tailings Storage Facility
TUC = Transportation and Utility Corridor
WWTF = Wastewater Treatment Facility
WWTP = Wastewater Treatment Plant
WWTS = Wastewater Treatment System



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FIGURE 1
OVERALL NORTHMET PROJECT AREA COMPARISON

NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Minnesota North FIPS 2201 Ft US

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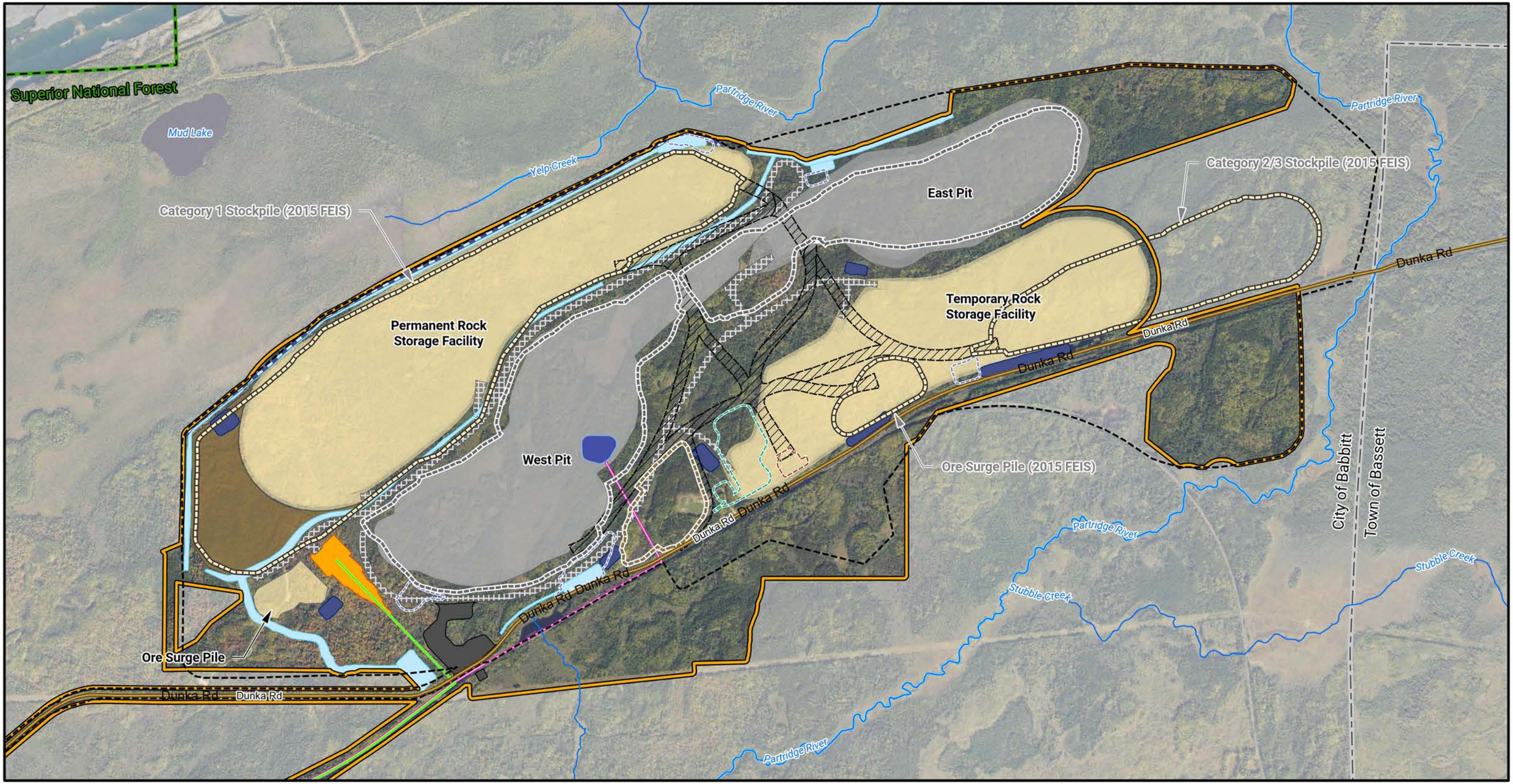
Legend

- Current Proposed NorthMet Project Area
- 2015 NorthMet FEIS Project Area
- Site Roads
- Roads
- Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Watercourse
- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Flowline
- Municipal Boundary

N

0 1 2 Miles

Credits: 2025 60cm resolution imagery service from USDA FPAC-BC-GEO NAIP. Administrative, hydrographic, and transportation data from Minnesota Geospatial Commons.



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FIGURE 2
NORTHMET MINE SITE PROJECT AREA COMPARISON

NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Minnesota North FIPS 2201 Ft US

DATE: July 29, 2026 | DRAWN BY: Foth, BJW1

Legend

- Current Proposed NorthMet Project Area
- 2015 NorthMet FEIS Project Area
- Site Roads
- Roads
- Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Watercourse
- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Flowline
- Municipal Boundary
- Superior National Forest Boundary

Current Proposed Mine Site Features

- Overland Ore Conveyor
- Pit to Plant Pipeline
- Stormwater Dike
- Stormwater
- Equalization Basin
- Contact Water Ponds
- Primary Crusher
- Haul Roads
- Overburden Storage
- Stockpiles
- Mine Pits
- Auxilary Mine Facilities Area

Mine Site Features (2015 FEIS)

- Mine Pit
- Stockpiles
- Overburden Storage & Laydown Area
- Mine Site Pond
- Rail Transfer Hopper
- Haul Roads
- Wastewater Treatment Facility

N

0 1,600 3,200 Feet

Credits: 2025 60cm resolution imagery service from USDA FPAC-BC-GEO NAIP. Administrative, hydrographic, and transportation data from Minnesota Geospatial Commons.

Cell 2W
(2015 FEIS)

Cell 1E/2E
(2015 FEIS)

Spring Mine Creek

Superior National Forest

Spring Mine Lake

Plant Site

Processing Plant

Transportation and Utility Corridors

Wyman Creek

Pit A
In-Pit TSF

TSF

Town of White

City of Hoyt Lakes

Second Creek

Stephens Creek

City of Hoyt Lakes

Longnose Creek

City of Babbitt

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FIGURE 3
NORTHMET PLANT SITE PROJECT AREA COMPARISON

NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Minnesota North FIPS 2201 Ft US

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Legend

- Current Proposed NorthMet Project Area
- 2015 NorthMet FEIS Project Area
- Site Roads
- Roads
- Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Watercourse
- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Flowline
- Municipal Boundary
- Superior National Forest Boundary

Current Proposed Plant/Tailings Features

- Overland Ore Conveyor
- Pit to Plant Pipeline
- Colby Lake Pipeline
- Stormwater
- Plant Roads
- Lined Tailings Storage Facility Footprint

- Existing Building
- Proposed Building

Tailings Storage Facility

- Pond
- Embankment
- Embankment Crest

Plant Site Features (2015 FEIS)

- Hydrometallurical Residue Facility
- FTB Seepage Containment System

N

0 3,000 6,000 Feet

Credits: 2025 60cm resolution imagery service from USDA FPAC-BC-GEO NAIP. Administrative, hydrographic, and transportation data from Minnesota Geospatial Commons.