**From:** Christie Kearney
**To:** Johnson, Bill H (DNR)
**Cc:** Oswald, Caroline (She/Her/Hers) (DNR); Ciardelli, Mark C; Kramka, Larry; Colin Marsh; Lucas Miller
**Subject:** RE: Query 11 - Colby Lake Appropriations
**Date:** Monday, August 10, 2026 2:36:26 PM
**Attachments:** image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png

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Greetings, Bill and Caroline! Make-up water for the processing plant will be supplied by the Mine Site, TSF, and Pit 3. Colby Lake, which already has an existing pump station and pipeline to the Plant Site, is being retained as a contingency option for periods of extreme drought. Operation of this system will be evaluated and repaired, if necessary, before it is recommissioned.

Please let me know if you have further questions about this topic.
Best,
Christie

**Christie Kearney, P.E.**
***Environmental & Permitting Manager***
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**From:** Johnson, Bill H (DNR) <bill.johnson@state.mn.us>
**Sent:** Sunday, August 9, 2026 12:37 PM
**To:** Christie Kearney <christie.kearney@newrangecoppernickel.com>
**Cc:** Oswald, Caroline (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <caroline.oswald@state.mn.us>
**Subject:** NWR: EXTERNAL SENDER Query 11 - Colby Lake Appropriations

Hello Christie. This is Query 11 to support DNR's consideration of NewRange's request and material evidence for the NewRange NorthMet Mining Project.

Table 1, Primary Project Changes, indicates that use of Pit 3 is being added to the water management infrastructure under the NewRange NorthMet Project. The preceding 2015

FEIS Action text states: “FTB decant water utilized as the primary source of water for the beneficiation process *with additional make-up water obtained from Colby Lake*.” [emphasis added]

DNR would like to confirm that the new water management design with TSF decant water and collected seepage being re-used at the processing plant, or stored in Pit 3, does not remove the potential for Colby Lake water to be used as make-up water under the NewRange NorthMet Project? This would appear to be the case since Figure 1 still includes the Colby Lake Pipeline Corridor as a project feature.

Thanks in advance for your assistance with this matter. Please provide your response as soon as possible to facilitate DNR’s consideration of the request and material evidence. Let me know if you have any questions. Bill J. and Caroline O.

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Bill Johnson
Planning Director | EWR Environmental Policy & Review Unit

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