Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Reservation Business Committee

Chairman Bruce M. Savage **Secretary/Treasurer** Wayne Dupuis
District I Wally J. Dupuis **District II** Michael Murray Jr. **District III** Earl Otis

September 11, 2026

Sarah Strommen, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paule, MIN 55155
commissioner.dnr@state.mn.us

By Email

Re: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation on NewRange Copper Nickel LLC's Proposed NorthMet Project Design

Commissioner Strommen:

I write on behalf of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa ("Band"). The Band understands that the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") is preparing for environmental review of the new proposed project design for the NorthMet copper-nickel mine, which has been announced by NewRange Copper Nickel LLC. In particular, we understand that DNR is considering whether to prepare an environmental impact statement for this proposed project design, or instead supplement the existing environmental impact statement for the mining project design formerly proposed for this area by PolyMet Mining Corp. and Poly Met Mining, Inc.

As you know from the DNR's environmental review, permitting process, and subsequent litigation on the PolyMet project design, the Band has interests in water quality and other natural resources that will be substantially and directly affected by nonferrous metallic mineral mining in this area of Minnesota. We are therefore also substantially and directly affected by the scope of your review of the environmental effects of NewRange's proposed project design. The Band requests government-to-government consultation on your agency's decision making.

I have copied the Band's counsel on this letter. Please contact them to arrange the time and date of a meeting. We hope to engage in consultation before the end of this month.

Thank you for your attention to the Band's request.

Sincerely,

Bruce Savage
Chairman