Summary Tribal Consultation Notes

Minnesota DNR and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Consultat on RE: NewRange Request for Preparat on of Supplement to NorthMet

EIS Date: September 9, 2026

Meeting Attendees: DNR (Commissioner Sarah Strommen, supporting staff)

Grand Portage (Chairman Robert Deschampe, Tribal Officials, supporting staff)

On July 30, 2026, the Grand Portage Band of Fond du Lac Chippewa requested consultation with Minnesota DNR to discuss tribal notification regarding mining-related actions in the 1854 Ceded Territory, including the NorthMet / NewRange Supplemental EIS determination. Minnesota DNR met with Grand Portage on September 9, 2026.

The consultation addressed the following topics associated with NewRange's request to supplement the NorthMet EIS:

- Filling of the west pit and access to any future underground mine.
- Adaptive management approach.
- Any potential for east pit flow from NorthMet into the NorthShore mine's Peter Mitchel pit.
- Communications around the land exchange between the US Forest Service and Minnesota DNR.
- Tribal notification of Minnesota DNR's decision on the NewRange request for a supplement, including how any subsequent consultation and coordination may occur under any future Environmental Review.
- Minnesota DNR's decision not to serve as a Cooperating Agency for a NEPA review conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Follow-up at the staff level about existing water appropriations permits that are active for mine pits in the vicinity of Pit 2W and Mesabi Nugget site.
- The Minnesota DNR stated that it is committed to ensuring a thorough environmental review of the proposed changes to the NorthMet project and that it would notify the band when the decision has been made and offer additional opportunities for the band to participate in the upcoming environmental review process.

Summary Tribal Consultation Notes

Minnesota DNR and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Consultation RE: NewRange Request for Preparation of Supplement to NorthMet EIS

Date: October 5, 2026

Meeting Attendees: DNR (Commissioner Sarah Strommen, supporting staff)

Fond du Lac Band (Chairman Bruce Savage, Tribal Officials, supporting staff)

On August 24, 2026, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Fond du Lac Band), along with several environmental organizations, submitted a letter to the Minnesota DNR outlining their perspectives on whether the Minnesota DNR should order a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) or a new EIS. On September 11, 2026, the Fond du Lac Band submitted a letter to Minnesota DNR requesting consultation on the Minnesota DNR's upcoming decision on the form of environmental review required to evaluate the proposed changes to the NorthMet Project. Consultation was held on October 5, 2026.

The consultation addressed the following topics associated with NewRange's request to supplement the NorthMet EIS:

- Minnesota DNR's decision not to serve as a Cooperating Agency for a NEPA review conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers and how any coordination with the USACE would occur going forward.
- The Fond du Lac Band highlighted a number of different changes to the proposed project, including but not limited to, new waste rock storage, new tailings disposal methods, new types of dam construction, the speed of extraction of ore, the use of abandoned mine pits and concerns about leakage from those pits, and the need for new modeling.
- The band provided additional concerns about how water will move through waste at the site, in pit storage, the new location of the disposal facility, the new project footprint, the proposed change from upstream dam construction to centerline construction, statements about the foundation of the dams and the timelines for construction.
- The Fond du Lac Band stated that NewRange is a "new proposer" and that because of that and the significant number of proposed changes to the project, a new EIS was warranted rather than a Supplemental EIS.

- Minnesota DNR asked if there was a specific advantage that a new EIS would bring to the review that a Supplemental EIS would not in the Minnesota DNR's evaluation of the proposed changes to the project. The band indicated that there was not anything specific that they could identify, but that they believed a new EIS would be more thorough.
- Minnesota DNR asked whether the concerns that they briefly stated in the consultation were consistent with the more detailed letter that the band signed onto dated August 24, 2026. The band agreed that they were.
- The band asked for a copy of the supporting information that the Minnesota DNR received from NewRange when it submitted its project proposal. The Minnesota DNR agreed to provide that to the band.
- The band stated that any environmental review must thoroughly account for any changes to cumulative impacts from the project.
- Discussion also occurred about the future management of the existing LTV tailings facility.
- Discussion also occurred about financial assurance associated with the proposed NorthMet project.
- At the close of the consultation, the band restated its request that the Minnesota DNR conduct a new EIS. The Minnesota DNR stated that it is committed to ensuring a thorough environmental review of the proposed changes to the NorthMet project and that it would notify the band when the decision has been made and offer additional opportunities for the band to participate in the upcoming environmental review process.

CC: NewRange SEIS Request file

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