



November 26, 2014

RE: Northshore Progression of the Ultimate Pit Limit EAW timeline extension to determine the need for an EIS

Persons on the EAW Distribution List and Commenters on the Northshore EAW:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) identified above on September 15, 2014 with an associated public comment period ending on October 15, 2014 at 4:30 PM. The DNR received over one thousand comment letters during this comment period that need to be considered as part of determining the need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) rules provides a thirty business day time period to make a decision on the need for an EIS. After assembling and cataloguing all the comments received, the DNR has determined that additional time beyond the thirty business day time period is needed to make a reasoned decision about the potential for significant effects. The additional time is needed to get input from state agency technical staff on the comments received. As allowed under Minnesota Rule part 4410.1700 Subpart 2a. B., the DNR and the project proposer have agreed to postpone the decision on the need for an EIS until no later than January 27, 2015.

You will be provided a copy of the decision once it has been made. Contact me at (651) 259-5156 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Randall Doneen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Randall Doneen

Environmental Review Unit Supervisor

Division of Ecological and Water Resources