

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD  
STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASE SALE**

**State Lands Being Considered for Metallic Minerals Leasing**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announces that plans are being developed to hold the state's 35th sale of metallic minerals exploration and mining leases. The sale is tentatively scheduled for early 2017. The lease sale plans are being announced at this time in order to give all interested parties time to review and provide input on the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book).

The metallic minerals lease sale involves non-ferrous minerals, which are all metals except iron ore and taconite. Examples of non-ferrous metallic minerals are: copper, nickel, platinum, palladium, gold, silver, cobalt, chromium, zinc, lead, bismuth, tin, tungsten, tantalum, and niobium.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 - .0700) is to promote and regulate the exploration for and mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under these rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of rentals that increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, compliance with all applicable environmental statutes and rules, and the submission of data and other reports. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all other applicable regulatory laws.

The areas under consideration contain lands in portions of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis Counties. Nearly all of the lands being considered for the metallic minerals lease sale have been offered in previous lease sales, and many of them have been previously leased. The Department of Natural Resources will be accepting public input for 60 days regarding the lands listed in the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book).

Written public input regarding the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book) will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2017. Input may be submitted by U.S. mail or email. All input received is public information. Following the public input period, the DNR will review the input, and modify and finalize the lands to be offered in the lease sale.

The exact time and place of the lease sale will be announced by legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the sale. The final mining unit book, listing the state lands to be offered at the lease sale, will be released at that time and will be available on the DNR website.

The areas under consideration (draft mining unit book) are available on the internet through the DNR website at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/leasesale/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/leasesale/index.html) and for review at the Hibbing and St. Paul offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals. Interactive maps of the lands under consideration may also be viewed on the DNR website. Written public input may be sent to: Division of Lands and Minerals, Box 45, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4045, email: [MMLeaseSale.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:MMLeaseSale.dnr@state.mn.us)

Dated: January 23, 2017

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Division of Lands and Minerals