



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 DIVISION OF ECOLOGICAL AND WATER RESOURCES  
 500 LAFAYETTE ROAD, BOX 25  
 ST. PAUL, MN 55155

**SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 23235**  
 (Taking of endangered and/or threatened species)  
**November 1, 2018**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Under the authority of Minn. Statutes, Section 84.0895 and Minn. Rules, Parts 6212.1800-2100, and informed by the accompanying Findings of Fact and Decision Rationale, permission is hereby granted to:

Jonathan Cherry, President and CEO  
 Poly Met Mining, Inc.  
 6500 County Road 666  
 Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750

and its agents, employees, and contractors, to take an unlimited number of the state-endangered *Caltha Natans* (floating marsh marigold), state-endangered *Botrychium ascendens* (upswept moonwort), and state-endangered *Botrychium spathulatum* (spatulate moonwort), incidental to development of the NorthMet Mining Project, St. Louis County, MN, subject to the following conditions:

1. Permitted take of the specified endangered species is limited to the project described in the November 2015 *NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange, Final Environmental Impact Statement* and the January 2017 *Wetland Replacement Plan*. Any additional taking of endangered or threatened species is beyond the authority of this permit and may only be conducted under the authority of a separate permit.
2. Compensatory mitigation for this taking totals three hundred forty thousand dollars (\$340,000), which will be provided to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Minn. Statutes, 84.085 subd. 1., for the purpose of funding research, surveys, land protection, and/or land management activities contributing to the recovery and eventual delisting of endangered and threatened plants in Minnesota, and so create a net benefit to these species in Minnesota. The specific mitigation that will be undertaken is as set forth in the Findings of Fact and Decision Rationale for Endangered and Threatened Species Taking Permit #23235.
3. This permit is effective indefinitely upon receipt of a countersigned copy of this permit and the mitigation payment by the DNR. Receipt by the DNR will be confirmed by email.

/s/ Tom Landwehr  
 Tom Landwehr, Commissioner

11/01/2018 Date

***I hereby certify that I have read, understand, and accept the provision of this permit and understand that this permit is not valid unless it is signed by me.***

/s/ Jonathan Cherry  
 Jonathan Cherry, Permittee

11/01/2018 Date

- C: Barbara Naramore, Deputy Commissioner  
 Jess Richards, Director, Div. Lands and Minerals  
 Steve Colvin, Director, Div. Ecological and Water Resources  
 Ann Pierce, Deputy Director, Div. Ecological and Water Resources  
 Mike Peloquin, Regional Manager, Div. Ecological and Water Resources  
 Jane Norris, CMRR Supervisor, Div. Ecological and Water Resources  
 Richard Baker, Endangered Species Coordinator, Div. Ecological and Water Resources  
 Permit Clerk, Div. Fish and Wildlife