

Public Waters Work Permit

What do public waters work permits cover?

Public waters work permits are required for any activity affecting the course, current or cross-section of public waters unless specifically exempted under Minnesota Rules 6115.0160 to 6115.0280.

What does the draft NorthMet public waters work permit cover?

This draft public waters work permit is for a culvert extension on Unnamed Creek, which is tributary to Wyman Creek, to initiate the widening of the Dunka Road, the connecting road between the proposed NorthMet plant site and mine site.

What criteria does the DNR consider in determining whether to issue a public waters work permit?

The DNR must ensure that the proposed project is consistent with provisions in the state's Public Waters Work Rules, which require that the proposal minimizes resource impacts. Some of the impacts the rules consider are flooding, erosion, natural streamflow and fish and wildlife habitat. The project must also be consistent with other local, state and federal rules and programs.

What water resource area is this project within?

This draft public waters work permit is for a culvert extension on Unnamed Creek, which is tributary to Wyman Creek. This creek ultimately flows into the Partridge River (St. Louis River Watershed).

How many draft public waters work permits are there for the NorthMet project?

There is one draft public waters work permit. It is for a culvert extension to widen Dunka Road for the proposed NorthMet project.

When and how can the public comment?

Written public comments are being accepted from September 15, 2017 until October 16, 2017. You can submit your comments by email to: NorthMetPermitting.DNR@state.mn.us or by U.S. mail to:

MN Department of Natural Resources
ATTN: PolyMet NorthMet Project
500 Lafayette Road N., Box 45
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045

Please include the words "NorthMet Public Waters" in the title of your comment email or letter.

Will there be a public meeting during this comment period?

No, DNR will not hold a public meeting during this comment period. The comment period itself is not required under state law, and we do not typically hold public comment periods on draft public waters work permits. However, DNR understands that there is great interest in this project. We have chosen to provide a 30 day public comment period to allow the public to review and comment on this draft public waters work permit. We will hold at least one public meeting upon completion of our review of the company's permit to mine application at a later date.