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VIA HAND DELIVERY (HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC VERSION)

July 11, 2016

Mike Liljegen
Supervisor – Mine Permitting and Coordination Unit
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

RE: Poly Met Mining, Inc.'s Water Appropriation Permit Application for the NorthMet Project

Dear Mr. Liljegen:

Please find enclosed Poly Met Mining, Inc.'s (PolyMet) consolidated application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for individual water appropriation permits (Application) for its NorthMet Project. This Application contains the following materials:

- Documentation on PolyMet's proposed approach to water appropriation permitting;
- Five separate applications for individual water appropriation permits;
- Supporting figures, tables, and technical information; and
- Cover letters from PolyMet to North St. Louis SWCD and the mayors of Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt to accompany copies of the Application (Appendix D).

Under separate cover, PolyMet will provide you with an affidavit documenting the mailing of the Applications to the secretary of the Board of the North St. Louis SWCD and the mayors of Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt.

This Application is based primarily on the extensive data collection and technical analyses conducted as part of the development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the NorthMet Project and Land Exchange. When necessary for the water appropriation permitting process, the Application expands upon such information.

Based on PolyMet's review of the applicable laws and content of this Application, PolyMet believes that this Application is complete and satisfies all state requirements relating to the content of a water appropriation permit application. PolyMet recognizes that the MDNR may request additional information during the course of its review.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to review PolyMet's Application. If any questions or concerns arise during MDNR's review of the Application, please do not hesitate to contact me at 218-461-7746 or ckearney@polymetmining.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christie M. Kearney".

Christie M. Kearney, P.E.
Environmental Site Director