



July 10, 2018

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Chair
Senator David Tomassoni, Ranking Minority Member
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Senator Carrie Ruud, Chair
Senator Chris Eaton, Ranking Minority Member
Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee

Representative Dan Fabian, Chair
Representative Rick Hansen, Ranking Minority Member
Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee

Representative Chris Swedinski, Chair
Representative Jason Metsa, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Mining, Forestry and Tourism

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Subject: Analysis of Sustainable Water Supply for Cold Spring Creek Area: Annual Progress Report, pursuant to the Laws of 2016, Chapter 189, Article 3, Section 44

The 2016 Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to “conduct necessary monitoring of stream flow and water levels and develop a groundwater model to determine the amount of water that can be sustainably pumped in the area of Cold Spring Creek for area businesses, agriculture, and city needs.” Under this provision, annual reports were required beginning July 1, 2017, and a final report must be submitted by January 15, 2022.

Enclosed is the annual report covering the year ending July 1, 2018. It describes DNR’s work to assemble necessary data, engage with stakeholders and technical experts, and develop an initial groundwater model. The model report was recently sent to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Over the summer and fall, DNR will engage the TAG in discussion about the modeling analysis completed thus far and any further work needed. The attached annual report summarizes these efforts and the ongoing work planned for 2019 and 2020.

In addition, DNR continues to work with the City of Cold Spring and Cold Spring Brewing Company (CSCB) to help them meet their water supply needs while complying with Minnesota law. On June 26, 2018, the DNR issued a 3.5-year extension for CSBC's water appropriation permit. In combination with adjustments we have made to the City's permit, this temporary extension is designed to allow both the City and CSBC to meet their interim water needs while DNR continues the legislatively directed technical work to understand the complexities of groundwater flow and interaction with Cold Spring Creek. This work will provide the foundation for crafting a long-term approach to meeting water supply needs while also protecting Cold Spring Creek and ensuring groundwater sustainability.

If you have questions about information in the attached report, please contact DNR Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier at 651-259-5024, or at Bob.Meier@state.mn.us

Sincerely,



Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

Cc: Barb Naramore, DNR Assistant Commissioner
Bob Meier, DNR Assistant Commissioner
Luke Skinner, DNR Director – Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Jason Moeckel, DNR Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Section Manager
Dan Lais, DNR District Manager – Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Committee Administrators
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