



July 19, 2019

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Chair

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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

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Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee

Representative Rick Hansen, Chair

Representative Dan Fabian, Ranking Minority Member

Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division Committee

Representative Peter Fischer, Chair

Representative Josh Heintzeman, Ranking Minority Member

Water Division Committee

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

Dear Senators and Representatives:

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.

The annual report covering the year ending July 1, 2019 is enclosed. It describes the DNR’s work to assemble necessary data, engage with stakeholders and technical experts, and develop an initial groundwater model. A groundwater model and draft report have been developed and

reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The DNR has also met with key stakeholders and legislators over the winter to discuss initial model results and next steps to complete a final model report. The attached annual report summarizes these efforts and the ongoing work planned for 2020.

In addition, the DNR continues to work with the City of Cold Spring (the City) 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 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 the 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 designing 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 Bob Meier at 651-259-5024 or Bob.Meier@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Sarah Strommen, Commissioner

cc: Bob Meier, DNR Assistant Commissioner
Jess Richards, DNR Assistant Commissioner
Steve Colvin, DNR Director – Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Jason Moeckel, DNR Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Section Manager
Dan Lais, Regional Manager – Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Committee Administrators
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