

Information for File #2014-00108-DWW

Applicant	Northshore Mine Company (NSM), owned and managed by Cliffs Natural Resources
Corps Contact	Daryl W. Wierzbinski
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Phone	651-290-5691
Primary County	St. Louis
Section, Township, Range	16, 60N., R. 12W.
Information Complete On	January 17, 2014
Posting Expires On	February 6, 2014
Authorization Type	LOP-05-MN

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-01.

We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This preliminary determination was used for the site specific boundary and amount of proposed wetland impacts within the project site.

Project Purpose and Need:

The applicant is proposing to construct a mine roadway and extend an existing stockpile area at their mine facility near Babbitt, Minnesota. The proposed project would be within Block 2E-3E of the mine facility (see drawings).

NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS:

The project would result in the permanent discharge of dredged and fill material in 0.74 acre of waters of the United States for the purpose of constructing a mine road and extending a stockpile area within their permit to mine area. The wetlands proposed to be permanently impacted in the review area consist of 0.64 acre of alder thicket Type 6 and deep marsh Type 4 wetlands, 0.03 acre of a ditch wetland Type 1 wetland, and 0.07 acre of hardwood swamp Type 7 wetland. The wetlands impacted are proposed to be mitigated by wetland banking.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

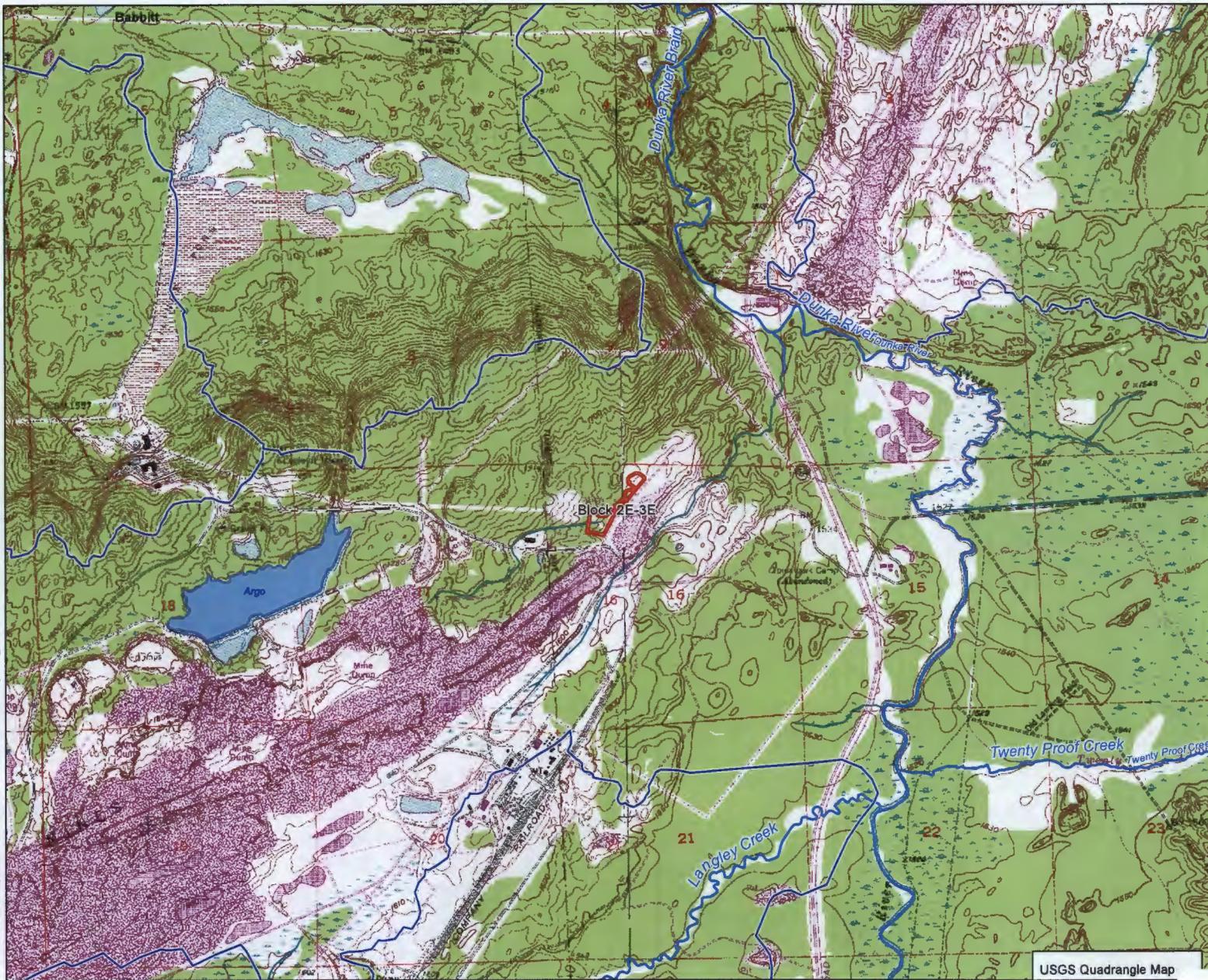
NSM is an open cut mine, which means that waste must be stripped and stockpiled to expose the ore underneath. According to NSM, waste should be stockpiled into areas that have already been disturbed to minimize impacts on the environment. There would be a couple of constraints that would require this phase of stockpiling to impact wetlands. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reclamation rules specify how the stockpiles are constructed and that different waste types cannot be mixed. In this case, NSM mineral lease with the state also has stipulations that all waste rock is returned to the same lease. Also, the NSM haul trucks would be able to better maneuver along a larger and wider road with larger turns, which determines road design which then affects the shape of the stockpile; mine safety is critical during mine operations.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:

The proposed wetland impacts would be compensated by debiting 0.74 wetlands credits from the Embarrass River wetland bank. The mitigation would be considered to be on-site, in-advance, and in-kind. The credits were already purchased by NSM in 2012 for future mine operations.

Drawings See attached.

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.0, 2015-11-25 16:50 File: I:\Client\NorthShoreMining\Work\Orders\Wetlands\Map\Wetlands_Delineation\Reports\2013 Wetland Delineations\East End Block 2E-3E\Figure 1 Location Map 2E-3E.mxd User:mj



Legend

-  Public Water Inventory Basins
-  Public Waters Inventory Watercourse
-  Streams
-  2013 Wetland Delineation Area
-  Watersheds - DNR Level 8



Figure 1

LOCATION MAP AND HYDROLOGY
 Block 2E-3E
 Northshore Mining Company
 St. Louis County, Minnesota

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Legend

- 2013 Wetland Data Points
- ▭ 2013 Wetland Delineation Areas
- ▭ 2013 Wetland Delineations



Figure 4

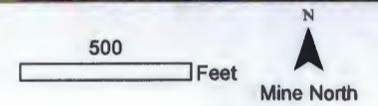
BLOCK 2E-3E
2013 WETLAND DELINEATIONS
 Northshore Mining Company
 St. Louis County, Minnesota



- Stockpile Footprint
- State Lease
- Toes and Crests
- Haul Road

Figure 5

NSM Stockpile Plan

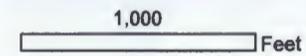


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Drawing 3 of 4



	Stockpile Footprint		Addendum Wetlands
	Permit to Mine Limits		Stockpile Expansion Covered Under 2012 Wetland Permit
	Stockpile Permit Limits		No Longer Part of the Stockpile Plan
	2005 Permit to Mine Limits		

E18 Stockpile Plan



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Drawing 4 of 4