



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

APPLICANT: PolyMet Mining, Inc.

Public Notice

ISSUED: 13 DEC 2013

EXPIRES: 13 MAR 2014

REFER TO: MVP-1999-5528-JKA

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

1. A joint federal/state Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (District); the U.S. Forest Service, Superior National Forest (USFS); and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that describes the anticipated environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed PolyMet Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) NorthMet Project and Land Exchange. PolyMet submitted a permit application to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, in conjunction with the development and operation of a proposed open pit mine, ore processing plant, and tailings basin. Additionally, the Land Exchange is proposed to eliminate a conflict between PolyMet's desire to surface mine and the United States' surface rights, including USFS administration of National Forest System (NFS) land. Low-grade disseminated sulfide-bearing ore would be mined and hauled approximately 8 miles on an existing railroad line to an idle taconite processing facility (the former LTV Steel Mining Company plant), which would be refurbished to process the ore. The ore would be crushed, ground, and concentrated to produce finished copper metal and various copper, nickel, cobalt and precious metals concentrates and precipitates. Tailings would be discharged into an existing taconite tailings basin. The proposed project would be conducted near the cities of Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt in St. Louis County, Minnesota. This action is in accordance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Section 325.2(a)(4), which discusses National Environmental Policy Act procedures and documentation.

2. The SDEIS is now available for public review and comment. Public review copies of the SDEIS are available at the MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul; the MDNR Regional Office, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids; the MDNR-Division of Lands and Minerals Office, 1525 Third Avenue East, Hibbing; the Hoyt Lakes Public Library, 206 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Hoyt Lakes; The Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Drive, Babbitt; the Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth; and the Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. The SDEIS is also posted on the MDNR website at:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/polymet/index.html>.

The Supplemental Draft EIS is a detailed and lengthy document, more than 2,000 pages in total. A 60-page summary of the SDEIS is available as well as a CD containing the full version of the SDEIS. Due to the cost of printing, there is a limited supply of hardcopy versions of the SDEIS. The summary and/or CD may be requested by calling the MDNR at 651-259-5110.

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3. Three joint federal/state public meetings for the purpose of considering public comments on the SDEIS will be held by the USACE, USFS and the MDNR. The locations and dates of the public meetings are as follows:

(1) Thursday, January 16, 2014

DECC - Duluth Entertainment Convention Center
350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55802
5:00 p.m. – open house
6:45-10:00 p.m. formal presentation and public comment period

(2) Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Mesabi East High School
601 N 1st St W, Aurora, Minnesota 55705
5:00 p.m. – open house
6:45-10:00 p.m. formal presentation and public comment period

(3) Tuesday, January 28, 2014

St. Paul RiverCentre
175 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
5:00 p.m. – open house
6:45-10:00 p.m. formal presentation and public comment period

In case of a weather-related cancellation of one or more of the public meetings, the cancelled meeting(s) will be held at the same location listed above for the following alternative date(s): (1) Thursday, February 27, 2014, DECC - Duluth; (2) Monday, February 3, 2014, Mesabi East High School - Aurora; (3) Tuesday, February 18, 2014, St. Paul RiverCentre - St. Paul.

The public meeting in Duluth will also serve as the Clean Water Act Section 404 public hearing in accordance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Section 327. Information for providing written comments specific to the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit application and Corps public hearing will be provided in a separate public notice issued by the Corps, which will be made available on the Corps web site at: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>.

4. All interested individuals, groups, and agencies are invited and urged to read the SDEIS and to be present or represented at one of the public meetings. Verbal and written comments on the SDEIS will be accepted at these meetings. Statements should be supported by factual information insofar as practicable.

5. The public meetings will consist of an open house, brief presentation by the District, USFS or MDNR, and then an opportunity for the public to make comments. A court reporter will record and transcribe comments made during the oral comment period. Responses to comments will not be

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provided during the public meetings or Clean Water Act hearing; however, staff from the federal and state agencies will be available to answer questions during the open house. Important facts and statements may also be submitted in writing. Written statements on the SDEIS may be turned in at the meetings or mailed to the MDNR after the meeting using the address provided below. The record will be kept open until 4:30 PM on Monday, March 13, 2014, to receive statements. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the official record and will be made available for public examination. All statements addressed to the District will be shared with the USFS and MDNR. Comments and statements will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, therefore, the USACE, USFS and MDNR caution against using any information that should not be publicly disclosed.

6. Please forward statements and comments on the SDEIS to: NorthMetSDEIS.dnr@state.mn.us. Following the close of the comment period, the USFS, MDNR and USACE will review and address all substantive comments received, which will be included as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. For ease of public service, it is requested that all written comments on the SDEIS be submitted to:

Lisa Fay, EIS Project Manager
MDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER

Tamara E. Cameron
Chief, Regulatory Branch