



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

APPLICANT: U.S. Steel Corporation
Minnesota Ore
Operations - Keetac

Special Public Notice

ISSUED: September 25, 2015

EXPIRES: October 5, 2015

REFER TO: 2008-02481-TJH

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

U.S. STEEL CORPORATION HAS REQUESTED A MODIFICATION TO PERMIT 2008-02481-TJH.

U.S. Steel has requested an extension of the permit expiration date from October 3, 2015 to December 31, 2035. A one-year extension of the permit expiration date to October 03, 2016 will be issued by the Corps to U.S. Steel prior to October 03, 2015. The Corps is continuing to evaluate U.S. Steel's request for the time extension until 2035.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Keetac Phase 1 - The project is located in Sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 32, Township 57N, Range 21W, St. Louis County, Minnesota.

Keetac Phase 2 - The project is located in Sections 8, 17, 18, 19, and 20, Township 57N, Range 21W, and Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, and 28, Township 57N, Range 22W, St. Louis County and Itasca Counties, Minnesota.

Palisades I Mitigation Site - S ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 27, Township 49N, Range 24W; E ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 34, Township 49N, Range 24W; S ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 34, Township 49N, Range 24W; E ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 34, Township 49N, Range 24W; and the SE ¼ of Section 34, Township 49N, Range 24 west, Aitkin County, Minnesota.

BACKGROUND: Department of the Army permit 2008-02481-JCC, also known as the "Keetac Phase 1 permit," was first issued to United States Steel (U.S. Steel) on November 29, 2011 for the discharge of dredged and fill material into 75.89 acres of wetlands for the construction of an eastern stockpile and for the structural reinforcement of an existing tailings basin at the Keetac Mine in St. Louis County, Minnesota. Temporarily wetland impacts of 98.38 acres were also authorized as part of the Keetac Phase 1 permit.

The Keetac Phase 1 permit was modified on October 3, 2012 to authorize additional discharges of dredged or fill material into 553.31 acres of wetlands at the Keetac mine site, and the permanent dewatering of 24.96 acres of deep water habitat at the Keetac mine site for the Phase 2 expansion of the east mine pit, south mine pit, east stockpile, and south stockpile. It also authorized the discharge of dredged and fill material into 36.76 acres of wetlands for the construction of upland berms at the Palisades I mitigation site in Aitkin County.

STATUS: Since the permit was issued, U.S. Steel has not pursued the Keetac Expansion, which has resulted in a slower rate of wetland impacts at the Keetac Mine. In addition, mining and production at

Operations - Regulatory (2008-02481-TJH)
SUBJECT: U.S.Steel Keetac Permit Extension

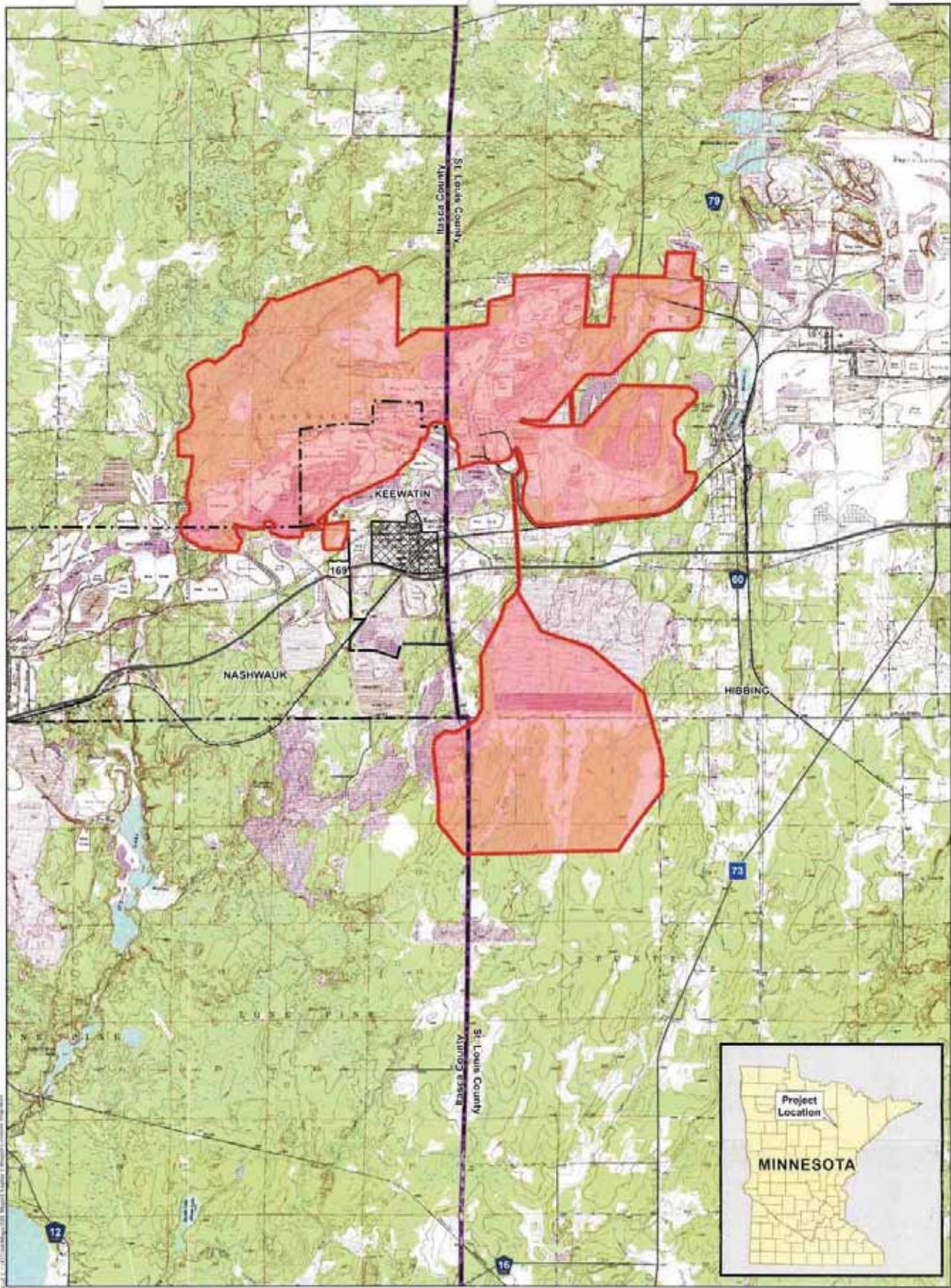
the Keetac Mine has been idled since May 2015 due to excess taconite pellet inventory and steel production adjustments. At this time it is not known when mining and processing activities at the Keetac facility will resume.

DESCRIPTION OF PERMIT MODIFICATION: The expiration date for DA permit 2008-02481-JCB is being extended from October 3, 2015 to October 3, 2016. A special condition is being included to prohibit the alteration of Northern long-eared bat habitat (a Federally listed threatened species). There are no other changes to the terms or conditions of the permit.

If you have questions about the project modification, call Tom Hingsberger at the St. Paul office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290 - 5367.

Benjamin R. Cox
Chief, Northwest Section

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This public notice is provided as background information and is not a request or contract for publication.



Legend

-  Keewatin Urban Development
-  City Boundary
-  Railroad
-  County Boundary
-  Current and Proposed Keetac Footprint



Source: USGS, Barr, LMC, MNDNR, National Hydro Dataset, MPCA, Ramsey County, St. Louis County, City of Hibbing, City of Nashwauk, U.S. Steel, and theDOT, 2008 Aerial Photograph

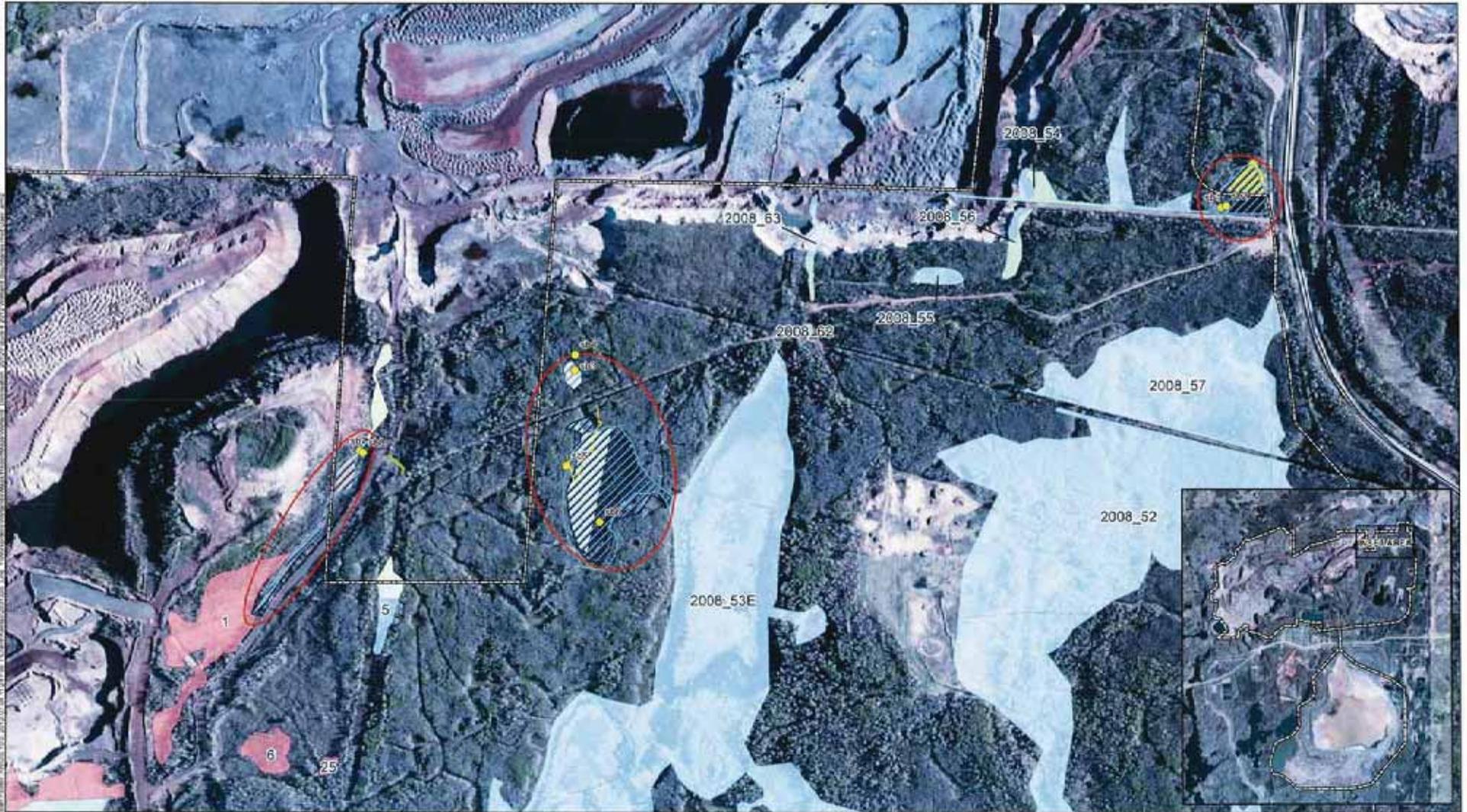
MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 1 of 9.
Keetac Expansion Project Phases 1 & 2 overview map.

**U.S. Steel Keetac
Keewatin, MN**



MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 2 of 9.
Keetac Phase 2 Wetland and Deep Water Habitat Impacts.

Project Area	Wetland ID	Dominant Circular Type	Total Wetland Area (Acres)	Projected Wetland Impacts (Acres)	Dominant Community Type	Vegetative Diversity/Quality	Overall Wetland Quality	Disturbance Type	Wetland Origin
Plant Area	3	5	86.74	6.09	Shallow Open Water	Low	Low		Natural
Plant Area Subtotal			114.18	6.09					
East Mine Pit Expansion	5	2	7.49	0.39	Fresh (Wet) Meadow	High	Moderate	Utility corridor	Natural
East Mine Pit Expansion	7	5	86.74	80.65	Shallow Open Water	Low	Low		Natural
East Mine Pit Expansion	16	1	0.25	0.25	Seasonally Flooded Basin	Low	Low	Tailings Basin	Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_11	1	171.12	18.62	Shallow Marsh	Moderate	Moderate	Impounded	Natural
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_47	1	1.62	1.62	Shallow Marsh	Low	Low	Ditch	Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_52	6	81.33	48.33	Shrub Carr	Moderate	Moderate	Inundated	Natural/Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_53	4	77.28	48.13	Deep Marsh	High	Moderate	Inundated	Natural/Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_54	1	5.57	4.01	Seasonally Flooded Basin	Low	Low	Road	Natural/Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_55	2	6.73	0.73	Fresh (Wet) Meadow	Low	Low	Road	Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_56	2	6.98	0.78	Fresh (Wet) Meadow	Low	Low	Road	Natural/Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_57	3	21.51	21.51	Shallow Marsh	Moderate	Moderate	Inundated, road	Natural
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_58	6	1.75	1.75	Shrub Carr	Moderate	Moderate	Inundated	Natural
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_60	6	0.14	0.14	Shrub Carr	Low	Moderate	Dewatering flow, road	Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	2008_61	3	0.76	0.36	Fresh (Wet) Meadow	Low	Moderate	Road, dewatering	Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	32	3	1.65	1.65	Shallow Marsh	Moderate	Low	Tailings Basin	Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion	33	2	0.49	0.49	Fresh (Wet) Meadow	Low	Low	Tailings Basin	Incidental
East Mine Pit Expansion Subtotal - wetlands			497.69	251.62					
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_8	1	1.54	0.00	Shallow Marsh	Low	Low	Railroad, road	Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_9	1	0.30	0.00	Shallow Marsh	Low	Low	Excavated	Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_16	6	1.38	1.38	Shrub Carr	Moderate	Moderate	Stockpile, road	Natural
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_17	3	7.93	7.93	Shallow Marsh	Low	Moderate	Stockpile, road	Natural/Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_18	6	0.08	0.08	Shrub Carr	Low	Low	Excavated ditch	Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_19	6	0.04	0.04	Shrub Carr	Low	Low	Road	Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_20	1	0.05	0.05	Shallow Marsh	Low	Low	Excavated	Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_56	DW	17.18	17.18	Deep Water				Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion	2008_69	DW	7.78	7.78	Deep Water				Incidental
South Mine Pit Expansion Subtotal - wetlands			9.79	1.48					
South Mine Pit Expansion Subtotal - deep water habitat			24.96	24.96					
East Stockpile Area	2008_13	6	17.83	0.00	Alder Thicket	Moderate	High		Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_11	1	171.12	34.28	Shallow Marsh	Moderate	Moderate	Impounded	Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_33	5	21.05	0.00	Shrub Carr	Moderate	High		Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_34	2	0.04	0.00	Fresh (Wet) Meadow	Low	Low	logged	Incidental
East Stockpile Area	2008_37	4	4.75	1.58	Deep Marsh	Moderate	Low	Impounded	Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_38	4	3.45	1.45	Deep Marsh	Moderate	Low	Impounded	Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_39	5	98.55	98.55	Shallow Open Water	Moderate	Moderate	Impounded	Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_40	5	135.37	135.37	Shallow Open Water	Moderate	Moderate	Impounded	Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_41	5	56.57	1.84	Shallow Open Water	Moderate	Moderate	Impounded	Natural
East Stockpile Area	2008_43	3	0.14	0.14	Shallow Marsh	Low	Low	Excavated	Incidental
East Stockpile Area	2008_51	6	27.34	0.00	Shrub Carr	Moderate	High	Impounded	Natural
East Stockpile Area Subtotal - wetlands			610.28	375.21					
South Stockpile Area	2008_14	3	0.45	0.45	Shallow Marsh	Moderate	Low	Partially excavated	Natural/Incidental
South Stockpile Area	2008_15	3	0.91	0.91	Shallow Marsh	High	Low	Excavated ditch	Incidental
South Stockpile Area	2008_44	7	9.53	9.53	Hardwood Swamp	Moderate	High		Natural
South Stockpile Area Subtotal - wetlands			10.91	10.91					
Tailings Basin Mitigation I	2	3	53.03	0.00	Shallow Marsh				Incidental
Tailings Basin Mitigation I	3	4	22.81	0.00	Deep Marsh				Incidental
Tailings Basin Mitigation I	4	4	15.42	0.00	Deep Marsh				Incidental
Tailings Basin Mitigation I	5	3	1.95	0.00	Shallow Marsh				Incidental
Tailings Basin Area Subtotal - wetlands			93.17	0.00					
Total Wetlands			1295.94	551.31					
Total Deepwater Habitat			24.96	24.96					
Total - All Waters			1320.90	576.27					

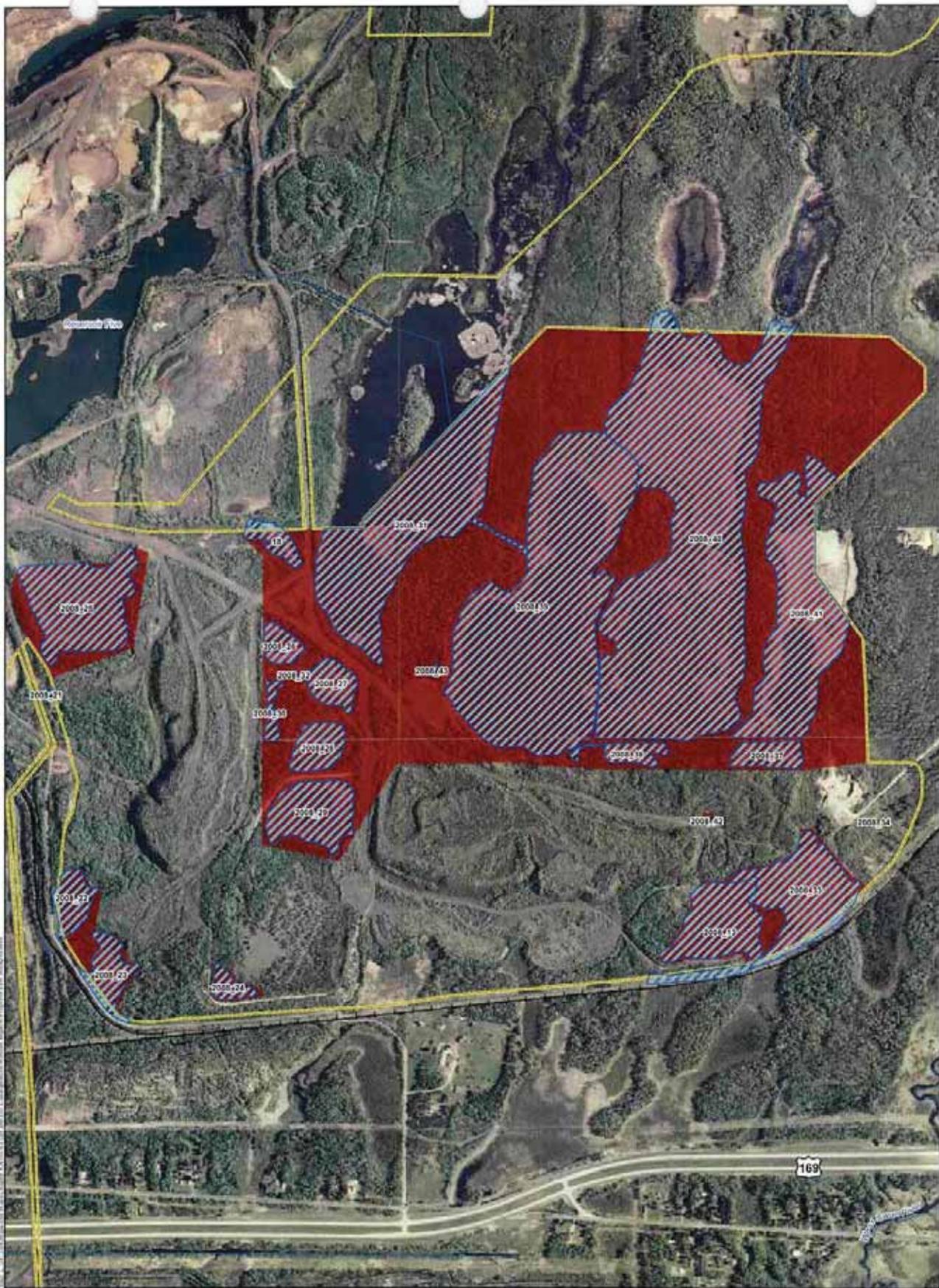


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|--|---------------------------|
| Tree Clearing <i>Approximate Edge of Disturbance</i> | 2012 Soil Boring |
| Current <i>Approximate HibbTac Pit Edge</i> | Review Area |
| Permitted Wetland Impacts | Facility Boundary |
| 2012 Wetland Delineation | Permitted Wetland Impacts |
| 2008 Hibbing Taconite Permit Application Wetland Impacts | Wetlands |
| 1995 Hibbing Taconite Permitted Wetland Impacts | Previous Wetland Boundary |
| Remaining wetland area - impacted by pit | |



MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 3 of 9.
 Keetac Phase 2 Project Area & Hibbtac Overstripping Areas.
 Permitted Phase 2 Impacts Are Shaded In Light Blue.

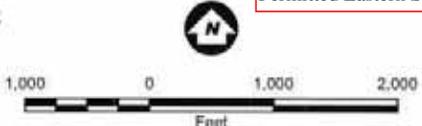
U. S. Steel
 Keewatin, MN
 Figure 1



Legend

-  Current and Proposed Keetac Footprint
-  Proposed East Stockpile
-  Wetland Impact
-  Railroad
-  Streams

MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 4 of 9.
 Permitted Eastern Stockpile Deep Water Habitat & Wetland Impacts.



Proposed East Stockpile
 U.S. Steel Keetac
 Keewatin, MN

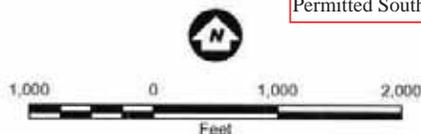
Source: USGS, Barr, LMIC, MNDNR, National Hydro Dataset, MPCA, Ancker County, St. Louis County, City of Hibbing, City of Newbrend, U.S. Steel, and MnDOT, 2008 Aerial Photograph





Legend

- Current and Proposed Keetac Footprint
- Proposed South Mine Pit Expansion
- Wetland Impact
- County Boundary
- City Boundary
- Keewatin Urban Development
- Railroad
- Streams

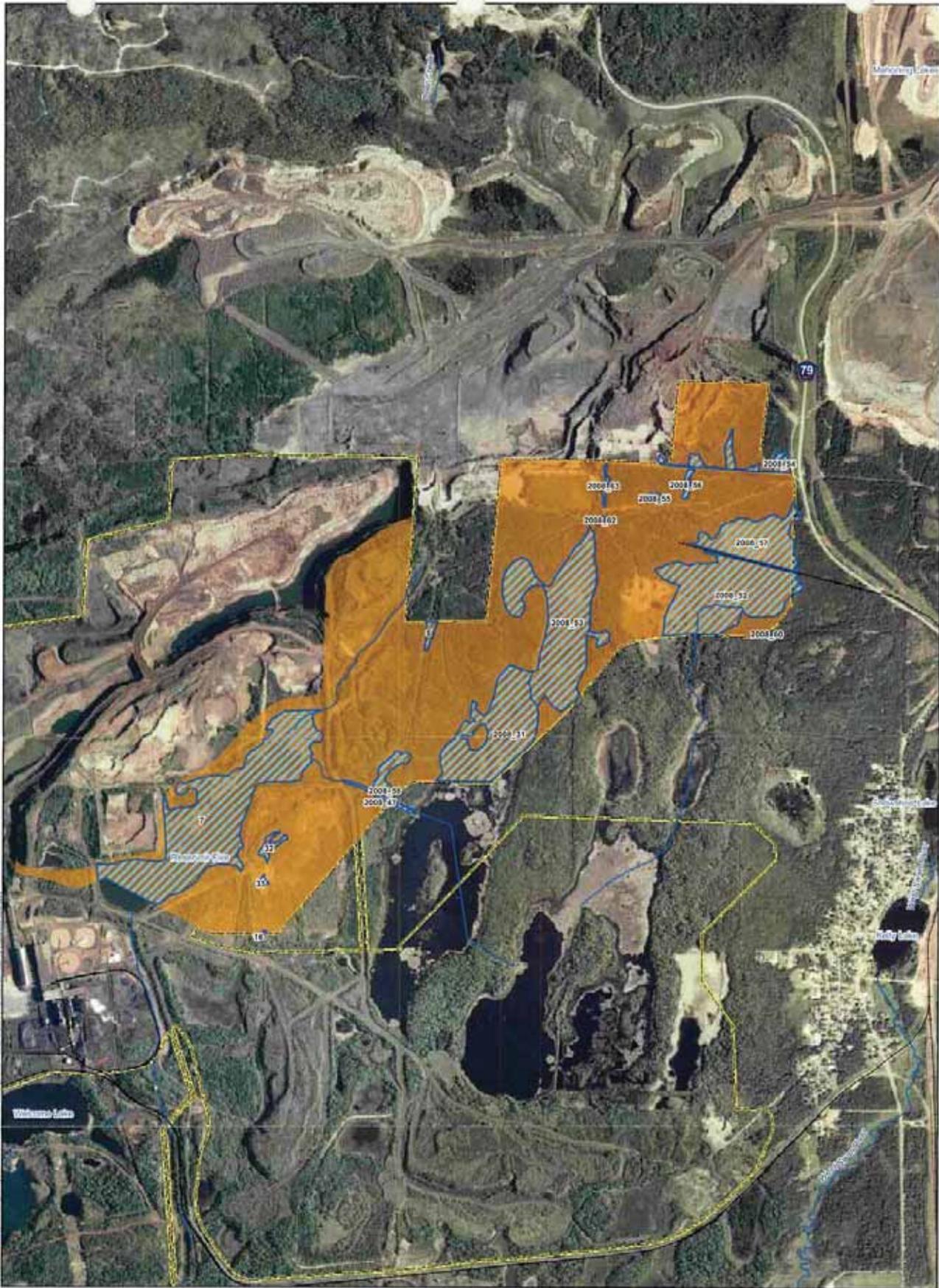


Source: USGS, Base LMC, MNDR, National Hydro Dataset, MPCA, Itasca County, St. Louis County, City of Hibbing, City of Naywauk, U.S. Steel, and MnDOT, 2008 Aerial Photograph

MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 5 of 9.
Permitted South Mine Pit Deep Water Habitat & Wetland Impacts.

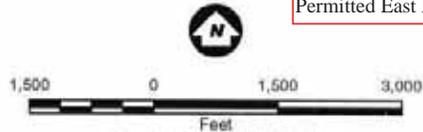
Proposed South Mine Pit Expansion
U.S. Steel Keetac
Keewatin, MN





Legend

-  Current and Proposed Keetac Footprint
-  Proposed East Mine Pit Expansion
-  Wetland Impact
-  Streams
-  Railroad



Source: USGS, Bar, LMC, MNDNR, National Hydro Dataset, MPCA, Itasca County, St. Louis County, City of Hibbing, City of Newfane, U.S. Steel, and MNDNR, 2008, Aerial Photograph.

MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 6 of 9.
Permitted East Mine Pit Deep Water Habitat & Wetland Impacts.

Proposed East Mine Pit Expansion
U.S. Steel Keetac
Keewatin, MN





Legend

- Current and Proposed Keetac Footprint
- Wetland Impact
- Plant Area
- County Boundary
- City Boundary
- Keewatin Urban Development
- Railroad
- Streams

MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 7 of 9.
 Permitted Mine Plant Area Deep Water Habitat & Wetland Impacts.



Source: USGS, Bar, LMC, MNDR, National Hydro Dataset, MPCA, Itasca County, St. Louis County, City of Hibbing, City of Nishnabotw, U.S. Geol. and MINECI, 2008 Aerial Photograph

Impacts Plant Area
 U.S. Steel Keetac
 Keewatin, MN





Legend

- Current and Proposed Keetac Footprint
- Proposed South Stockpile
- Wetland Impact
- City Boundary
- Keewatin Urban Development
- Railroad
- Streams



Source: USGS, Bar, LMIG, MNDR, National Hydro Dataset, MPCA, Rice County, St. Louis County, City of Hibbing, City of Nashvork, U.S. Steel, and MNDNR, 2008 Aerial Photograph

MVP-2008-02481-JCB MODIFICATION, Page 8 of 9.
Permitted South Stockpile Wetland Impacts.

Proposed South Stockpile
U.S. Steel Keetac
Keewatin, MN



