



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St Paul District

**APPLICANT: PolyMet Mining, Inc**

## **Special Public Notice**

**ISSUED: 13 January 2014**

**EXPIRES: 13 March 2014**

**REFER TO: MVP-1999-5528-JKA**

**SECTION:404 - Clean Water Act**

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### **SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 404 PUBLIC HEARING AND SUBMISSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. This is a special public notice providing additional information regarding opportunities for public comment on the proposed discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the U.S. associated with the PolyMet Mining Inc. (PolyMet) proposed NorthMet Project (Project). The Polymet application for a Department of Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is available for viewing on the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers web page at:

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/regulatory/MN-Special/199905528A.pdf>

2. A public notice of the receipt of the Polymet permit application was issued on December 13, 2013, and included an announcement of a public hearing to be held concurrently with a public meeting for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) that has been jointly prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (USACE); the U.S. Forest Service, Superior National Forest (USFS); and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The SDEIS describes the anticipated environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed NorthMet Project and Land Exchange. The SDEIS can be viewed at the following web page:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/polymet/index.html>

3. The public hearing will be held in Duluth on January 16, 2014. Details for the Duluth meeting are listed below. There will be several additional opportunities in January to provide verbal and written comments on the Project. All public comments provided verbally or in writing at any of the public meetings will be considered by the USACE in evaluating the Polymet permit application.

4. Details for the public meetings scheduled for Duluth, Aurora and St. Paul are as follows:

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 Clean Water Act Section 404 permit application public hearing/public comment session. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Onsite parking in the DECC parking lot is available for \$5. Additional parking information can be found on the following web page: [www.decc.org/parking-directions/parking.html](http://www.decc.org/parking-directions/parking.html)

Fifteen informational stations and representatives from state and federal agencies will be available so participants can ask questions and discuss aspects of the SDEIS. A video outlining the project proposal and the environmental review process will be available for viewing. Public statements will be heard in an adjacent room, during the open house. This portion of the meeting will begin with a formal presentation at 6:45 p.m., followed by public comments, concluding at 10 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22, 2014, – Mesabi East High School, 601 N 1st St W, Aurora, Minnesota 55705,

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5:00 p.m. – Open house, 6:45-10:00 p.m. – Formal presentation and public comment session.

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 session.

5. The public meetings and public hearing will consist of an open house, brief presentation of the project and the EIS process, and an opportunity for the public to make comments. A court reporter will record and transcribe comments made during the verbal comment period. Members of the public may register to speak during the verbal comment period. An independent facilitator will select speakers at random from among all those attendees that have registered to speak. Verbal comments may also be provided to a stenographer that will be available at each of the public meetings. Facts and statements may also be submitted in writing.

6. Written statements on the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit application may be turned in at the meetings or mailed to the USACE after the meeting using the address provided below. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the proposed project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. The record will be kept open until 4:30 PM on Monday, March 13, 2014, to receive statements. All statements, both verbal 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, and may be forwarded to the applicant. 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.

7. Although the public meetings in Aurora and St. Paul are not specifically identified as public hearings for the USACE permit evaluation, these are joint meetings that will be attended by the co-lead agencies for the SDEIS, including the USACE. As with the Duluth public hearing, these subsequent meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to provide verbal and written statements regarding the proposed Project and the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit evaluation, and a verbatim transcript will be prepared of those meetings. Statements and information provided at any of the meetings will be equally considered during the permit evaluation process.

8. The USACE received a written request to conduct an additional public hearing, specific to the Section 404 permit application and held separately from the public meetings for the SDEIS. At this time, the USACE has determined that a Section 404 public hearing held concurrently with the public meeting for the SDEIS, in conjunction with the public meetings held in Aurora and St. Paul, will provide the interested public with a reasonable opportunity to comment. However, should the USACE subsequently determine that an additional public hearing is warranted, another public hearing would be scheduled at that time, and notice of any additional hearing will be posted on the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers web page at:

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/SpecialNotices.aspx>

9. Statements may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, ATTN: MVP-1999-5528-JKA, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678.

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