NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange EIS

EPA Items Batch 4 – Presentation Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM CT
DNR Central Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. Welcome/Agenda check

2. Process Check-in

3. EPA Remaining Issues Table

3a. PFEIS Text Items

Preparatory Deliverables

- PFEIS Section 5.2.2.3.5 Proposed and Recommended Mitigation Measures [Issues 1, 2, 9, 10]
- PFEIS Section 5.2.2.3.1 NorthMet Project Proposed Action Water Budget Overview [Issue 1]
- PFEIS Section 5.2.2.3.2 Partridge River Watershed [Issue 1]
- PFEIS Section 5.2.2, Summary [Issue 6]
- PFEIS Section 5.2.2.3.3 Tailings Basin Groundwater Containment System [Issue 3]
- PFEIS Section 5.2.2.3.3 Embarass River Watershed [Issue 5]
- PFEIS section 5.2.14: Subsection 5.2.14.2.3 starts on page 38 of the PDF file [Issue 12]
- PFEIS section 5.2.2.5.4 [Issue 12]
- PFEIS section 4.2.14: Subsection 4.2.14.3 starts on page 23 of the PDF file [Issue 12]
- PFEIS section 3.2.2.3.7 (EPA already received in Batch 1) [Issue 12]
- PFEIS section 3.2.2.3.10 (EPA already received in Batch 1) [Issue 12]

➢ **Issue #1**
Acid generation may occur from pits, pit walls, waste rock and lean ore piles, but will be managed on-site through collection, treatment, disposal, and use of adaptive management as needed.

➢ **Issue #2**
During active mining and post-closure, water quality standard exceedances will be prevented through on-site treatment or other measures, before discharge to waters of the U.S. --SDS approach to monitoring.

➢ **Issue #3**
A groundwater capture and containment system will be installed at the tailings basin.

➢ **Issue #5**
Ground water will be collected from faults and fractures in the upper bedrock using negative pressure from the tailings basin capture and containment system. Adaptive management techniques will be used at the mine site as needed to stop groundwater flow along faults and fractures.

➢ **Issue #6**
The water model is not designed to estimate the duration of active water treatment. The EIS will clarify this, b) the role of financial assurance and adaptive management in ensuring that water

quality standards are met, and DNR's intent to require the project proposer to pilot, and potentially implement, passive treatment as a permit condition if the project proceeds.

- **Issue #9**
  The sensitivity of water quality impacts to groundwater base flow at the mine site is being investigated.
  • Action: Provide sensitivity analysis to EPA for review.
- **Issue #10**
  Modeling and mitigation measures for mercury releases in the Lake Superior watershed can use a mass-balance approach, if this is combined with adaptive management to assure future mitigation of releases as needed.
  • Action: Co-lead agencies agree to use adaptive management.
- **Issue #12**
  Co-lead agencies are continuing to assess the design of the hydrometallurgical residue facility.
  • Action: Provide updated data packages and management plans to EPA for review.

3b. Partridge River Item

Preparatory Deliverables

- Response to EPA Comment #25: Cumulative effects to water resources – changes to Partridge River Flow [Issue 25]
- PFEIS Section 6.2.2: Subsection 6.2.2.3.1 (*not 6.2.3.3.3 as previously noted*) starts on page 5 of the PDF File. Cumulative Effects on Hydrology Response to EPA Comment #8: Colby Lake Modeling [Issue 25]

- **Issue #25**
  Comment #25 Cumulative effects to water resources – changes to Partridge River Flow

3c. Wetland Item – *PENDING*

Preparatory Deliverables

- Response to EPA Comment #19: Criteria for wetland fragmentation loss [Issue 21]

- **Issue #21**
  Comment #19 criteria for wetland fragmentation loss

4. Other

5. Next Meeting: Batch 4 Resolution – Thursday, April 09, 2015