2016 Second Quarter Mining Report

Facility Name:	**Poly Met Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) NorthMet Mining Project**
Current Actions:	1) Pre-permit application submittal discussions
	2) 401 Certification discussions in parallel with 404 permit preparation
Project Supervisor	Ann Foss
Project Manager:	Jim Robin (WQ), Steve Sommer (AQ)
Lead Staff:	Suzanne Baumann/Hassan Bouchareb (AQ), Richard Clark /Stephanie Handeland (WQ), Jeff Stollenwerk/Jen Oknich (401)
Lead Agencies:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- MPCA has continued meeting with PolyMet to discuss the air and water permitting processes. MPCA has not received applications for permits.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- MPCA, and as appropriate, other permitting agency staff (i.e., DNR and USACE) and PolyMet will meet to discuss issues related to future submittal of permit applications.
- MPCA staff will remain in communication with the EIS Co-lead Agencies as the federal Records of Decisions on the FEIS are considered.

Facility Name:	**US Steel (USS) - Minntac**
Current actions:	1) Water quality permit reissuance (NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0057207) for the tailings basin 2) Multi-media Schedule of Compliance (SOC)
Project Supervisor:	Suzanne Baumann
Project Manager:	Steve Sommer
Lead Staff:	Erik Smith (WQ), John Thomas (WQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- Multi-agency meeting with Minntac on June 27, 2016, discussed outstanding issues, including those associated with the 2011 Schedule of Compliance.
- Six month update of the groundwater sulfate reduction plan for monitoring well MW012 submitted June 30, 2016.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Ongoing implementation of the groundwater sulfate reduction plan at monitoring well MW012.

Facility Name:	**US Steel - Keetac**
Current actions:	Water quality permit compliance schedule (NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0031879)
Project Supervisor:	Suzanne Baumann
Project Manager:	Steve Sommer
Lead Staff:	Brandon Smith (WQ), John Thomas (WQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- Received a draft Pilot Test Work Plan from Keetac on May 31, 2016, as required by the March 11, 2016, Schedule of Compliance.
- MPCA provided comments to Keetac on the draft Pilot Test Work Plan by letter dated June 13, 2016.
- Received a final Pilot Test Work Plan (June 24, 2016) from Keetac that addressed MPCA comments.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Keetac will initiate implementation of the final Pilot Test Work Plan.

Facility Name:	**Cliffs Erie LLC – Hoyt Lakes Mining Area and Tailings Basin Area**
Current actions:	Reissuance of combined water quality permits (NPDES/SDS Permit Nos. MN0042536 and MN0054089)
Project Supervisor:	Ann Foss
Project Manager:	Jim Robin
Lead Staff:	Richard Clark, Stephanie Handeland
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- Continued discussions with the company to acquire necessary information for permitting and to assure continued progress on Consent Decree requirements.
- Cliffs Erie submitted draft updated Long Term Mitigation Evaluation and Implementation Plans for the Tailings Basin (SD026) and for Area 5 (SD033) in June.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Continue internal discussion with the goal of refining the permitting approach and continuing progress on the schedules for the various mining areas/discharges.
- Draft updated Long Term Mitigation Plans for the remaining Hoyt Lakes mining areas and for the Dunka mining area are expected in July 2016.

Facility Name:	**Northshore Mining Company**
Current actions:	1) Water quality permit reissuance for Silver Bay Plant and Mile Post 7 (MP7) Tailings Basin (NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0055301) 2) Air permit major amendment application from Northshore to remove the Control City Standard (Draft Air Emission Permit No. 07500003-011) 3) EAW for Peter Mitchell Pit Progression
Project Supervisor:	Jeff Udd (WQ) Suzanne Baumann (AQ)
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	Brandon Smith (WQ reissuance of plant site permit), Richard Clark (EAW)
Lead Agency:	MPCA for AQ and WQ Permits; DNR for EAW

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- Submitted draft NPDES/SDS permit to company, and reviewed comments to proceed toward pre-public notice review.
- Developing conditions, technical support document (TSD), and supporting documents for draft fiber AQ permit amendment.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Complete pre-public notice review of NPDES/SDS permit and publish draft NPDES/SDS permit for public comment period.
- Continue work on the fiber-related air permit amendment. Goal to send the draft conditions to the tribes and Northshore in early August.
- Goal of Presentation of the draft fiber-related air permit amendment to the MPCA Advisory Committee on August 16, 2016.

Facility Name:	**United Taconite LLC - Fairlane Plant**
Current actions:	Air permit moderate amendment to produce higher flux-content taconite pellets (including installing low NO_X burners on both induration lines) (Draft Permit No. 13700113-007)
Project Supervisor:	Suzanne Baumann
Project Manager:	Steve Sommer
Lead Staff:	Hassan Bouchareb (AQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- On May 5, 2016, United Taconite submitted revised air permit application materials and MPCA sent a revised construction authorization letter to United Taconite on June 7, 2016.
- On June 14, 2016, an internal draft permit was prepared and sent to permit team members for peer review.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Continue drafting the operating portion of the moderate permit amendment.
  Provide the company and interested tribal parties a copy of the preliminary permit prior to sending the draft permit to EPA for their review.

Facility Name:	**Hibbing Taconite Company**
Current actions:	Water quality reissuance of tailings basin NPDES/SDS permit No. MN0049760
Project Supervisor:	Richard Clark
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	TBD (WQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- No MPCA activity during this reporting period.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Continue work on combined Mine Area and Tailings Basin water quality permit as staffing and priorities allow.

Facility Name:	**Magnetation Plant 1**
Current Actions:	1) Water quality permit reissuance (SDS Permit No. MN0069221)
	2) Air quality initial permit issuance (Draft Permit No. 06100076-001)
Project Supervisor:	Suzanne Baumann
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	Erik Smith (WQ), Ben Wenkel (AQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- No MPCA activity during this reporting period..

Plans for next reporting period:

- Continue work on the draft permit.

Facility Name:	**Mining Resources, LLC**
Current Actions:	1) Air quality initial permit issuance (Draft Permit No. 13700341-001)
	2) Water quality permit reissuance (SDS Permit No. MN0070050)
Project Supervisor:	Suzanne Baumann
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	Sarah Seelen (AQ), Stephanie Handeland (WQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- The MPCA is working on drafting an initial air quality permit for Mining Resources, LLC.
- Mining Resources submitted an application for water quality permit reissuance in May 2016.

Plans for next reporting period:

- The MCPA will continue working on a draft air quality permit.
- Begin work on draft water quality permit.

Facility Name:	**Twin Metals**
Current actions:	Support DNR on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for a proposed bulk sample
Project Supervisor:	Suzanne Baumann
Project Manager:	Ann Foss
Lead Staff:	Vacant
Lead Agency:	DNR

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- No MPCA activity during this reporting period.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Continue to assist DNR as needed.

MAJOR PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS QUARTER

Cliffs Erie LLC – Hoyt Lakes: Part 70 Air Permit Reissuance Application received May 26, 2016

COMPLETED MINING PROJECTS

Project Name: **Mag Mining LLC Plant 4 – Initial Air Quality Permit Issuance**
Completed: Part 70 major air quality permit was issued March 15, 2016 (Permit No. 06100079-001)
Lead Staff: Sarah Seelen

Project Name: **Magnetation Plant 2 Water Permit**
Completed: Water quality permit reissued on October 10, 2015
Project Coordinator: Suzanne Baumann
Lead Staff: Erik Smith, Ben Underhill

Project Name: **US Steel – Keetac – Water Quality Permit Modification**
Completed: Water quality permit modification to modify turbidity limits (NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0031879) was issued on September 4, 2015, with an effective date of October 1, 2015
Lead Staff: Brandon Smith

Project Name: **Magnetation Plant 2 – Initial Air Quality Permit Issuance**
Completed: Part 70 major air quality permit was issued August 18, 2015 (Permit No. 06100078-001)
Lead Staff: Hassan Bouchareb

Project Name: **United Taconite – Wet to Dry Particulate Control Change and Modify Scrubber Solids Wasting Requirements**
Completed: Major air permit amendment to replace 22 wet scrubbers with baghouses that control particulate emissions from material handling operations and modify the scrubber solids wasting requirements. Issued on May 19, 2015 (Permit No. 13700113-006).
Lead Staff: Owen Seltz

Project Name: **Hibbing Taconite Company – Wet to Dry Particulate Control Change and Modify Scrubber Solids Wasting Requirements**
Completed: Air permit major modification (Permit No. 1370006-007) to update GP 019: In-Pit Crushing and Cobbing (IPCC) for increased flexibility. Issued on June 1, 2015.
Lead Staff: Sarah Seelen

Project Name: **Northshore Mining Company – Material Handling Equipment Project**

Completed:	Moderate air permit amendment to install additional material handling equipment in the finished pellet yard was issued on February 5, 2015 (Permit No. 07500003-010).
Lead Staff:	Cindy Schafer

Project Name:	**Northshore Mining Company – Low NOx Burner Project**
Completed:	Major air permit amendment was issued on January 26, 2015 for the installation of low NOx burners (Permit No. 07500003-009).
Lead Staff:	Hassan Bouchareb