Tribal Consultation with EPA Region 5: PolyMet Issues

RESPONSE TO FOND DU LAC REQUEST FOR EPA REVIEW OF HYDROLOGIC MODEL (Oct. 26, 2015 letter)

WETLANDS

- LEDPA identification
- Indirect wetland impacts analysis/drawdown
- Mitigation adequacy

WATER QUALITY

- Mercury impacts
- Wild rice impacts, compliance points for meeting WQS, what standard should be applied
- NPDES permits
- General ability to meet WQS; existing WQ and Aquatic Life Use impairments in the watershed(s)

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Adequacy/comprehensiveness of analysis
- Carbon sequestration loss related to wetland impacts

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- Link to EPA consultation policy on treaty resources
- Indirect wetland impacts
- Direct wetland impacts
- NRRI analyses (historic wetlands, wetland losses, connectivity for wildlife passage – conditions for permits?)
- Appropriate APE for water quality, wetland CEA is the St. Louis River watershed

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

- History of our engagement with EPA on this specific issue
- Recently finalized guidance, pending federal rules applicable to hard rock mining

NEXT STEPS