**DRAFT – May 1, 2017**

# Proposed Approach for Industrial Stormwater Permitting

**Introduction**

The following table is a summary of NorthMet project areas with a potential to discharge industrial stormwater that will not be routed, directly or indirectly, to the NorthMet wastewater treatment system (WWTS).

| | **Mine Site** | **Transportation & Utility Corridors** | **Plant Site** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Applicable MN ISW General Permit Sectors | G1, G2 | P | G1 |
| Existing Pre-1988 Area | | 54.6 acres | 152.5 acres |
| 'New' NorthMet Project Construction | **18.7 acres** | **2.0 acres** | **110.4 acres** |
| Total Area | 18.7 acres | 56.6 acres | 262.9 acres |
| Significant Discharge | No | No | Yes |
| Proposed ISW Permit Coverage Type | General | General | Individual (included in NPDES/SDS permit) |
| Antidegradation analysis needed? | No | No | Yes |

For the purposes of industrial stormwater permitting, the NorthMet project area will be addressed as three permitted areas: the Mine Site, the Transportation and Utility Corridor and the Plant Site because they have:

- Geographically separate and distinct areas (i.e., the Mine Site is 6-8 miles separated from the Plant Site)
- Different receiving waters for industrial stormwater runoff
- Different applicable stormwater sectors

**Mine Site**

- Mine Site disturbed area generating stormwater not otherwise captured and treated and needing NorthMet industrial stormwater permitting is ~19 acres
    - Mainly exterior slopes of the Equalization Basins and RR spur to the Rail Transfer Hopper
    - There are no existing pre-1988 disturbed areas
    - All other Mine Site runoff is captured and treated as 'mine water' at the WWTS
- Applicable Sectors are: Sector G1 – Active Copper Ore Mining and Dressing Facilities and Sector G2 – Active Metal Mining Facilities
- Discharge of industrial stormwater from these Mine Site areas will be permitted under Minnesota's 2015 Industrial Stormwater General Permit
- Additional Antidegradation analysis is not needed
    - Nondegradation has already been addressed in the 2010/2015 issuances of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit

***Disclaimer**: This document is a working document. This document may change over time as a result of new information, further deliberation, or other factors not yet known to the agency.*

**Transportation & Utility Corridor**

- Transportation and Utility Corridor (TUC) disturbed area with the potential to generate industrial stormwater is ~57 acres
    - ~55 acres of this total are existing pre-1988 disturbed areas
    - The remaining disturbed areas needing NorthMet industrial stormwater permitting is 2 acres
- Applicable Sector is: Sector P – Land, Transportation and Warehousing
- Discharge of industrial stormwater from these TUC areas will be under Minnesota's 2015 Industrial Stormwater General Permit
- Additional Antidegradation analysis is not needed
    - Nondegradation has already been addressed in the 2010/2015 issuances of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit

**Plant Site**

- Plant Site disturbed area generating stormwater not otherwise captured and treated is ~263 acres
    - ~153 acres of this total are existing pre-1988 disturbed areas
    - The remaining disturbed areas needing NorthMet industrial stormwater permitting is ~110 acres
        - Mainly exterior slopes of the Tailings Basin south dam and exterior slopes of the HRF
    - All other Plant Site runoff is captured and treated at the WWTS
- Applicable Sector is: Sector G1 – Active Copper Ore Mining and Dressing Facilities
- These remaining Plant Site disturbed areas do NOT qualify for ISW General permit coverage
- Discharge of industrial stormwater from these remaining Plant Site areas will be permitted as a part of the NorthMet individual NPDES/SDS permit
    - Individual permit will include an Industrial Stormwater chapter with applicable requirements
- An Antidegradation analysis is needed for newly disturbed plant site area
    - Required because the remaining disturbed area is greater than 90 acres, which was the maximum project area addressed by the previous antidegradation review

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**Minnesota Industrial Stormwater General Permit – Background Info**

- The 2015 MN Industrial Stormwater General Permit antidegradation assessment relies on the 2010 MN Industrial Stormwater General Permit antidegradation assessment.
- Calculation of areas with potential to discharge industrial stormwater is the same under the 2015 and 2010 MN Industrial Stormwater General Permits (Part IV.B.2.c of each permit):
    - *"A calculation of the facility acreage that has industrial activity and/or significant materials in contact with stormwater, from new or existing facilities since January 1, 1988. The calculation excludes acreage that does not have the potential to discharge industrial stormwater (e.g. natural and landscaped areas, employee parking lots, and office buildings, etc.)."*
- Antidegradation Review – Industrial Stormwater (for 2010 and 2015 Minnesota Industrial Stormwater General Permits):
    - The nondegradation review for all waters conducted by the MPCA for the 2010 MN Industrial Stormwater General Permit determined that "*new or expanded discharges that meet the definition of significant discharges should have a nondegradation review in an individual permit*" (Section 8.3 of the 2010 MN Industrial Stormwater General Permit Fact Sheet).
        - Where "*for purposes of the Industrial Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit, a significant discharge is any discharge which is new or expanded discharge after January 1, 1988, and from an area which exceeds 90 acres of industrial activity*" (Section 8.3 of the 2010 MN Industrial Stormwater General Permit Fact Sheet).
    - Facilities whose industrial stormwater discharges are not significant discharges can be covered under the MN Industrial Stormwater General Permit.

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