2018 Third Quarter Mining Report

Facility Name:	**Poly Met Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) NorthMet Mining Project**
Current Actions:	1) NPDES/SDS permit (Draft NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0071013)
	2) Part 70 air emission permit (Draft Permit No. 13700345-101)
	3) 401 Certification (Draft Certification No. 1999-5528-JKA)
	4) Construction Stormwater General Permit Coverage
Project Supervisor:	Jeff Udd, Richard Clark, Jeff Stollenwerk
Project Manager:	Jim Robin
Lead Staff:	Sarah Seelen (AQ), Stephanie Handeland (WQ), Jen Oknich (401 Certification)
Lead Agencies:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- General
  - To sign up for the email subscription list to receive quarterly updates and other PolyMet-related notifications please go to: www.mn.gov/polymet
- Air Quality
  - The public notice period for the draft air quality permit ended on March 16, 2018. MPCA is currently reviewing comments submitted.
- Water Quality
  - The public notice period for the draft NPDES/SDS permit ended on March 16, 2018. MPCA is currently reviewing comments and contested case hearing petitions submitted and will continue to maintain conversations as needed with EPA during the response to comment process.
- 401 Certification
  - The public notice period for the draft 401 Certification ended on March 16, 2018. MPCA is currently reviewing comments and contested case hearing petitions submitted.

- Construction Stormwater
    - Coverage under the Construction Stormwater General Permit for mine site geotechnical investigations and well installation work became effective on December 7, 2017. This coverage is still in effect and geotechnical investigation and well installation is in progress.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- MPCA will continue reviewing and responding to the comments and contested case hearing requests submitted during the public notice period.
- MPCA will continue to update the agency's project web site with permit-related information that may be of interest to the general public and send at least quarterly updates to the email subscription list.
- MPCA will provide proposed revised air and water permits to EPA for 45-day review.

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) 3) U.S. Steel application for Variance from water quality standards related to the draft NPDES/SDS permit 4) U.S. Steel request for site specific water quality standards and/or use removal
Project Supervisor:	Jeff Udd
Project Manager:	Jim Robin
Lead Staff:	Erik Smith (WQ), John Thomas (WQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- MPCA is evaluating the contested case hearing and variance requests and working on responses to comments.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Continue to evaluate comments and contested case hearing requests received on the draft NPDES/SDS permit for the tailings basin.
- Continue to evaluate comments received on the preliminary determination to deny the request for a variance to water quality standards.
- Ongoing implementation of the groundwater Sulfate Reduction Plan at monitoring well GW 012.

Facility Name:	**US Steel (USS) - Keetac**
Current actions:	Air permit major amendment application to replace wet scrubber CE002 (for Primary Gyratory Crusher No. 2 (EU002)) with a dry cartridge collector venting to a HEPA filter exhausting inside the building (Draft Air Emission Permit No. 13700063-006)
Project Supervisor:	Steve Pak
Project Manager:	none
Lead Staff:	Andrew Luberda (AQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- MPCA has begun to review the permit application for the major permit amendment and is working on determining the scope of the permit action.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Review and address the elements of the air permit application and finalize the scope of the permit action.

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:	Jeff Udd
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.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Continue limited internal discussion with the goal of refining the permitting approach and continuing progress on the schedules for the various mining areas/discharges.
- Continue technical review of the updated long-term mitigation plans with follow-up discussions with Cliffs Erie as needed.

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 change how fibers are regulated (Draft Air Emission Permit No. 07500003-101)
Project Supervisor:	Jeff Udd (WQ) TBD (AQ)
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	Brandon Smith (WQ reissuance of plant site permit)
Lead Agency:	MPCA for AQ and WQ Permits

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- No MPCA activity during this reporting period.

Plans for the next reporting period:

- Staff will continue evaluating pre-public notice feedback on the NPDES/SDS permit.
- Determine what revisions are needed to the draft NPDES/SDS permit and a plan for public notice.

Facility Name:	**ERP Iron Ore Plant 1 formerly 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:	Richard Clark
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.
- The facility is idled.

Plans for next reporting period:

- None at this time.

Facility Name:	**ERP Iron Ore Plant 4 formerly Magnetation Plant 4**
Current Actions:	Water quality permit reissuance (SDS Permit No. MN0070378)
Project Supervisor:	Richard Clark
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	Erik Smith (WQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- Began review of application for permit reissuance

Plans for next reporting period:

- None at this time.
- The facility is idled.

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:	Richard Clark
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	Sarah Seelen (AQ), Stephanie Handeland (WQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- No activity during this reporting period.
- The facility is idled.

Plans for next reporting period:

- The MPCA will continue working on a draft air quality permit, as time allows.
- Begin work on draft water quality permit.

Facility Name:	**Mesabi Metallics Company LLC (Mesabi Metallics)/Essar Steel Minnesota**
Current Actions:	1) Part 70 permit reissuance and major amendment for final engineering updates (Draft Permit No. 06100067-005) 2) Water quality permit reissuance (NPDES/SDS permit MN0068241)
Project Supervisor:	Richard Clark
Project Manager:	None
Lead Staff:	Ben Wenkel (AQ)
Lead Agency:	MPCA

Accomplishments during this reporting period:

- MPCA continues to review the other air modeling reports and elements of the air permit application.

Plans for next reporting period:

- Continue to review the other air modeling reports and elements of the air permit application.

MAJOR PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS QUARTER

- No major permit applications were received during this quarter.

COMPLETED MINING PROJECTS

Project Name: **United Taconite LLC – Thunderbird Rouchleau TH-53 Progression 401 Certification**
Completed: MPCA waived the 401 Certification (No. 2017-01089-DWW) on February 16, 2018
Lead Staff: Jen Oknich

Project Name: **United Taconite LLC - Fairlane Plant Moderate Air Quality Permit Amendment**
Completed: Moderate air quality permit amendment for higher flux pellet production was issued January 9, 2017 (Permit No. 13700113-007)
Lead Staff: Hassan Bouchareb

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