Message

From: Holst, Linda [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=97E4A65ADDD9494FA193C98DD5D12B55-LHOLST]
Sent: 2/22/2019 1:18:43 AM
To: Westlake, Kenneth [westlake.kenneth@epa.gov]
CC: Burdick, Melanie [Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov]; McKim, Krista [mckim.krista@epa.gov]; Pierard, Kevin [pierard.kevin@epa.gov]; Wester, Barbara [wester.barbara@epa.gov]; Sedlacek, Michael [Sedlacek.Michael@epa.gov]; Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]; Miller, Anna [miller.anna@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: NorthMet/PolyMet - Interactions with MPCA from 2005 through 2011

Amazing summary, Ken. Thank you so much.

Linda

Acting Director | Water Division | EPA Region 5
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On Feb 21, 2019, at 4:15 PM, Westlake, Kenneth <westlake.kenneth@epa.gov> wrote:

Linda,
I have reviewed NEPA travel records and my personal calendars from during that time period to help refresh my memory.
Scoping for the NorthMet Mine EIS occurred in 2005. EIS development occurred in 2005-2009, with the MN DNR and Corps of Engineers as the co-lead agencies (later joined by the US Forest Service in 2010). EPA interactions during that time were primarily with MN DNR and the Corps, including calls on technical issues with co-lead agencies' staff and consultants. Occasionally, MPCA would be part of staff and mid-manager conversations, to articulate what their permitting responsibilities and regulatory processes would be for the project. EPA attended interagency meetings on the NorthMet project hosted by the Corps in January 2007 and December 2008 in St. Paul. MPCA was among the agencies attending. As a cooperating agency, EPA reviewed two versions of the preliminary version of the Draft EIS in the 2008-2009 timeframe.

The public version of the Draft EIS was issued for public comment in fall 2009. EPA issued our comment letter in February 2010. In the wake of our adverse comments and the huge outpouring of public comments, EPA participated in interagency meetings in April and June 2010, including MPCA representatives. These were discussions on planning a supplement to the Draft EIS to address environmental and analytical deficiencies raised by EPA and many other commenters. EPA's project review team and some managers met with the company and had a site tour in Hoyt Lakes in September 2010, which was attended by MPCA, the co-lead agencies, and others. Monthly staff-level calls with the co-lead agencies began around this time. Frequent calls with EPA, the co-lead agencies, and tribes also began in this time frame. MPCA was only occasionally on these calls.

Quarterly meetings with then-Congressman Cravaack began in March 2011 in Duluth, attended by EPA, MPCA, all other affected agencies, and state legislators. After the first two, EPA participated by phone. When then-Congressman Nolan took office in 2013, he continued quarterly calls, but limited participation to EPA, the co-lead agencies, MPCA, and the company. The focus was on the status on each agency's responsibilities in completing the EIS process and the multitude of permitting processes that followed the EIS process. EPA commented on the Supplemental Draft EIS in March 2013 and the Final EIS in December 2015. There were countless calls with the co-lead agencies and their consultants, as well as with the tribes, from 2010 onward. MPCA participated in some of those.

Ken

From: Holst, Linda
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Burdick, Melanie <Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov>; McKim, Krista <mckim.krista@epa.gov>; Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>; Westlake, Kenneth <westlake.kenneth@epa.gov>
Cc: Wester, Barbara <wester.barbara@epa.gov>
Subject: Northmet/Polymet - Interactions with MPCA from 2005 through 2011
Importance: High

Kurt Thiede has asked for information from us regarding interactions EPA has had with MPCA on PolyMet between 2005 and 2011. He doesn't need detailed dates of meetings...he's trying to understand when we were engaged in the various processes (e.g., EIS, permitting), and what our involvement has been with the State.

Can you give me a summary regarding discussions with MPCA on wetlands issues, EIS issues, NPDES issues? Again, he doesn't need a blow by blow with dates, but a summary of our interactions ... about how many (once a month, once q quarter) and what the gist of our conversations. Thanks.

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