

mn MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
The EQB Monitor

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Submission Deadline: [View 2018 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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The *EQB Monitor* is a weekly publication announcing environmental review documents, public comment periods and other actions of the Environmental Quality Board. For more information on environmental review, please visit the [EQB website](#).

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Check the [EQB Calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#). You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet in response to a citizen's petition.

- Sherburne County Zoning Department, Sleepy Oaks Development, 1-2-18 (11-13-17)
 - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Valley Pork, LLP Site #2, 12-28-17 (11-13-17)
 - Department of Natural Resources, Hawkes Company, Peat Mining – Mercil Site Project, 12-29-17 (5-15-17)
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Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Star of the North Walking Trail EAW-UPDATED

Comment Deadline: January 31, 2018

Project Description: The DNR is proposing construction and designation of the Star of the North Walking Trail. The project would link approximately 29.5 miles of existing routes with 27.5 miles of new trail development to create a 57-mile loop system of signed and maintained natural surface walking trail corridor. Hunter walking trails provide comparatively easy access to grouse and woodcock areas in Minnesota's primary grouse range. These trails wind their way through Wildlife Management Areas, connecting with some state forests and other public hunting lands.

The EAW is available for public review at:

- DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
- DNR Northwest Region Headquarter, 2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
- Minneapolis Central Library, Government Documents, 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall.
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street, Suite 100, Roseau, MN 56751
- Warroad City Library, 202 North Main Avenue, Warroad, MN 56763
- Williams Public Library 250 Main Street, Williams, MN 56686
- Bemidji Public Library 509 America Avenue NW, Bemidji, MN 56601

The EAW is also posted on MNDNR's website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn/input/environmentalreview/star-north-trail/index.html>

Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5115.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact Person:

Cynthia Novak-Krebs
Intermediate Planner
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025
651-259-5115
cynthia.novak-krebs@state.mn.us

Environmental Assessment Worksheets Joint State and Federal EA/EAW

Project Title: Trunk Highway 36 / Hadley Avenue Intersection Improvement Project

Comment Deadline: February 7, 2018

Project Description: The Highway 36 and Hadley Avenue Intersection Improvement Project is located in the City of Oakdale, Washington County, MN. The proposed transportation improvements include the construction of a folded diamond interchange, with a Hadley Avenue bridge over Highway 36, constructing three roundabout intersections, constructing a Gateway State Trail underpass of Hadley Avenue, realigning portions of 55th Street N and Highway 36 Boulevard (north frontage road), and reconstructing pedestrian and bicycle trails along Hadley Avenue.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU Contact Person:

Rick Dalton
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Notices

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT RULES

Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Preliminary Draft EIS Option, Minnesota Rules, 4410.2550; Revisor's ID Number R-04494.

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) intends to adopt rules without a public hearing following the procedures in the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minnesota Rules, parts 1400.2300 to 1400.2310, and the Administrative Procedure Act, Minnesota Statutes, § 14.22 to 14.28. You may submit written comments on the proposed rules and may also submit a written request that a hearing be held on the rules until February 23, 2018 4:30 pm CST.

Subject of Rules and Statutory Authority. The proposed rules are about allowing a project proposer to prepare a preliminary draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The statutory authority to adopt the rules is Minnesota Statutes, 116D.04, § 5a(11) and Minnesota Statutes 16D.045 § 1. A copy of the proposed rules is published in the State Register and on the Environmental Quality Board's website: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/draft-environmental-impact-statement-eis-rulemaking>. A free copy of the rules is available upon request from the agency contact person listed above.

Agency Contact Person. You must submit comments or questions on the rules and written requests for a public hearing to the agency contact person. The agency contact person is:

Erik Cedarleaf Dahl
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
520 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone (651) 757-2364
Email erik.dahl@state.mn.us.

You may also review the proposed rule and submit written comments via the Office of Administrative Hearings Rulemaking e-comments website at <https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions>.

Comments. You have until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2018, to submit written comment in support of or in opposition to the proposed rules and any part or subpart of the rules.

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO MINE FOR THE POLYMET NORTHMET PROJECT

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has opened a public comment and objection period on a draft permit to mine for the proposed Poly Met Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) NorthMet mining project, located near the cities of Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt in northeastern Minnesota. Following review of PolyMet's permit to mine application, the DNR has prepared draft special conditions for the NorthMet project. Together, the application and the draft special conditions are considered the draft permit to mine. The draft permit to mine, project information and fact sheets are posted on the DNR's permit to mine webpage for the NorthMet project: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/polymet/permitting/ptm.html>.

The DNR will accept comments and objections on the draft permit to mine via the State's PolyMet Portal (<http://polymet.mn.gov/>) during the public comment and objection period, which is now open and concludes on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

The draft permit to mine also includes a wetland replacement plan. The DNR will accept comments from the public on the draft wetland replacement plan as part of the draft permit to mine comment process.

The NorthMet Project would create an open pit copper, nickel, cobalt and precious metals mine with stockpile areas; refurbish a portion of the former LTV Steel Mining Company (LTVSMC) processing plant and construct a new hydrometallurgical facility; construct a tailings basin facility on the site of LTVSMC existing tailings facilities; and add to existing utility infrastructure and rail lines. The draft permit to mine details the comprehensive terms and conditions of the permit, including financial assurance.

This notice also initiates an objection period as detailed in Minnesota Rules. Minnesota Rules allow qualifying individuals or entities to submit formal written objections to a draft permit to mine. There are criteria for qualifying as an objector and established procedures for submitting and resolving formal objections. The objection process is distinct from the general public's ability to submit any and all comments concerning the draft permit (see Minnesota Rules 6132.4000 subp. 2, and [DNR Effective Commenting fact sheet](#) on DNR's PolyMet Permit to Mine webpage (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/polymet/permitting/ptm.html>) for more detail. The DNR will consider all comments and written objections prior to making a final decision.

As part of the draft permit to mine comment and objection process, the DNR will hold two public meetings jointly with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Public meetings will be held on:

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mesabi East (Aurora-Hoyt) High School
601 N 1st St W, Aurora, MN 55705
4:00-9:00 p.m. open house
6:00-9:00 p.m. public comment forum

Thursday, February 8, 2018

DECC - Duluth Entertainment Convention Center
350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802
1:00-9:00 p.m. open house
6:00-9:00 p.m. public comment forum

In case of a weather-related cancellation, the following alternative meeting dates have been established: 1) Wednesday, February 21, 2018, Mesabi East (Aurora-Hoyt) High School – Aurora as a substitute for the scheduled February 7 meeting; 2) Thursday, February 22, 2018, DECC – Duluth as a substitute for the scheduled February 8 meeting. The DNR will notify the public of any cancellations or time or venue changes via GovDelivery message, press release and/or social media.

Comments and written objections on the NorthMet draft permit to mine will be accepted at these meetings. Stenographers will be available to record oral comments offered individually and during the public comment forum. Comment boxes will be available for submitting written comments and objections at the meetings and staff from both the DNR and MPCA will be available to answer questions during each open house.

Written comments and objections may be submitted at any time during the public comment period via the State's portal for the project: <http://polymet.mn.gov/>

or by U.S. Mail to:

MN Department of Natural Resources
Division of Lands and Minerals
500 Lafayette Road N, Box 45
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045

Comments and objections will become part of the official record and as such, may be made available for public examination.

Before proceeding with the proposed NorthMet Mining Project, PolyMet must obtain a total of 12 DNR permits as well as other state, federal, and local permits and approvals. The DNR permits and approvals that are needed include the permit to mine (including financial assurance and wetlands replacement), water appropriation permits, dam safety permits, public waters work permit, burning permit, and an endangered species takings permit. A [timeline of the permitting process](#) is available from the DNR's PolyMet webpage.

1/2/2018

Jess Richards
Director, Division of Lands and Minerals

RGU Contact Person:

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