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Brad Moore, Barr Engineering gave tours to hundreds of people describing the demonstration process and equipment at the Manganese site in Emily.

Hundreds Tour Manganese Deposit Site

Project is making final preparations to begin work on the demonstration project.

EMILY, Minn. – An estimated seven hundred area residents toured the site of the manganese deposit on Saturday as part of a special community open house. Cooperative Mineral Resources (CMR), a subsidiary of Crow Wing Power, is preparing to start work this week on a bulk sample demonstration project to show a new way to extract manganese. The open house gave people a chance to learn more about the project, the potential opportunity for the community, and the work that has been done to create the plan for this project.

“Our goal from the beginning was to make sure our community benefitted from a Minnesota natural resource,” said Bruce Kraemer, president of Cooperative Mineral Resources and CEO of Crow Wing Power. “This project has the potential to create jobs and a significant regional economic benefit at a time when our local economy needs support. The overwhelming interest from the community shows how much people understand this project’s significance.”

CMR will start work this week on the demonstration project that will use a water-based process to extract manganese and ore from the site that is just north of the main city of Emily. The five-acre site where the manganese is concentrated is owned by CMR. CMR has a permit to remove up to 12,000 cubic yards of ore during the demonstration project.

The ore contains a mixture of silicon, iron and manganese. As part of the demonstration project, the mineral will be trucked to Coleraine, Minnesota, where a lab will refine the recovered material to extract the manganese. One of the frequent questions CMR receives from area residents is how many trucks will travel along Hwy 6 to Coleraine. CMR will utilize a maximum of 10 covered side or belly trucks and could travel a total of up to 30 trips a day. The mineral will eventually be sold as a commodity.

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CMR estimates that the demonstration project will take two to three months to complete. The company will then examine data from the site and lab in Coleraine to determine if the water-based process meets environmental and financial standards needed if the company decides to pursue a full-scale commercial operation.

If CMR moves forward with plans for a commercial operation, the company will need to complete an intensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and reapply for permits to extract more manganese.

"We have found the best way to recover the manganese using a water-based technology that is the one of the most environmentally sensitive methods to extract the mineral," Kraemer said. "We have an excellent team of highly educated and experienced engineers and experts working for us. I am very confident and pleased to begin the demonstration."

CMR has been working closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Emily City Council, and the Emily Planning and Zoning Commission to secure permits and other approvals needed for the demonstration project.

To learn more about the proposed manganese project, please visit www.cwpower.com.

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