

## HOW TO HELP & SUPPORT THE COOPERATIVE MINERAL RESOURCES PROJECT MOVE FORWARD.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has posted the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed Cooperative Mineral Resources project. There is a 30-day period during which people can submit written comments to the DNR about the project. This gives local residents an opportunity to let the DNR and other state agency officials know how important the project is and to support the work that Cooperative Mineral Resources/Crow Wing Power has done to protect a natural resource for the community and Minnesota. The EAW can be viewed in its entirety and is only applicable to allow Cooperative Mineral Resources to go ahead with a proposed demonstration small bulk sampling project (not a full-scale commercial project) at [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov), click on public input, then click on environmental review and select Cooperative Mineral Resources.

Your comments can be mailed, e-mailed or faxed. All comments must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

### **MAIL**

Kirk Rosenberger  
EAW Project Manager  
Environmental Policy and Review Unit  
Division of Ecological Services  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

### **E-MAIL**

Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us  
The subject line should read "Cooperative Minerals EAW."  
Please include your name and mailing address.

### **FAX**

Attention Kirk Rosenberger, EAW Project Manager  
651-297-1500  
The subject line should read "Cooperative Minerals EAW."  
Please include your name and mailing address.

For suggested support comments see the following pages...

Potential support messages to include in comments to the DNR

If you would just like a standard general response, feel free to use the following message:

FAX, MAIL OR E-MAIL USING THE CRITERIA ON PAGE 1

March, 2010

RE: Cooperative Mineral Resources EAW

Dear Mr. Rosenberger,

I strongly support allowing Cooperative Mineral Resources (CMR) to move ahead with the manganese demonstration bulk-sampling project planned for Emily and the EAW that is part of the project planning process.

I understand this EAW is only for a demonstration bulk sampling project to help public agencies, the public and CMR see how the proposed mineral extraction process works. I appreciate your review of my comment.

Thank you,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Or to add more specific information and/or just to learn more, please read facts below:

Manganese is an important natural resource for Minnesota.

- The site in Emily contains one of the most concentrated and valuable deposits of manganese in North America. Currently all of the manganese used in the U.S. is imported.
- This project is an opportunity to learn more about Minnesota's manganese resources and the right way to access the mineral.
- Manganese is a very valuable mineral. It historically has been used in the steelmaking industry. Today it is an important part of evolving environmentally friendly technologies, including power plant emissions reduction, air and water pollution abatement, water purification, and rechargeable batteries.
- Cooperative Mineral Resources, a subsidiary of Crow Wing Power, purchased the Emily site. Local ownership helps ensure that this Minnesota resource benefits Minnesotans.

- Foreign interests wanted to purchase the site and recover the manganese, which may not have been in the community's best interest.
- Crow Wing Power is committed to using Minnesota companies to complete the project.

This project will benefit Emily and surrounding communities.

- Because Crow Wing Power is a cooperative, it will share profits from Cooperative Mineral Resources directly with its 36,000 ratepayer members – the people of Cass, Crow Wing, and Morrison counties.
- No ratepayer money is being used to fund this project, and there is no financial liability to ratepayers. Funding for Cooperative Mineral Resources comes from Crow Wing Power's sale of Hunt Technologies.
- Crow Wing Power is committed to creating local jobs.
- If the demonstration project is successful and a commercial operation is approved and permitted, it will generate \$20-\$25 million in new tax revenue for Emily, Crow Wing County, the local school district, and the State of Minnesota.
- Crow Wing Power will make sure this project meets the highest possible environmental and safety standards, because the company will continue to be a long-term part of this community.
- Upon project completion, Crow Wing Power will restore the site, build a park on the property, and gift it to the City of Emily.

Cooperative Mineral Resources is working closely with the community on this project.

- Cooperative Mineral Resources wants the City of Emily and people from surrounding lake communities to have as much information as possible about the proposed mining project.
- Cooperative Mineral Resources created an Environmental Responsibility Committee that consists of representatives from Emily, local lake associations, and other organizations in the area.
- Since June 2009, the committee has held regular meetings to share information and identify and address concerns.
- The minutes and materials from each committee meeting are available to the public on Cooperative Mineral Resources' Web site.

Cooperative Mineral Resources has the right plan for recovering the manganese.

- Cooperative Mineral Resources will meet or exceed all state rules and regulations.
- The company will construct a sound-insulated building for the processing work, helping minimize noise on the project site.

- Hours of operation are limited to reduce any impact on surrounding properties.
- The company has paved the road into the site and will set up a truck wash station to reduce dust.
- The proposal calls for using a borehole process, the most environmentally friendly technique in existence today.
- The process involves drilling holes and using pressurized water to recover the mineral. It uses existing groundwater resources and recycles the extracted water.
- It involves no chemicals, no major excavation, and no open pits.
- Cooperative Mineral Resources spent years looking for the right technology to recover the manganese.
- This project will enable Minnesota to carefully explore a new mining technology in a very safe, controlled setting.

Crow Wing Power is looking to the future of emissions reduction technologies.

- Crow Wing Power has additional interest in the Emily project based on the promise of manganese in reducing power plant emissions – both Crow Wing Power's own emissions and those of others in the industry.

Questions? Contact Char Kinzer, Cooperative Mineral Resources/Crow Wing Power, [kinzer@cwpower.com](mailto:kinzer@cwpower.com) 1-800-648-9401