

Memo to Area Residents Concerning Well Water Sampling: Cooperative Mineral Resources is committed to working with the community as our plans for the Manganese/ore demonstration project move forward. We realize there are some questions and concerns related to our offer to provide water testing services. Therefore, we wanted to take this opportunity to share some additional information with you and address some of these

Who is paying for the water tests?

Cooperative Mineral Resources (CMR) is paying for the water tests. **No money from Crow Wing Power customers is being used for this.** Cooperative Mineral Resources is using some of the money from the sale of Hunt Technologies as a way to reinvest the profits, create new jobs for area residents and potentially reap financial benefits for Emily and Crow Wing Power members, the City and the region.

Why are you testing the water for manganese and iron?

During the work CMR has done to study the project and get the needed permits and approvals, we have found that there are already levels of manganese and iron in the area groundwater. In some cases, the levels of both minerals were at levels higher than what is normally found.

Our tests were focused on the demonstration project. Once we discovered this information, we were asked by Van Bialon, Ruth Lake Association president, if we would consider testing all area wells. We wanted to make sure people who live in Emily knew about our test results and had the chance to find out if there were similar levels of these minerals in their wells. We are offering to conduct and pay for the water tests to help people learn more about their own water supply because we care about the community.

Will your project affect the water quality in residential wells or the level and quality of lake water?

No. We did extensive tests last summer and fall that were monitored by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other agencies to see if there was any risk of this happening. We have been monitoring the levels of area lakes for more than a year. Our tests included pumping more water than we will use, as well as mixing the ore material with ground water to see what would happen.

All of our tests results show that our project will not affect the quality and levels of the water in area lakes. The tests also showed that our project will not impact the quality or levels of water in residential wells in Emily. The DNR, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Emily all reviewed our test results. They all needed to approve our plan in order for us to get approvals and permits. They all agree with the results and that is why we have been able to move forward.

What is happening and when will it start?

We have been given permission to extract up to 12,000 cubic yards of ore material for the site in Emily to test a new way to get the manganese ore out of the ground using only water from the actual site. The project is scheduled for late September. We will use one well and it should take at least three months to finish this part of the project. We will only conduct the three-month demonstration working daylight hours and only on week days.

Where can I get more information and who can help me answer additional questions?

You can visit www.cwpower.com, call 218-829-2827 or send an email to Kinzer@cwpower.com to get more information about the project.

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