

PUBLIC MEETING FOR DRAFT PERMITS, POLYMET/NORTHMET PROJECT (DU

KIRBY KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES (952)922-1955

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1 DULUTH ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTION CENTER
 2 350 HARBOR DRIVE
 3 DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802
 4 -----
 5 In Re:
 6 Public Meeting for the Draft Permits
 7 for PolyMet Mining, Inc.'s NorthMet
 8 Project
 9 -----
 10 INDIVIDUAL ORAL COMMENTS
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 13 The above-entitled matter was taken
 14 before Susan M. Strom, Court Reporter, a Notary
 15 Public in and for the County of Dakota, State of
 16 Minnesota, taken on the 8th day of February, 2018
 17 at 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, Minnesota, commencing
 18 from 1:30 p.m. through 8:40 p.m.
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1 * * *
 2 NICK ROWSE: My name is Nick Rowse and
 3 I live at 10704 Prescott Court, Burnsville,
 4 Minnesota. I am here to advocate and bear witness
 5 for the continued, strict protection of the
 6 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, specifically
 7 from the NorthMet Mining project as proposed by
 8 PolyMet Mining and in their nationally owned mining
 9 company.
 10 For 33 years, I have lived and worked in
 11 Minnesota and specifically have experienced the joy
 12 and recreation provided by the Boundary Waters
 13 Canoe Area Wilderness. Whereas, copper and nickel
 14 mining will expose subsurface rock to air and water
 15 erosion resulting in acid mine runoff; whereas, air
 16 pollution will degrade air quality for recreation
 17 within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness;
 18 whereas, significant noise will result from
 19 blasting and degrading quiet recreation within the
 20 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness; whereas, air
 21 quality is a high priority on federal land,
 22 specifically on nationally recognized wilderness
 23 areas such the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
 24 Wilderness; whereas, the State of Minnesota must
 25 protect wilderness values provided by the Boundary

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1 I N D E X
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 3 PUBLIC COMMENTS: PAGE
 4 Nick Rowse 3
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1 Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for current and future
 2 generations of Minnesotans; whereas, large-scale
 3 mining on more than 4000 acres of currently
 4 forested land will result in releasing air
 5 pollution over the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
 6 Wilderness, and; whereas, the Fond Du Lac Tribe of
 7 Lake Superior Chippewa, the Grand Portage Band of
 8 Lake Superior Chippewa and the Bois Forte Band of
 9 Chippewa will suffer the loss of wild ricing
 10 leading to the degradation of their livelihoods in
 11 waters downstream at the proposed project due to
 12 changes in water quality. One more whereas. These
 13 tribes were treated unfairly by the Corps of
 14 Engineers and the Minnesota Department of Natural
 15 Resources during the environmental review process.
 16 Because the long-term integrity of tailing
 17 ponds in copper-nickel mines worldwide has proven
 18 to be inadequate, resulting in irreparable water
 19 pollution, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 20 must deny the NPDES/SDS water quality permit.
 21 There is no failsafe technology to contain mine
 22 waste material in perpetuity, which will result in
 23 degradation of water quality in the Boundary Waters
 24 Canoe Area Wilderness.
 25 Finally, the wilderness values given to

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1 people across this nation must be the highest
 2 priority. Wilderness can never be replaced.
 3 That's it.
 4 * * *
 5 DIANNE ROWSE: My name is Dianne Rowse.
 6 I live at 10704 Prescott Court, Burnsville,
 7 Minnesota. As a citizen of Minnesota and a
 8 professional interpretive naturalist with 33 years
 9 of experience, I advocate for the safekeeping of
 10 the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for
 11 future generations. I've been canoeing with my
 12 family in the Boundary Waters since 1980. I value
 13 this wilderness for its clean water and air, its
 14 dark skies and quietude.
 15 The NorthMet mine proposed location is not
 16 compatible with its close proximity to this federal
 17 wilderness area. The State of Minnesota must
 18 protect this magnificent wilderness area by
 19 prohibiting copper-nickel mining within the
 20 surrounding watershed. Because the long-term
 21 integrity of tailing ponds in mines worldwide has
 22 proven to be inadequate, resulting in irreparable
 23 water pollution, the MPCA must deny the water
 24 quality permit. There is no failsafe technology to
 25 contain these mine waste products in perpetuity and

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1 protect Minnesota's water resources. Mining that
 2 results in sulfates in the water systems will
 3 damage or destroy wild rice production which will
 4 impact tribal people.
 5 For all these reasons, Minnesota must deny
 6 the four pending draft permits for PolyMet's
 7 proposed NorthMet mining project. Thank you for
 8 considering my comments.
 9 * * *
 10 TOM PETERSON: My name is Tom Peterson.
 11 I'm disappointed the way the governor has been
 12 handling this process on money to northern
 13 Minnesota. We gave \$500 million to the Vikings
 14 stadium, and I think he should be giving \$500
 15 million to the Iron Range. They think there is
 16 350 jobs are going to be over the long run here.
 17 And if you figure 350 jobs dividing that into the
 18 \$500 million for the stadium is \$1,428,571 a year,
 19 and that's enough for 28 years of well-paying jobs
 20 for the Iron Range. So they can start an Olympic
 21 training facility, they can build factories for the
 22 solar panels, they could do a number of
 23 environmental projects.
 24 We don't need to bring these toxic metals to
 25 the surface. They are buried underground for a

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1 reason. For human species to survive on this
 2 earth, we couldn't be walking on coal and mercury
 3 and oil and lead. That's why they are all buried
 4 underground, and that's how the human species has
 5 survived. To bring this stuff to the surface is
 6 just another ecological nightmare. We have ruined
 7 our planet. There is no going back. And now to
 8 have this project, just one more foot in the grave,
 9 for the world is appalling.
 10 * * *
 11 TODD DOBESH: Good evening. My name is
 12 Todd Dobesh from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The City
 13 of Lakes. It has come to my attention after
 14 numerous years that the DNR is finally ready to
 15 reach its resolution on the PolyMet mining issue
 16 and the permits regarding that. I've been
 17 following it. I've been following it in depth and
 18 I have heard both reasons for and against it, and I
 19 feel that the principalities for the permit have
 20 been both false and self-effacing and that there
 21 are so many ways that they misrepresent the facts
 22 and play on people's emotions.
 23 I understand why in this tight-knit
 24 community of the North Shore a good paying job is
 25 important and both the State and the organizations

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1 at the behest or behooth, I don't know what it is,
 2 of the taconite mining industry have been
 3 self-serving and misrepresented the fine people and
 4 culture that's engrained so deeply in this
 5 community. The very organizations that they bring
 6 forth out of obligation to their covenant with the
 7 people for economic development and opportunity in
 8 lieu of tax write-offs in reality are politically
 9 strong armed to rebate those charges back to the
 10 mining principalities. I could go on.
 11 But I believe PolyMet, which is a shell
 12 organization, is a crock of shit because they
 13 refuse to list the Swiss venture capitalists who
 14 would benefit in this top-heavy, winner-take-all
 15 profiteering scandal. And I would cite that they
 16 should man up and identify themselves to the
 17 American public and the other principalities of
 18 this argument so that we can see them for what they
 19 are, which is self-serving oligarchs. Yours truly,
 20 Todd Dobesh.
 21 * * *
 22 SUSAN FLYGARE: I really appreciate the
 23 fact that the DNR is here to answer our questions.
 24 I'm very concerned that the process of mining the
 25 copper is so extreme, blasting the rock, releasing