

From: Udd, Jeff (MPCA)
To: [Robin, Jim \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: FW: PolyMet draft permit - a citizen comment
Date: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:18:59 AM

From: Clarizio, Michele (MPCA)
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Udd, Jeff (MPCA) <jeff.udd@state.mn.us>; Smith, Jeff J (MPCA) <jeff.j.smith@state.mn.us>
Cc: Stine, John (MPCA) <john.stine@state.mn.us>
Subject: FW: PolyMet draft permit - a citizen comment

From: Amelia Kroeger [<mailto:ackroeger@aol.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 7:53 AM
To: Stine, John (MPCA) <john.stine@state.mn.us>
Subject: PolyMet draft permit - a citizen comment

Dear Commissioner Stine,
MPCA's draft water pollution permit misses on setting contamination limits on PolyMet waste facilities seepage to wetlands and streams and doesn't even require monitoring for the quality of surface water, thus violating the Clean Water Act.

MPCA is allowing PolyMet to skew forms allowing them to deny any threats to water quality including wetlands, wild rice, mercury in fish, and threats to the health of people.

There is something dreadfully wrong when a company can be allowed, gratis, to contaminate our water. The MPCA needs to protect our waters from sulfide mine pollution!

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I strongly urge the MPCA to deny water pollution (NPDES/SDS) permit and deny the Section 401 certification for the PolyMet copper-nickel mine project.

The proposed NPDES/SDS permit is weak and fails to control the biggest threat from sulfide mining – the seepage of contaminated wastes to groundwater and then to drinking water and surface water from mine pits, waste rock stockpiles, tailings basins and other sulfide mine waste storage facilities.

The Section 401 certification relies on PolyMet's assumptions, exclusions and misleading information to claim that the PolyMet sulfide mine would not violate water quality standards, degrade water quality, and endanger the environment and human health.

The PolyMet draft NPDES/SDs permit and draft 401 certification would conflict with federal and state laws and would jeopardize Minnesota water quality, natural resources, health and finances.

***The MPCA draft water pollution permit for the PolyMet sulfide mine wouldn't set limits on polluted seepage through groundwater to drinking water or**

surface water.

***The MPCA draft water pollution permit for the PolyMet wouldn't even provide appropriate monitoring; PolyMet's pollution seeping from groundwater and welling up in wetlands and streams in violation of the Clean Water Act could go completely undetected.**

***The MPCA draft section 401 certification would ignore the deficiencies in the water pollution permit and erroneously claims that the PolyMet sulfide mine project would not violate water quality standards or degrade Minnesota water quality.**

***The MPCA, along with other State agencies refused to evaluate impacts on human health from the PolyMet mine project through an open and public health impact assessment (HIA) process, even though groups representing 30,000 Minnesota medical and health professionals asked for an HIA to assess threats including brain damage to fetuses, infants and children from mercury contamination of fish.**

***Now, the MPCA draft section 401 certification would accept PolyMet's exclusions, assumptions and junk science to erroneously claim that the PolyMet sulfide mine project would not endanger the environment and human health.**

Please accept your Agency's mission as a protector of Minnesota waters, fish, wild rice, wildlife, wetlands and human health not the protector of foreign mining companies seeking profit at our expense.

On behalf of the people of Minnesota and clean water, I ask you to reject and deny the draft water pollution (NPDES/SDS) permit and the draft 401 certification for the PolyMet copper-nickel sulfide mine project.

Sincerely,

Amelia Kroeger

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