



POLYMET FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT RELEASE AND COMMENT PERIOD ON NOV 4TH AND WAITING FOR YOUR COMMENTS!!

The company's responses to the 58000 public comments on the "Draft" Environmental Impact Statement have been addressed in the 3500 page document. **Separate comments must be submitted on this "final" version** and are important to insure that the agencies and Governor are well aware that the public is still very concerned about the potential for certain water pollution and habitat destruction in the Lake Superior watershed and the lake itself.

Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources will release the FEIS on November 4th with a 30 day public comment period. The US Forest Service and the US Army Corp of Engineers will also release their decisions on wetlands destruction and land transfers accompanying the FEIS with similar comment periods. The final comment due date on the Forest Service Record of Decision is December 24, 2015 just in time for us to celebrate the holidays. Comment on these documents also if you are concerned about the transfer of federal lands to remove surface protections and facilitate this project.

Look for "Action Alerts" including important dates and lists of legitimate concerns for the environment and water quality from conservation and environmental groups as well as Tribal representatives. These will be posted on social media, news media and other means of public notification including our website and Facebook page.

The main concern from many of those opposed to deeming the FEIS "adequate" is that the 3500 page document 10 years in the making does not describe a mining plan that will prevent the long term pollution of the water and natural habitat of Lake Superior and its watershed. This includes the land bordering the Boundary Waters and the entire St. Louis River Watershed including the Duluth Superior estuary and Harbor.

The PolyMet mining plan in the FEIS describes a number of short term mitigation solutions to reduce pollution to levels that the agencies' risk analyses can show meet state and federal standards for permitting. The data used for these analyses is selectively and secretly selected or generated. Much of it is protected from public scrutiny by corporate information protection laws. Not even Freedom of Information Act provisions can be used to obtain it. This process will enable long term pollution from acid mine drainage and does not protect

Mount Polley Tailings Pond failure, British Columbia, August 2014



public health and well-being.

The PolyMet FEIS describes a plan that would use “Trial and Error” Resource Management to prevent long term and irreversible pollution. Approving this Final Environmental Impact Statement would be illogical in inexcusable. There would be no positive “legacy” associated with such a decision only regrets.

Short term pollution mitigations include subaqueous storage of fine (slime) waste in old mine pit, sorting and stacking large material at mine site on unlined piles, storing intermediate sized tailings on old LTV tailings pond site that currently leaks toxins over federal limits, capturing tailings pond leakage and treating it with expensive Reverse Osmosis to remove sulfates and other toxins, use of taconite tailings to remove mercury from pond and other leakage, use of “special bacteria” to control sulfates to the 10 mg/liter (now MN statutorily unenforceable level), and performing final “smelting” in Sudbury, Ontario. All of these “mitigations” would be done indefinitely at an undetermined cost. Financial assurance to prevent the State from having to take over these “mitigations” would consist of evaluating on a yearly basis what it would cost to visually clean up the site after mining was ended. Check out the Guilt Edge Mine federal Super Fund site to see how well this works.

Comments may be of any reasonable length and cover individual topics listed in the massive, ill-conceived document. LeRoger Lind

PolyMet's Last Ditch Effort: final EIS expected in November

The Save Lake Superior Association has consistently opposed the permitting of a copper-nickel sulfide mine in northeast Minnesota. The risk to the Lake Superior watershed from acid mine drainage, toxic heavy metals, and an increased load of mercury and sulfates is simply too great.

The Duluth Complex of mineralization extends from Duluth, along the North Shore, and across to the Boundary Waters and Lake Vermilion. The mineralization of the Duluth Complex is highly disseminated, as well as low grade (less than 1% metals). There is no technology available that could stop seepage into ground and surface waters from tailings, waste rock piles, pit walls, or processing waste on the scale involved. Any agency or politician who claims that sulfide mining can be done "safely" without harming the waters and wetlands of northeast Minnesota is referencing wishful thinking, not science.

A preliminary glimpse of PolyMet's final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) provides no additional proof that mining would meet all “minimal” state standards. Furthermore, such standards allow for the degradation of water quality by accepting a load of toxic pollutants. The residents of the Arrowhead Region and all those downstream of the proposed mining would be the losers. This includes the residents of Fond du Lac and Duluth, other communities along the watersheds, those who hunt, fish, or recreate in the area, and future generations who will inherit degraded polluted water and a degraded landscape. When Mining Minnesota advertises the Duluth Complex as the largest undeveloped copper nickel deposit in the world, they are talking about mining out the entire Arrowhead Region, leaving behind 99% waste rock.

The State of Minnesota has no business promoting this kind of business. More mining will not diversify the economy. While iron prices have bottomed out and sent the Iron Range reeling, copper and nickel prices have also bottomed--resulting in Glencore, PolyMet's chief underwriter, to lose 60% of its stock value over the past year.

Our low grade ores belong in the ground, while we seek to recycle and build a local economy that values clean water and local independence. The people of the Arrowhead are resourceful in ourselves. We live here because we value our water and our environment. We should not be destroying what we value most.

It is paramount that you submit a comment on the PolyMet FEIS, which is expected out in November, with a 30 day public comment period. For information on commenting suggestions, check out the websites of SOS Blue Waters, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Water Legacy or other environmental groups as well as Save Lake Superior Association. Elanne Palcich

Membership Dues

Please check your Newsletter mailing label for expiration date. If the year is not current, it needs to be updated.

Repeat of new dues structure:

ALL EXCEPT LIFETIME ARE PER PERSON PER YEAR.

\$10 Fixed income	\$50 Sustaining	\$200 Lifetime
\$20 General	\$100 Benefactor	(per person)
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The Lifetime option is only available to new members or members whose label is currently up-to-date.

Please designate your choice when you renew.

We appreciate your interest as well as your support.

SAVE LAKE SUPERIOR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH ON OCT 10, 2015

A hearty group of SLSA members and friends gathered at UMD's Kirby Student Center for our 46th Annual Meeting. We looked back on our early history and noted that many of the threats to the water quality of the lake remain in one form or another. There may not be 67,000 tons per day of taconite tailings gushing into the lake now but there are equally toxic substances entering from mining operations and many other new or proposed developments. We will continue to be vigilant but need more active members such as the recipients of this year's Fayth Glass "Excellence in Achievement Award, the Tammens, who scour the state and surrounding areas to make sure no stone is unturned in their quest to prevent pollution from the new sulfide mining threat as well as campaigning to clean up pollution from conventional taconite mining.

The SLSA Board of Directors authorized the annual SLSA Award is given to the member(s) "in recognition of his/her outstanding efforts" directed toward meeting SLSA's goals and objectives to preserve and protect Lake Superior. The persons selected for the 2015 SLSA Award are:

Robert Henry Tammen & Pat Montana Tammen

Bob & Pat Tammen have traveled from Anchorage, Alaska to Sudbury, Ontario in their efforts to protect clean water but the majority of their activities have been in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Upper Michigan, the Lake Superior states. They have spent long hours communicating with Minnesota legislators taking advantage of the opportunities for citizens to testify on legislation being considered in committee.

They both are good communicators: Pat has a Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Bemidji State University, and Bob survived incoming fire in Vietnam. Both have skills that are useful in the present sulfide mining debate in Northern Minnesota.

Bob started working for USS in 1969 at their Minntac plant and has a Master Electrician's license from the State of Minnesota. In the 70's he left USS and went to work for electrical contractors where he worked on building and upgrading mines from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to Silver Bow, Montana and points in between. One of their most rewarding projects was modifying the old Reserve plant in Silver Bay to quit dumping tailings into Lake Superior. (1978,1979,1980)

Bob was always able to earn decent paychecks, but noticed when they returned years later to visit communities where he worked, none of them were thriving. This observation led them to oppose sulfide mining not only because of the environmental threat to Lake Superior but also because of the economic threat to our



communities and the State of Minnesota. They observed that communities that try to develop by selling off nonrenewable resources usually end up with a poor economy.

While enjoying their retirement, they have used their experiences of living and working in numerous mining areas to make a strong effort inform the public about the environmental and economic consequences of a negligently regulated mining industry. Thousands of people have seen Bob's large map of the Mesabi Iron Range and have heard them explain how the leaking tailings ponds are degrading the major watersheds of Northern Minnesota.

The annual award plaque is donated by Gary E. Glass in memory of Fayth Carlson Glass. Fayth was a member of SLSA since 1970 and the award is presented in her memory to those members who demonstrate "excellence in achievement" in pursuing SLSA goals. Fayth practiced this trait supporting environmental work conducted over the past 45 years by hosting many scientists, lawyers and journalists in our home until she died from ovarian cancer in Dec. 2013. Fayth helped many others achieve their successes through her generous, friendly nature, hospitality and great cooking prowess, and loving character. She lives on in our hearts and memories having protected the sparkling purity of Lake Superior waters.

During the Reserve Mining Case Fayth played a significant roll in publicizing health hazards as shown in the New York Times Magazine, Nov. 24, 1974, "Life vs. Livelihood" by Wade Greene, and illustrated by Santi Visalli, cover photo insert, Fayth, with friends, getting filtered drinking water, and Fayth in her kitchen using filtered drinking water. Fayth wrote letters to Dr. Selikoff to clarify his public testimony as reported in "This Vast Pollution..." USA vs. Reserve Mining Co., by T. Bastow, Green Fields Pub. 1986, 208 p.

An excellent presentation on the "\$300 million Proposed Toxics Remediation of the Great Lakes Areas of concern including the St. Louis River Estuary" was given by Nelson French, Supervisor Great Lakes-Lake Superior Unit; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Duluth, Minnesota. Seven of the 14 major impairments are in the St. Louis River. A more extensive report will appear in future Newsletters.

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