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**RE: In re NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application, OAH 60-2004-37824**

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**From** Paula Maccabee <[pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com](mailto:pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com)>

**Date** Fri 3/20/2026 8:12 AM

**To** Johnson, Jay C. <[JCJohnson@Venable.com](mailto:JCJohnson@Venable.com)>; Wilson, Grant (DNR) <[grant.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.wilson@state.mn.us)>

**Cc** Cary, Robert (DNR) <[robert.cary@state.mn.us](mailto:robert.cary@state.mn.us)>; Fredrickson, Dawn (DNR) <[Dawn.Fredrickson@state.mn.us](mailto:Dawn.Fredrickson@state.mn.us)>; [mmills@greeneespel.com](mailto:mmills@greeneespel.com) <[mmills@greeneespel.com](mailto:mmills@greeneespel.com)>; [aknoll@greeneespel.com](mailto:aknoll@greeneespel.com) <[aknoll@greeneespel.com](mailto:aknoll@greeneespel.com)>; [ffamouri@greeneespel.com](mailto:ffamouri@greeneespel.com) <[ffamouri@greeneespel.com](mailto:ffamouri@greeneespel.com)>; [dwilliams@greeneespel.com](mailto:dwilliams@greeneespel.com) <[dwilliams@greeneespel.com](mailto:dwilliams@greeneespel.com)>; [jkammuegger@greeneespel.com](mailto:jkammuegger@greeneespel.com) <[jkammuegger@greeneespel.com](mailto:jkammuegger@greeneespel.com)>; [janderson@mncenter.org](mailto:janderson@mncenter.org) <[janderson@mncenter.org](mailto:janderson@mncenter.org)>; [akendzior@mncenter.org](mailto:akendzior@mncenter.org) <[akendzior@mncenter.org](mailto:akendzior@mncenter.org)>; [lassistants@mncenter.org](mailto:lassistants@mncenter.org) <[lassistants@mncenter.org](mailto:lassistants@mncenter.org)>; Coleman, Jean (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <[Jean.Coleman@state.mn.us](mailto:Jean.Coleman@state.mn.us)>; [jwkatchen@hollandhart.com](mailto:jwkatchen@hollandhart.com) <[jwkatchen@hollandhart.com](mailto:jwkatchen@hollandhart.com)>; [bcsmith@hollandhart.com](mailto:bcsmith@hollandhart.com) <[bcsmith@hollandhart.com](mailto:bcsmith@hollandhart.com)>; [vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com](mailto:vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com) <[vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com](mailto:vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com)>; [fholleman@sonosky.com](mailto:fholleman@sonosky.com) <[fholleman@sonosky.com](mailto:fholleman@sonosky.com)>; [seancopeland@fdlrez.com](mailto:seancopeland@fdlrez.com) <[seancopeland@fdlrez.com](mailto:seancopeland@fdlrez.com)>

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Dear Mr. Johnson,

In your March 16, 2026, update letter to Designee Grant Wilson, you cited the Designee's letter of January 14, 2026, and stated, "I am writing to tell you that NewRange has not formally notified DNR of its tailings storage plans."

WaterLegacy would appreciate a clarification of your update. Has NewRange *informally* notified the DNR of its tailings storage plans? Have the PolyMet or NewRange "internal studies" referenced in your update been completed?

We look forward to your clarification.

Thank you,

Paula G. Maccabee (she/her)  
Attorney for WaterLegacy  
Just Change Law Offices  
1961 Selby Ave., St. Paul MN 55104  
phone: 651-646-8890  
mobile: 651-775-7128  
email: [pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com](mailto:pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com)

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**From:** Johnson, Jay C. <JCJohnson@Venable.com>  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2026 at 3:13 PM  
**To:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Cary, Robert (DNR) <robert.cary@state.mn.us>, Fredrickson, Dawn (DNR) <Dawn.Fredrickson@state.mn.us>, mmills@greeneespel.com <mmills@greeneespel.com>, aknoll@greeneespel.com <aknoll@greeneespel.com>, ffamouri@greeneespel.com <ffamouri@greeneespel.com>, dwilliams@greeneespel.com <dwilliams@greeneespel.com>, jkammueler@greeneespel.com <jkammueler@greeneespel.com>, janderson@mncenter.org <janderson@mncenter.org>, akenzior@mncenter.org <akenzior@mncenter.org>, lassistants@mncenter.org <lassistants@mncenter.org>, pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com <pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com>, Coleman, Jean (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <Jean.Coleman@state.mn.us>, jwkatchen@hollandhart.com <jwkatchen@hollandhart.com>, bcsmith@hollandhart.com <bcsmith@hollandhart.com>, vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com <vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com>, fholleman@sonosky.com <fholleman@sonosky.com>, seancopeland@fdlrez.com <seancopeland@fdlrez.com>  
**Subject:** RE: In re NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application, OAH 60-2004-37824

Dear Designee Wilson,

Please see the attached correspondence.

Regards,

Jay Johnson

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**From:** Fredrickson, Dawn (DNR) <Dawn.Fredrickson@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 3:07 PM  
**To:** mmills@greeneespel.com; aknoll@greeneespel.com; ffamouri@greeneespel.com; dwilliams@greeneespel.com; jkammueler@greeneespel.com; janderson@mncenter.org; akenzior@mncenter.org; lassistants@mncenter.org; Johnson, Jay C. <JCJohnson@Venable.com>; pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com; Coleman, Jean (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <Jean.Coleman@state.mn.us>; jwkatchen@hollandhart.com; bcsmith@hollandhart.com; vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com; fholleman@sonosky.com; seancopeland@fdlrez.com  
**Cc:** Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Cary, Robert (DNR) <robert.cary@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** In re NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application, OAH 60-2004-37824

**Caution: External Email**

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Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter sent on behalf of Grant Wilson, Central Region Director, with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Thank you,

Dawn Fredrickson  
Legal Administrative Assistant Senior | General Counsel  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259-5031

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March 16, 2026

t 202.344.4698  
JCJohnson@Venable.com

Grant Wilson  
Commissioner's Designee  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application  
OAH-60-2004-37824

Dear Designee Wilson:

In your January 14, 2026 letter, you stayed this matter “until PolyMet completes its internal studies and formally notifies DNR of its tailings storage plans or other circumstance warrants a lifting of the stay” You also required PolyMet (now known as NewRange Copper Nickel LLC) to provide status updates every 60 days until the stay is lifted.

As 60 days have passed since your letter, I am writing to tell you that NewRange has not formally notified DNR of its tailings storage plans, and that it is aware of no other circumstance that warrants a lifting of the stay.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*/s Jay C. Johnson*

Jay C. Johnson

January 14, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Monte A. Mills  
Aaron P. Knoll  
Farah N. Famouri  
Davida S. Williams  
Greene Espel PLLP  
222 S. Ninth Street, Suite 2200  
Minneapolis MN 55402  
mmills@greeneespel.com  
aknoll@greeneespel.com  
ffamouri@greeneespel.com  
dwilliams@greeneespel.com  
jkammueler@greeneespel.com

Jay C. Johnson  
Kathryn A. Kusske Floyd  
Venable LLP  
600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
jcjohnson@venable.com  
kkfloyd@venable.com

Representing: Poly Met Mining, Inc.

VIA EMAIL

Jean Coleman  
Minnesota Department of Natural  
Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55117  
jean.coleman@state.mn.us  
dawn.fredrickson@state.mn.us

Jonathan W. Katchen  
Holland & Hart LLP  
1029 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 550  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
jwkatchen@hollandhart.com

VIA EMAIL

Joy R. Anderson  
Ashlynn Kendzior  
Minnesota Center for Environmental  
Advocacy  
1919 University Avenue West, Suite 515  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104  
janderson@mncenter.org  
akendzior@mncenter.org  
lassistants@mncenter.org

Representing: Minnesota Center for  
Environmental Advocacy, Friends of the  
Boundary Waters Wilderness, Duluth for  
Clean Water, Center for Biological  
Diversity, Friends of the Cloquet Valley  
State Forest, Save Lake Superior  
Association, and Save Our Sky Blue Waters

VIA EMAIL

Paula G. Maccabee  
JUST CHANGE LAW OFFICES  
1961 Selby Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104  
pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com

Representing: WaterLegacy

VIA EMAIL

Vanessa L. Ray-Hodge  
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson &  
Perry, LLP  
9900 S.W. Wiltshire St., Suite 240  
Portland, OR 97225  
vrayhodge@abqsonosky.com

Frank Holleman  
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson &  
Perry, LLP  
1425 K St NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005  
fholleman@sonosky.com

Bryson C. Smith  
Holland & Hart LLP  
645 S. Cache St, Suite 100  
P.O. Box 68  
Jackson, WY 83001  
bcsmith@hollandhart.com

Sean Copeland  
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa  
1720 Big Lake Road  
Cloquet, Minnesota 55720  
seancopeland@fdlband.com

Representing: Minnesota Department of  
Natural Resources

Representing: Fond du Lac Band of Lake  
Superior Chippewa

**Re: In the Matter of the NorthMet Project Permit to Mine Application, OAH 60-2004-37824**

Dear Counsel,

As you are aware, pursuant to my October 30, 2025 letter to the parties (“October 30, 2025 Letter”), I requested a status update and briefing from PolyMet, followed by response briefs from DNR and Petitioners. I subsequently extended DNR’s and Petitioners’ deadlines by letter on November 14, 2025 (“November 14, 2025 Letter”). On November 28, 2025, PolyMet submitted a status update informing me that its tailings storage studies are not yet complete and requested that I extend the stay until the studies are completed and PolyMet formally notifies DNR of its tailings storage plans. On December 5, 2025, Petitioners submitted a response letter similarly requesting that I suspend all briefing deadlines until PolyMet provides the tailings storage plans and briefings. Pursuant to my December 11, 2025 letter to the parties (“December 11, 2025 Letter”), I provided DNR until January 2, 2026 to submit its position on the proposed extension of the stay, should it desire to do so.

DNR did not submit its position on or before January 2, 2026. Based on the parties’ submissions, it appears there is no opposition to PolyMet’s request to extend the stay. Because no party has opposed this request or otherwise indicated that it will be prejudiced by the requested extension, PolyMet’s request for extension of the stay is **GRANTED**.

*Parameters of the stay*

The stay shall remain in place until PolyMet completes its internal studies and formally notifies DNR of its tailings storage plans or other circumstance warrants a lifting of the stay.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> If any party believes new circumstances warrant a lifting of the stay prior to PolyMet completing its studies and notifying DNR of its tailings storage plans, it may petition to have the stay lifted.

During the stay, **PolyMet shall provide status updates every 60 days** from the date of this letter until the stay is lifted.

Upon completion of its internal studies and notification to DNR of its tailings storage plans, PolyMet shall, **within 14 days of its notification to DNR**, provide a final status update that includes a summary of the results of its internal studies and copies of any materials, including any permit application or amendment materials, that it has submitted to DNR. Additionally, PolyMet's status update shall include briefing on the following specific questions:

1. Whether I may take judicial notice under Minn. Stat. § 14.60, subd. 4 of the materials or exhibits submitted by PolyMet with its final status update or any other relevant documents.
2. What impact the result of PolyMet's studies and any submitted applications or amendments thereto have on this proceeding, including whether such applications or amendments are authorized under Minnesota law and whether this proceeding has been rendered moot or should otherwise be dismissed.

After receipt of PolyMet's final status update, I will issue an order setting forth the next steps in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Grant Wilson  
Central Region Director  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
grant.wilson@state.mn.us

36751240\_v2

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155