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

From Fredrickson, Dawn (DNR) <Dawn.Fredrickson@state.mn.us>

Date Wed 1/14/2026 2:07 PM

To mmills@greeneespel.com <mmills@greeneespel.com>; aknoll@greeneespel.com <aknoll@greeneespel.com>; ffamouri@greeneespel.com <ffamouri@greeneespel.com>; dwilliams@greeneespel.com <dwilliams@greeneespel.com>; jkammuller@greeneespel.com <jkammuller@greeneespel.com>; janderson@mncenter.org <janderson@mncenter.org>; akendzior@mncenter.org <akendzior@mncenter.org>; lassistants@mncenter.org <lassistants@mncenter.org>; jcjohnson@venable.com <jcjohnson@venable.com>; 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>

Cc Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Cary, Robert (DNR) <robert.cary@state.mn.us>

 1 attachment (217 KB)

2026-01-14 Letter to Counsel.pdf;

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

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.¹

¹ 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

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