

MINING PROTECTS MINNESOTA'S WATER RESOURCES

Mining Minnesota, a mining trade association, recently released a series of fact sheets which answer four questions an activist group posed to Governor Dayton regarding copper-nickel mining in the state. Each fact sheet provides details about how one of the world's largest undeveloped resources of copper and nickel can be responsibly mined, protecting Minnesota's environment and creating unprecedented economic opportunity. This week, Mine Reader reviews Mining Minnesota's explanation on how state and federal regulations will ensure Minnesota's water remains safe and clean.

Modern mining is highly regulated by multiple state and federal government agencies. Mining companies are required to work closely with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to meet or exceed the many standards and regulations that ensure Minnesota's water is protected for generations to come.

Minnesota has strict water standards – all groundwater in the state is protected as an actual or potential drinking source. The MPCA's water permits establish specific limits and requirements on the amount and quality of discharges allowed to surface waters. Permits are strictly enforced by the MPCA and EPA through compliance monitoring.

Minnesota also requires all mine waste to be fully tested and studied as part of the mine permitting process. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources oversees testing of all mining materials generated by exploration, pre-production and process to ensure the protection of water and natural resources in the state. Mining companies are also required to permanently prevent water from moving through mine waste and must treat any residual water that drains from the waste area, including after reclamation of the mine site.

These state and federal water quality standards are just a few examples of how regulations ensure companies have controls in place to comply with comprehensive environmental standards – assuring clean and safe water.



To learn more, read Mining Minnesota's letter to Governor Dayton in its entirety here: <http://miningminnesota.com/uploads/Governor.pdf>.