

STRONG SAFEGUARDS ENSURE MINNESOTA'S NATURAL RESOURCES WILL BE PROTECTED

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 highlights Mining Minnesota's fact sheet explaining how Minnesota's strong safeguards will ensure the state's natural resources will be protected against potential impacts from mining.



Minnesota's environmental review and regulatory permitting processes require mining companies that are proposing projects to present plans that include safeguards to prevent pollution, mitigation plans for unavoidable impacts, and sources of funding to manage any potential unforeseen issues. Two state agencies – the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) – are the lead agencies for reviewing mining proposals, ensuring the proposals will meet rigorous state environmental standards before being approved, and ensuring environmental compliance during operations.

The DNR is responsible for issuing a “permit to mine” – the purpose of the permit is to preserve natural resources, control possible adverse environmental effects of mining, encourage planning of future land use and promote orderly development of mining. The MPCA is responsible for issuing air and water permits which must be obtained before any mining or procession can begin.

Permits issued by both the DNR and the MPCA are subject to periodic review. If any violations are observed, mining companies are required to take immediate action to correct the violation. If a mining company fails to comply, permits may be suspended, revoked or modified to require additional financial assurance to cover the cost of corrective actions.