

Date: April 18, 2023

To: Parties on the EQB EAW Distribution List/Other Interested Parties

From: Bill Johnson, Mining Planning Director, EWR Environmental Policy & Review Unit

**RE: Mile Post 7 West Ridge Railroad Relocation, Dam Extensions,
and Stream Mitigation Project – Environmental Assessment
Worksheet**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) to describe the environmental effects associated with the West Ridge Railroad Relocation, Dam Extensions, and Stream Mitigation Project, located in the City of Silver Bay, Lake County, Minnesota. The DNR is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the project review.

Northshore Mining Company proposes to relocate the West Ridge Railroad, extend Dams 1 and 2, construct a Dam 1 switchback, and develop a clay borrow site at the Mile Post 7 tailings basin. The project also includes approximately 20,655 linear feet of stream mitigation across six sites. Tailings placement would continue to the final permitted dam elevation of 1,315 feet above mean sea level.

A 30-day public review and comment period will begin on April 18, 2023, with the publication of the notice of availability of the EAW in the Environmental Quality Board *Monitor*. The EAW and its associated attachments and figures will be available for review online at the DNR website beginning April 18, 2023 at the [project page of the DNR website](#)

A hard copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

- Silver Bay Public Library, 9 Davis Drive, Silver Bay, MN 55614

Comments must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 18, 2023.

- Mailed comments should be sent to the attention of Bill Johnson, Environmental Review Unit, Ecological and Water Resources Division – Box 25, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025.
- E-mail comments should be sent to environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with “Mile Post 7 Stream Mitigation” in the subject line.

Anyone providing a mailing address or submitting comments via email will receive a copy of the decision document, which includes responses to comments. Because all comments and related information are

part of the public record for this environmental review, commenters' names and email or postal addresses will be published and be publicly available as they appear in the materials they submit.