

Minnesota's Mineral Resources

Responsible use of our state's mineral resources

Background:

Mining has been a part of Minnesota's cultural and economic fiber for more than 130 years. Minnesotan's value our environmental responsibility, and our economic strength and diversity. The issue of utilizing Minnesota's mineral resources near areas such as the BWCA, Lake Superior, and our other treasured lakes and rivers has generated considerable debate. And rightly so.

The engineers and scientists represented by ACEC are professionals bound by duty and ethics to protect the public, and are integral to the study, evaluation, and design of mining operations in our state. They are involved with miners and regulators to develop environmentally responsible and economically viable mine plans and support effective mine operations that are consistent with regulations and permits.

Today's best practices and technology can minimize and mitigate potential environmental impacts from these projects. The level of design, technology, planning, environmental review and permitting that precedes these projects is extensive and has greatly increased the protection of our environment in comparison to projects initiated even ten years ago. Through diligent engineering and process design, appropriate financial assurances, contingency plans, and site restoration, these mining facilities can benefit our economy while maintaining the world class natural resources and corresponding recreational opportunities for which Minnesota is famous.

ACEC/MN Position

The economic gain from mining projects does not have to be a cost borne at the expense of our environment or future generations. These projects will provide great economic benefit to the entire state and can be done in such a manner that they protect the surrounding environment. It is important to move these projects forward responsibly to create jobs, tax revenue and access to these valuable resources. We believe that the State of Minnesota has established effective standards and processes for obtaining mining permits, monitoring operations, and assuring effective reclamation upon completion of mining activities. We also believe that these processes should be carried out in a timely manner so that we do not unduly impede or discourage mineral development in Minnesota, where we can benefit economically and where we can show the world how to mine responsibly.

Action Requested:

Contact your legislators and explain:

- the value of these resources to the State's economy, including economic diversification with the development of non-ferrous mining, and the skills we can bring to make these projects a reality
- the importance of diverse mineral development for the next generation of technology already surrounding us, and the need for the minerals we have available in our backyard (copper, nickel, palladium)
- the responsible, world class mining standards we have established in Minnesota. If we rely on mining and development of these minerals in third world countries, where environmental standards pale in comparison to Minnesota, the environmental impacts are much more significant
- further undue delay or impediment to the development of new mining in Minnesota is a significant economic risk

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