



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-1678

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Operations
Regulatory (2010-05299-WMS)

DEC 23 2013

Matt Moroney, Deputy Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

Dear Mr. Moroney:

Thank you for your request that we consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of a joint Federal/State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gogebic Taconite mine in northern Wisconsin.

At this time, we must decline the request to jointly develop an EIS, due to differences between the state and federal environmental review requirements that would likely apply to the proposed project. We do not have enough information about the proposed project to determine if these regulatory differences could be adequately addressed in a jointly prepared EIS. In addition, we lack sufficient resources to participate in the preparation of an EIS prior to the receipt of a complete application for a Department of Army (DA) permit.

We would, as staff resources allow, be interested in considering means by which we could jointly undertake activities to determine the scope of the proposed project's environmental effects (e.g. joint scoping of an EIS). These joint activities could include identification of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an EIS, as well as the identification of other review and consultation requirements applicable to the proposed action.

Again, thank you for your request to coordinate our respective analyses of the proposed project. We remain committed to coordinating the federal and state review requirements associated with impacts to waters of the U.S. whenever possible, for better service to the regulated public in Wisconsin. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Graser in our Waukesha Field office at (651) 290-5728. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamara E. Cameron".

Tamara E. Cameron
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Copy Furnished:

Tim Meyers, Gogebic Taconite;
Michael Sedlacek, USEPA;
Cyrus Hester, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.