

General information

Public comment period begins: November 15, 2024

Public comment period ends: December 16, 2024

Name and address of Permittee:

Northshore Mining Co
 10 Outer Dr
 Silver Bay, MN 55614-1401

Facility name and location:

Northshore Mining Co - Peter Mitchell
 1702 Scott Rd
 Babbitt, MN 55706
 St. Louis County
 T060N, R12W, Section 020

MPCA contact person:

Derek Nelson
 Industrial Division
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 520 Lafayette Road North
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 Phone: 651-757-2131
 Email: derek.nelson@state.mn.us

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
 844-828-0942

A draft permit and technical support document are available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/public-comments>. Additional materials relating to the issuance of this permit are available for inspection by appointment at any MPCA office (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mPCA/contact-us>) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft permit upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and U.S. Mail comments must be received by 4:30 p.m.

Description of Northshore Mining Co – Peter Mitchell

Northshore Mining - Peter Mitchell Mine (facility) is a taconite ore mining operation in Babbitt, MN. At the site, the Permittee operates mining equipment, haul trucks, a primary ore crusher, material loadout and stockpile operations, and combustion sources for maintenance and heat. The ore mined is sent via rail to a processing plant in Silver Bay, MN which is a separate facility with its own individual air permit.

The primary pollutants of concern are particulates from fugitive sources such as blasting, haul trucks, and material stockpiles. Particulates are emitted from the primary ore crusher, which is controlled by a fabric filter. Additionally, products from combustion such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO) are emitted from the combustion activities.

The preliminary determination to reissue this air permit is tentative.

The permit action is for operation of the facility. The permit action is the reissuance of the Part 70 operating permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice.

A summary of the potential to emit (PTE) in tons per year is as follows:

Pollutant	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO _x	VOCs	CO	CO _{2e}	All HAPs
Total Facility PTE	1715	579	106	398	200	1.59	562	33,200	5.14

PM = Particulate Matter

PM_{2.5} = PM, 2.5 microns and smaller

NO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

CO = Carbon Monoxide

PM₁₀ = PM, 10 microns and smaller

SO₂ = Sulfur Dioxide

VOCs = Volatile Organic Compounds

CO_{2e} = Carbon Dioxide Equivalents as defined in Minn. R. 7007.0100

HAP = Hazardous Air Pollutant

The Permittee is not required to submit a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

Procedure for public participation

As stated in Minn. R. chs. 7000 and 7001, there are three formal procedures for public participation in the MPCA's consideration of this matter. Interested persons may:

- 1) Submit written comments on the draft permit.

- 2) Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
- 3) Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Submitting written comments

Comments may be submitted:

- 1) Online at <https://mpca.commentinput.com/comment/search>; or
- 2) By U.S. postal mail to the following address:

Derek Nelson
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Submitted comments or petitions must state:

- 1) Your interest in the permit application or the draft permit.
- 2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft permit you believe should be changed.
- 3) The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the MPCA to investigate the merits of the position.

Public informational meeting

A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above and in addition include a statement of the reasons the person desires the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and the issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.

Contested Case Hearing

A contested case hearing is a formal proceeding before an administrative law judge empowered to advise the MPCA regarding issues of fact. As described in Minn. R. 7000.1800, persons who submit petitions for a contested case hearing must also state the issues they propose to address in a contested case hearing, the specific relief requested or resolution of the matter, and the reasons (which may be in the form of proposed findings) supporting an MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing. Failure to comply with these rules exactly may result in a denial of the request. To the extent known, the petitioner may also submit a list of prospective witnesses to be called at a hearing, a proposed list of publications, references, or studies to be introduced at a hearing and the approximate time required for the petitioner to present the matter at a hearing. The decision whether to hold a contested case hearing will be made under Minn. R. 7000.1900.