

Richard Blake

I write today in support of Mesabi Metallics and encourage the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to expeditiously approve the wastewater permit for the project in Nashwauk, Minnesota. I have been following this project for several years and strongly support it. This mining project will be a major boon to our region's economy. It will extend the life of mining in Itasca and St. Louis County by mining some of the regions highest grade ore. The project also has the potential to grow into an industrial facility that produces steel right here on Minnesota's Iron Range. The 350 or so direct jobs it provides will be supplemented by a significant number of jobs in support industries. The company has also proven to be a responsible corporate citizen by providing many informational sessions and tours as the project has progressed. I was fortunate enough to have visited the site several on several occasions. As a former construction electrician who worked at several mining sites on Minnesota's Iron Range and as a former electrical engineer at Keetac in Keewatin and Newmont Mining in Nevada I can attest to the responsible way Mesabi Metallics has conducted business.

Please approve this permit as quickly as possible.

Richard Blake
Grand Rapids City Councilor