

Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters (Richard Kolodziejski)

The Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters strongly supports the issuance of a wastewater permit for the Mesabi Metallics project in Nashwauk, Minnesota. This project represents a critical step in revitalizing northern Minnesota's iron range economy and ensuring continued opportunities for skilled tradesmen and women across our region.

Our members—millwrights, carpenters, and other construction professionals—play a vital role in the safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible construction and maintenance of industrial sites like this one. We take pride in our rigorous safety standards, extensive training programs, and commitment to quality craftsmanship. With the necessary environmental permits approved, local union labor can continue to advance the project responsibly, providing stable, family-supporting jobs in communities that need them most.

Trade workers on the Iron Range represent much more than just a career path—they represent stability for working families, investment in our communities and a proven pipeline of talent that lives in and supports our communities' local economies. Across the Iron Range, highly trained union tradespeople are building the future of our region with skill, safety and pride.

We understand the importance of protecting Minnesota's natural resources, and we are confident that this project can move forward in full compliance with environmental standards. The Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters believes that thoughtful development and strong environmental stewardship can work hand in hand to build a more sustainable and prosperous future for our region.

We appreciate your careful review of this matter and encourage the MPCA to move forward in approving the permits necessary for Mesabi Metallics to continue operations. Our union, and the skilled workers we represent, stand ready to do our part in making this project a success.

Thank you for your consideration.