

**SCOPING DECISION DOCUMENT
AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
Zavoral Mine and Reclamation Project**

Description: The City of Scandia, Minnesota intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Zavoral Mine and Reclamation Project. The proposed project includes operation of a gravel mine and processing operation on a dormant, un-reclaimed gravel mine site. The site was mined by multiple operators before it was taken out of production in the 1980's. The previous mining activity was not subject to environmental review. The 114-acre site is located along St. Croix Trail North (State TH 96) near its intersection with State TH 97. A portion of the site is located in the St. Croix River District Zone. The application proposes reclamation activities within the Riverway Zone, and mining and processing activities near the Riverway Zone.

On April 21, 2009, the Scandia City Council approved the Final Scoping Decision Document (SDD) for the Zavoral Mine and Reclamation Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This decision followed the review of the EAW for the proposed project, and the City's declaration of a positive need for an EIS for the project on March 3, 2009. The City prepared the Draft Scoping Decision Document (Draft SDD), and a notice was published in the March 23, 2009 issue of the EQB *Monitor* informing the public of the availability of and public comment period for the Draft SDD under the environmental rules established by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB). The City received comments on the Draft SDD at a public meeting held on April 7, 2009.

In addition to describing the project purpose, the Final SDD identifies four project alternatives that will be evaluated in the EIS. (1) The Build Alternative will evaluate Tiller Corporation's proposed operation of aggregate mining, processing and reclamation activities on the site. (2) The No-Build Alternative will evaluate the potential impacts and outcomes if the existing land uses on the Zavoral site were to continue. (3) Alternative #3 will evaluate the impacts of proposed Washing activities on the site, particularly the potential impacts to groundwater and groundwater-dependent resources on the site. (4) Alternative #4 will evaluate the impacts of processing activities at the site and review options for scheduling these activities to avoid times of impacts to recreational use and resources in the area of project impact.

The Final SDD also describes the subjects that will be evaluated in the EIS and the degree to which they will be addressed. It also identifies those subjects that were adequately addressed in the EAW and will not require additional evaluation in the EIS. Key issues that will be evaluated in the EIS include the reclamation plan, potential economic impacts, impacts to fish wildlife and ecologically-sensitive resources, impacts to surface and groundwater resources, potential impacts of traffic and air emissions, odors, noise and dust, visual impacts, and cumulative impacts.

As a result of public comments, some amendments were made to the Draft SDD prior to publication of the Final SDD. The Final SDD and all other documents relating to the EAW and EIS Scoping Process are available on the City's website at: <http://www.ci.Scandia.mn.us>.

RGU: City of Scandia

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