



Special City Council Meeting
Zavoral Mine & Reclamation
Project EIS

September 25, 2012

Purpose of Meeting

- Consider whether the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project is “adequate”
- City of Scandia is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU)—Council makes the decision

Criteria for Adequacy

Based on Minnesota Rules, the EIS is adequate if:

- the EIS addresses the potentially significant issues and alternatives that were raised in the scoping document so that all significant issues for which information can reasonably be obtained have been analyzed;
- the EIS provides responses to the substantive comments that were received during the draft EIS review concerning the issues raised in the scoping document; and
- the EIS was prepared in compliance with the Environmental Policy Act.

Final EIS Process

- Council approved distribution on August 8, 2012
- Comment period ended September 10, 2012
- 21 comment letters and e-mails received

Public Comments on FEIS

- Most comments were:
 - Similar or identical to comments on DEIS
 - Concerning issues outside scope of EIS
 - About future regulatory process

Public Comments on FEIS

- Two issues need further response:
 - background data for FEIS traffic analysis
 - noise, specifically related to the National Park Service’s policies and tourism

Traffic Analysis

- Comment: *supporting analysis not provided*
- Response: *add new Appendix F to EIS*

Noise

- Comments: *EIS rationale re: impact on local tourism is flawed; EIS did not apply appropriate noise standards*
- Response: *State noise standards are the appropriate standards; NPS noise policies were considered appropriately; and recommended new mitigation measures, revised pages ES-42 and 5-4*

Council Options:

- Adopt Record of Decision finding EIS to be adequate
 - Ends environmental review process
 - Next step is CUP– Planning Commission hearing as early as November 7, 2012

Council Options, continued:

- Postpone action
 - Identify specific information needed and date to continue discussion
- Find EIS inadequate
 - Need specific direction on what's needed to make it adequate
 - City would have 60 days to prepare adequate EIS
 - Circulate in same manner as FEIS distributed in August



Questions?