

Meeting Date: 11/15/2011
Agenda Item:

City Council Agenda Report

City of Scandia

14727 209th St. North
Scandia, MN 55073 (651) 433-2274

Action Requested: Receive an update on the schedule for the Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project EIS (Environmental Impact Statement.)

Deadline/ Timeline: N/A

Background: A preliminary Draft EIS was released on November 8, 2011 and will be reviewed at the last meeting of the PAC (Project Advisory Committee) on **Wednesday, November 16** (4:00 pm. to 7:00 p.m.) The purpose of this memo is to provide the Council with the likely schedule for the process going forward. These steps are prescribed in Minnesota Rules Chapter 4410.

- After the PAC meeting, comments will be received on the preliminary Draft EIS through **December 1, 2011**.
- The consultants (AECOM) will evaluate all the comments and complete the “final” draft EIS, including all appendices, for delivery to the city on **approximately January 17, 2012**.
- The City Council will need to review the document and approve its release for the formal public comment period. We will recommend that the Council hold a special meeting on **Tuesday, January 31, 2012** to receive a presentation on the report and to make this decision.
- If the Council approves the release for the public comment period, the notice of a 45-day formal comment period would be sent to the EQB (Environmental Quality Board) for publication in the next available issue of the EQB *Monitor* (deadline February 13 for publication on **February 20, 2012**.)
- A public informational meeting must be held no later than 15 days following publication of the notice. We will recommend that this meeting be scheduled as part of the **March 6, 2012** Planning Commission meeting.
- The comment period on the Draft EIS would end on **April 5, 2012**.
- At the end of the comment period, all comments received must be reviewed and responses given, and the Final EIS prepared. This is expected to take **about 30 to 60 days**, depending on the comments received.
- The Final EIS is then distributed and notices are published. A **comment period of at least 10 days** must be allowed.

- Next, the City Council must make a decision on the adequacy of the EIS. We expect this would occur, at the earliest, sometime in **late May or June of 2012**.
- Once the decision has been made, additional notices must be published. If the city determines that the EIS is adequate, the process of reviewing permits for the project (the Conditional Use permit and any other required permits) may begin. Review of the Conditional Use Permit would take **at least 60 to 120 days**.

Recommendations:

- No action by the Council is needed at this time. When the schedule of 2012 Council meetings is presented for approval in December, we will include the proposed January 31 special meeting, unless the Council would like to choose an alternative date.

**Attachments/
Materials provided:**

- Preliminary Draft, Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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(Zavoral EIS Schedule Update)