

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
Northeastern States Field Office  
626 E. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 200  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4617

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet**

**Twin Metals Minnesota, LLC and Duluth Metals, Ltd.  
Prospecting Permit Extension Request  
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ES-0030-2015-0004-DNA**

**BLM Office:** Northeastern States Field Office.

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** MNES 53731, MNES 53868, MNES 54037, MNES 54050, MNES 54194, MNES 54195, MNES 54196, MNES 54387, MNES 55203, MNES 55206, MNES 55301, MNES 55302, and MNES 55305.

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** TMM Prospecting Permit Extension Request

**Location of Proposed Action:** Superior National Forest, Lake and St. Louis Counties, Minnesota.

**Applicants:** Twin Metals Minnesota, LLC and Duluth Metals, Ltd.

**A. Description of the Proposed Action**

Extend thirteen prospecting permits for a four-year period.

**B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: *Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (2004)* (SNF LRMP).

**C. Applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document(s) and Other Related Documents**

Federal Hardrock Mineral Prospecting Permits, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FHMPP FEIS), USDA Forest Service (May, 2012)

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

*Yes, the action as proposed is a request for extension to determine the workability of the mineral deposit on the prospecting permit lands for an existing approved action analyzed within the 2012 FHMPP FEIS.*

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?**

*Yes, the proposed extension does not request any changes to the original range of alternatives analyzed in the 2012 FHMPP FEIS. No new issues or concerns have arisen. Existing conditions of approval are to remain in full force and effect. Correspondence pertaining to review of the project by the SNF is included in the administrative record.*

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, or updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

*Yes, the proposed action was determined to present no potentially significant impacts to any of the resources discussed in this question and no new information has been brought to the attention of the BLM from the Superior National Forest in regards to the prospecting permit extension request. Conditions of approval will remain in full force and effect. Correspondence pertaining to review of the project by the SNF is included in the administrative record.*

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

*Yes, the methodology and analytical approach used in the analysis under the 2012 FHMPP FEIS and the 2004 SNF LRMP are still valid and applicable.*

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

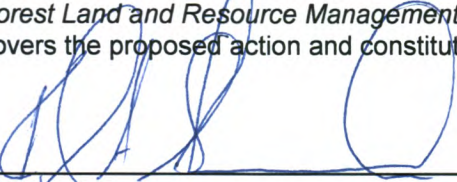
*Yes, public comment or review took place for both the 2012 FHMPP FEIS and the 2004 SNF LRMP. Nothing has been proposed that would change the plan to require additional public comment for the proposed prospecting permit extension.*

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

| Name              | Title   | Resource/Agency Represented  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Eric Wirz         | Minerals and Geology Program Manager/Forest Geologist | USDA Forest Service<br>Superior National Forest<br>Supervisor's Office |
| Brenda Halter     | Forest Supervisor                                     | USDA Forest Service<br>Superior National Forest                        |
| Kathleen Atkinson | Regional Forester                                     | USDA Forest Service, Region 9<br>Milwaukee, Wisconsin                  |

## CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the *Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (2004) and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

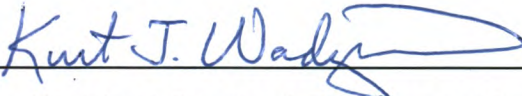


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Kyle A. Schumacher, Project Lead

03/13/2015

Date

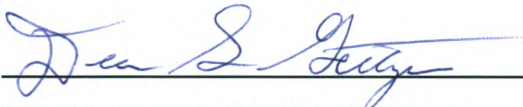


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Kurt Wadzinski, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

MARCH 13, 2015

Date



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Dean Gettinger, Field Office Manager

3/13/2015

Date

**Note:** The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.