

**COOPERATIVE MINERAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE MET  
At Emily City Hall  
*Thursday June 18, 2009***

**ERC Committee Members present:** Brad Moore, Barr Engineering; Kent Rees, homeowner; Linda Van Straaten, RALALA; Donna Holmgren, Blue Lake; Leo Grabowski, USACE; Steve Blomberg, homeowner; Art Patterson, Ruth Lake Improvement Association; Van Bialon, Ruth Lake Improvement Association; George Pepek, City of Emily; Bob Swanson, City of Emily; Bill Spiess, City of Emily Planning & Zoning; John Bergstrom, City of Emily Planning & Zoning; Char Kinzer, Crow Wing Power; Jim Agre, Cooperative Mineral Resources; Alan Cibuzar, A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc.

- I. Alan Cibuzar from A.W. Research has been hired by Cooperative Mineral Resources to insure the Emily Manganese Extraction Process receives adequate input from public concerns and that the project is handled in an environmentally responsible manner, according to Crow Wing Power and public standards.
- II. Purpose of the Environmental Responsibility Committee.
  - a. The goal is allow for communication between citizens, homeowners, government, and other entities. Every entity has 2 people representing the entity, which allows for a primary and alternate attendee and provides for logistical transfer of information. Concerned citizens and homeowners not on the committee can direct questions to their representatives or Cooperative Mineral Resources representatives found at [www.cwpower.com](http://www.cwpower.com).
- III. Project Overview – Brad Moore explained the project to the committee, reviewing the power point that is online at [www.cwpower.com](http://www.cwpower.com).
  - a. Explanations were given on the Environmental Review process as follows:
    - i. Brad Moore presented an overview of the Minnesota’s environmental review program including the purpose of Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs) and an Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).
    - ii. The agencies issuing permits are the Minnesota DNR, the MPCA, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. There will also be permits required from the City of Emily.

- iii. Groundwater tests will be completed this summer. The project will meet the highest possible standards.
    - iv. On completion, the site will be restored and gifted to the City of Emily. There are regulations requiring that there be a close out plan with funding in place and environmental consideration.
  - b. A Proposed Schedule was shared
    - i. June- the access road is complete, monitoring wells will be installed and water studies will be conducted
    - ii. July – the EAW will be completed, federal and state permit applications will be completed.
    - iii. August – infrastructure not requiring state and federal permits will be constructed, permits will be ready for official public notice
    - iv. September – Public comment period during which the public may submit questions (both written and oral) and regulators must respond to them.
    - v. October – Permits will be issued and the demonstration project will begin
    - vi. This schedule is subject to change based on state and local regulatory processes, comments, and the results of the initial studies.
  - c. Information was exchanged about why the mining project did not go through in the 1990's. Chemicals were going to be involved in that process. The Emily city ordinance arose from that dispute and Crow Wing Power and Barr Engineering were not involved at that time. This proposed mineral extraction is totally different and does not use chemicals.
- IV. Aerial Data was shared with the committee, showing a one mile radius of the site. The images will help to analyze any conditions that may be affecting groundwater and vegetation changes today.
- V. Questions that need to be addressed on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet were shared with the committee and members were asked to share their concerns on the worksheet questions as we prepare for the EAW.
- VI. The committee shared their concerns on groundwater levels and contamination; subsidence once extraction begins; water levels of area lakes; noise levels; shipping of the manganese and number and location of test wells. All were assured that careful monitoring will be

done and extreme efforts to mitigate any issues that may arise during the demonstration project.

The committee will continue to meet periodically to make sure all that needs to be addressed in the EAW is extensive enough.