

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

October 22, 2013

Colonel Dan Koprowski
District Engineer & Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
180 5th St. East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

Dear Colonel Koprowski:

I am writing regarding the U.S. Steel Minntac Mine Extension Project in St. Louis County, Minnesota. Given taconite mining's importance to the economy of northeastern Minnesota and to jobs in the region, I respectfully request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District review the application and project materials in a timely manner in order to prevent any unnecessary delay.

As you know, U.S. Steel has proposed to extend the limits of the current taconite mine by approximately 483 acres. My constituents are concerned that without such an extension, production in the mine will dwindle, and that will lead to layoffs. According to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet that is part of the environmental review process, such an extension of the mine would keep operations active through 2031.

U.S. Steel has already invested significant resources into the workforce and the equipment needed to accommodate the additional production capacity. For the project to move forward, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must first consider U.S. Steel's application for a 404 permit. I respectfully request that the Army Corps undertake that consideration in a timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
U.S. Senator