WATERLEGACY

PolyMet/Glencore/NewRange MEGA-MINE Threatens Minnesota's Lake Superior & Boundary Waters Watersheds and Communities

PolyMet Permits OVERTURNED!

- WaterLegacy exposed irregularities, secrecy. In 2023, Minnesota Supreme Court **reversed** weak PolyMet water pollution permit as "arbitrary and capricious."
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa objected to violation of Band standards. In 2023, federal agencies **revoked** PolyMet permit to destroy wetlands.
- Minnesota Supreme Court **reversed** PolyMet permit to mine and required a hearing. In 2023, the administrative judge concluded PolyMet's plan **violates** mine waste rules.
- **But PolyMet has not gone away. The PolyMet NorthMet copper-nickel deposit is now part of an EVEN BIGGER PLAN.**

NEW MEGA-MINE THREAT: NewRange

- Notorious multinational **Glencore now owns 100% of PolyMet.**
- **NewRange** is a joint venture of PolyMet/Glencore and Teck Resources that controls the PolyMet NorthMet and Mesaba copper-nickel deposits.
- **This MEGA-MINE is much larger, has more ore, and higher toxic sulfate than PolyMet alone**. The PolyMet NorthMet deposit in Lake Superior Basin has at least **255 million tons** of resources (2018 NI 43-101). Mesaba deposit in Rainy River (Boundary Waters) Basin has at least **2.2 billion tons** (2022 NI 43-101).
- **The NewRange MEGA-MINE would put mine pits and waste rock in <u>both</u> the Lake Superior and Boundary Waters watersheds and massive processing and tailings waste in the Lake Superior watershed**.

Every sulfide mine (100%) in a water-rich environment has polluted surface and/or groundwater with acid mine drainage and/or toxic metals.

PolyMet/Glencore/NewRange MEGA-MINE
Poses New Dangers to Water, Wild Rice, Health, Climate

- **Duluth Complex Geology**: copper, nickel, and cobalt in the NorthMet and Mesaba deposits are bound up with sulfur.
- **Higher levels of ore (the Mesaba deposit) also have higher levels of sulfur**. Sulfide ore mining results in acid mine drainage and leaching of toxic metals, such as arsenic & lead.
- Metals like copper and nickel and salts and ionic pollutants released from mining are **toxic to fish and other aquatic life**.

- The PolyMet/Glencore/NewRange mine would be located in **1854 Ceded Territories**, where Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa/Ojibwe have rights to hunt, fish, and gather.
- **Sulfate pollution decimates manoomin** (wild rice) a sacred food for tribes. [Healthy wild rice roots are on the left, roots polluted with sulfate and iron on the right.]
- Many waters downstream of the proposed NewRange mines are already impaired for wild rice and fish beneficial uses due to taconite mining pollution.

- NorthMet deposit mining and NewRange processing & tailings waste would increase **toxic methylmercury contamination of fish** downstream to Lake Superior
- Mining the Mesaba deposit would increase **toxic methylmercury contamination of fish** from the Laurentian Divide to the Boundary Waters.
- Methylmercury in fish can be 1,000,000 times higher than in water itself. The Minnesota Department of Health found **1 in 10 infants in the Lake Superior region are already born with unsafe levels of mercury** in their blood.

- The PolyMet copper-nickel sulfide mine alone would destroy nearly **1,000 acres** of wetlands and peatlands.
- Minnesota's DNR estimated in 2008 that destroying 1,000 acres of peatlands would **increase Minnesota's carbon footprint by 2%.**
- Copper and nickel recycling uses only **10-15% of the energy** used to mine and process metals.
- Minnesota's electronic waste stream contains **$3 billion** worth of valuable metals each year. Minnesota currently recycles only 24% of its e-waste.

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