

### **TALK to your friends and neighbors about the PolyMet NorthMet open-pit sulfide mine, waste rock heaps and waste dumps proposed in Minnesota's Lake Superior area.**

\* PolyMet is a “lean” deposit of copper-nickel – 99 percent of what is dug out of the ground will be waste.

\* PolyMet project would destroy or impair more than 8,000 acres of irreplaceable wetlands in St. Louis River watershed.

\* PolyMet project would create cumulative harm in Minnesota's Lake Superior basin -- drinking water supplies and waters that are already vulnerable due to pollution from other mines.

\* PolyMet project would leak and seep sulfates and heavy metals into surface water and groundwater from:

Mine Site: Waste rock heaps, including a permanent 520-acre waste rock heap adjacent to the Hundred Mile Swamp and flooded mine pits,

Plant Site: 228 million tons of sulfide mine tailings placed on top of the old LTV leaking tailings basin. New waste dump with high acidic, sulfate, and toxic metal processing residue.

\* PolyMet puts human health at risk – increased arsenic, manganese and other contaminants in our drinking water and mercury contamination of fish (cancer, harm to human brain).

\* PolyMet threatens fish habitat, natural wild rice, tribal resources and a way of life based on the great outdoors.

\* The pollution and need for pollution treatment is perpetual.

**Get involved:** <http://waterlegacy.org/PolyMet-Comment>

### **Question: Will the PolyMet NorthMet open-pit sulfide mine be approved for Minnesota's Lake Superior Basin -- upstream of Hoyt Lakes drinking water and the St. Louis River?**

- Federal law provides that a project that destroys wetlands cannot be approved if pollution would violate the Clean Water Act.
- Environmental review for the PolyMet sulfide mine is not done. In 2010, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency gave the PolyMet study and the PolyMet project itself failing grades, saying that the analysis of harm was “**inadequate**” and the project was “**environmentally unsatisfactory.**”
- The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the PolyMet sulfide mine and waste facilities is likely to be released this November.
- Federal, state and tribal staff have raised concerns that the PolyMet project would pollute surface and drinking water and destroy wetlands of national importance.
- Citizens will have a chance to send written comments and testify in meetings – probably in the Twin Cities, Duluth and Hoyt Lakes. **Your voice matters.**

**Call Allen Richardson at (218) 428-0290 and Sign up so that we can contact you with up-to-date briefings, talking points and the best ways to have your voice heard:**

<http://waterlegacy.org/PolyMet-Comment>