

Department of Environmental Quality
Public Comment Process for the Proposed Kennecott Humboldt Project

Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company (KEMC) is proposing to reuse the existing Humboldt Mill facilities located in Humboldt Township, Marquette County, Michigan for beneficiation of ore.

Proposed Actions

There are four permit applications currently under consideration by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the Humboldt Mill. Approval of each application is necessary for the facility to begin operation. Below is a brief summary of each application:

1. Air Use Permit – The proposed mill operation requires a permit for new sources of air emissions. The proposed ore beneficiation and processing facility must meet state and federal air quality requirements. The draft permit conditions include emission restrictions and operational requirements.
2. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – The proposed mill operation requires a permit to discharge to surface waters of the state. The permit contains conditions and requirements to assure that all water quality standards will be met and the designated uses of the receiving waters will be protected.
3. Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit – The proposed mill operation requires a separate mining permit because the site is not within or adjacent to other associated mining activities, either existing or proposed, that are subject to a mining permit. The draft permit specifies conditions to assure the milling operation meets the requirements of the law and will protect natural resources, the environment, and public health.
4. Inland Lakes and Streams Permit – The proposed mill operation requires a permit for placing waste rock material on the bottom of the Humboldt pit lake.

Public Participation

The DEQ is seeking comments from all interested persons on its proposed actions. Rather than requiring citizens to provide comments separately on each of the four proposed actions, the DEQ has elected to hold one consolidated hearing and public comment period. The public hearing will be held at the at Westwood High School Auditorium, 300 Westwood Drive, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849, on December 1, 2009, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Following the

hearing, the DEQ will accept written comments on the proposed actions through December 29, 2009.

All interested persons are encouraged to present their views on any or all of the proposed actions either at the hearing or during the comment period. There are four methods for a person or organization to provide their input on the proposals:

1. Speak during the Public Hearing.
2. Provide your written comments at the Public Hearing.
3. E-mail your comments to the designated DEQ mailbox at: **DEQ-Kennecott-Humboldt-Mill-comments@michigan.gov**. After submitting your comments, you will receive an automated confirmation.
4. Mail your comments to DEQ Kennecott Comments, Office of Geological Survey, P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756.

A person or organization may both speak at the public hearing and provide comments through the other methods listed above. The comments received will be distributed to the DEQ staff reviewing KEMC's proposal. All comments presented by 5:00 p.m. on December 29, 2009, will be considered prior to final action.

Public Hearing

The public hearing is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to provide verbal testimony before the DEQ on the proposed mill. As people enter the hearing location, they will be encouraged to complete an attendance card. These attendance cards have two purposes: to identify individuals who wish to speak during the hearing, and to establish a mailing list for later mailings regarding the proposed facility. Those wishing to speak during the hearing should complete a colored attendance card while those not wishing to speak should complete a white attendance card. This will allow the DEQ to quickly identify the cards of those wishing to provide testimony. A person can complete a colored attendance card at any time during the hearing. Also, a person is not required to speak if they have completed a colored attendance card. Everyone completing an attendance card will be included on the mailing list.

Throughout the hearing hours, technical staff of the DEQ will be available in an area adjacent to the hearing room to answer questions regarding the DEQ's reviews and proposed actions. There will not be any formal presentations. Additional copies of the staff analyses and documents will be available.

Inside the hearing room, seated at a table at the front will be the Hearing Officer and the DEQ decision-makers or representatives. There will be a microphone

and podium facing the table at the front of the seating area. This microphone is used by the public to provide their testimony. Seated at the side of the room, a court reporter will be recording the testimony of the people speaking. The hearing is for testimony only. Questions regarding the proposed project will not be answered in the hearing room.

At the beginning of the public hearing, the Hearing Officer will read a brief statement on the purpose of the hearing and the procedures that will be followed during the hearing. Using the submitted colored attendance cards, the Hearing Officer will then begin calling persons to testify at the microphone. Because it is expected that many people will want to speak, testimony will be limited to five minutes. A speaker may indicate that they wish to testify again and their attendance card will be placed in line behind those who have not yet spoken.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joe Maki, Geologist Specialist, Upper Peninsula District Office, 420 5th Street, Gwinn, Michigan 49841-3004 or e-mail at makij3@michigan.gov.