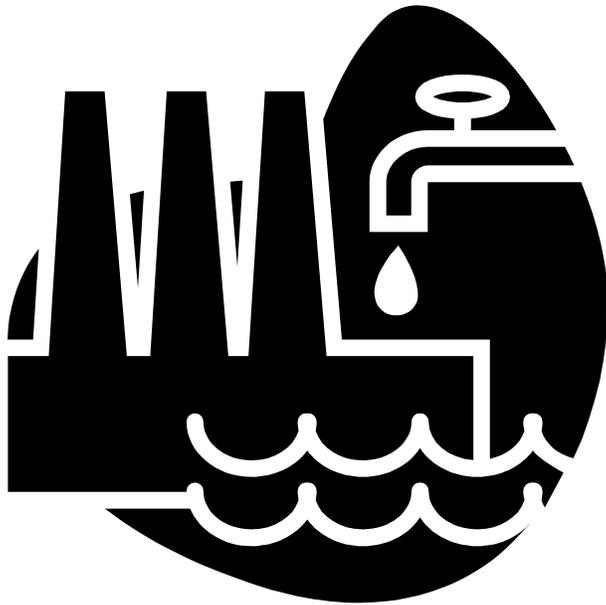




OOPS!! POLYMET COPPER MINE EXPECTS 500 YEARS DISCHARGE OF POLLUTED WATER

According to their Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) to be released in November, PolyMet expects water treatment WOULD be needed to meet water quality standards for over 500 years but disputes that this should be considered “perpetual” treatment. Independent water quality experts have previously stated that the waste and crushed rock from the roughly 500 million tons of mined hard rock would have the potential to generate hundreds of thousands if not millions of gallons of sulfuric acid and sulfates over that time frame. In a chilling response to environmental critics Minnesota’s DNR suggests that reverse osmosis and passive water treatment in wetlands would be enough to clean the water leaving the proposed site’s wastewater treatment basin which is already emitting pollutants exceeding federal and state water treatment standards. This claim is laughable since they don’t know now and never will know where all of the polluted



leakage is located. Citizens will find it in their wells and in their fish. The SDEIS is nothing more than a cookbook with recipes for short term mitigation of long term massive water and air pollution. And we haven’t begun to hear about the lung disease potential from combining sulfide based particles with the ever present iron based fibers from the mining and crushing of these hard rock ores. Concerned organizations and citizens will have the opportunity to ask the State of Minnesota’s Departments of Natural Resources and Pollution Control to reject these plans as being faulty and incapable of providing citizens protection from pollution already admitted to and far beyond. Many organizations will be circulating petitions and examples of comment letters with contact information following the November 22nd release of the SDEIS. Be sure to comment.

LeRoger Lind

SLSA 2013 ANNUAL MEETING WELL FOCUSED AND WELL ATTENDED

Over 40 Save Lake Superior Association members and friends gathered in Duluth on Sept 21st for our 44th Annual Meeting. This year our program focused on both physical and bio-chemical factors affecting water quality in the lake. The level of monitoring and analysis is steadily improving but the results are steadily becoming more cause for alarm. Dr. Jay Austin of the Large Lakes Observatory in Duluth presented on “What we know and what we are doing to find out more about How the Lakes Work”. We know that the Great Lakes are “Climate Antennae” and respond to larger physical effects in the regular seasonal changes. By measuring physical parameters such as water temperature, lake levels, ice cover, sediment content and stratification his team of scientists has made some significant discoveries. The lakes are warming. Water temperatures in 1998 and 2012 were very warm and outside of the range of normal variability. Data from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory shows that upper level atmospheric temperatures in the northern latitudes are warming much faster than those over the African continent. The “warm” period in Lake Superior has increased from 120 days to 150 days. The algae growing season has increased and the ice cover season has decreased, both significantly. The lake has become more hospitable to aquatic invasive species and less so to our most desirable fish in many cases. Also based on his data, the magnitude of the 2012 flood in Duluth and surrounding area was increased by climate change effects.

Nancy Schuldt, Water Projects Coordinator for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa presented on "Sulfate Standards for Water Quality Protection in Lake Superior Watersheds". Since about the 1950s, wild rice beds in the St. Louis River watershed have seriously deteriorated. More recently mercury in fish and sulfates in the St. Louis River estuary have significantly increased. A 30 year study of sulfate levels in these waters by Dr. Moyle showed that the early levels of this chemical compound were very low. The current levels in some places are an order of magnitude higher and rising. The origin of these chemicals is roughly three times greater from taconite mining waste ponds than from other sources. The present levels in Lake Superior are low except for areas near the mouths of rivers such as the St. Louis and the Beaver that are conduits for waste pond leakage and state-approved discharges into the rivers and eventually, the lake. Sulfates are instrumental in the formation of methylated mercury which enters the aquatic food chain and eventually is consumed by some fetuses and young children. There are over a hundred other chemicals also being detected in waters especially near sewage treatment plants. Most of these chemicals are threats to public health in varying degrees. We are now both literally and figuratively the "frogs" in the slowly warming and acidifying pots of Great Lakes water. Our scientists are telling the story but our decision makers aren't listening.

LeRoger Lind



BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TAKES FINAL DIVE IN MINNESOTA

The State of Minnesota authorized the continuing discharge of untreated ballast water into the state waters of Lake Superior until 2018 and, effectively, far beyond. Permit MNG300000 Ballast Water Discharge General Permit was issued on 10/11/2013 and "expires" on September 30, 2018 and gives a 2 year extension from the basic requirements of the 2008 permit. However, the effects of the permitting on the discharge and spread of aquatic invasive species will last far into this century.

Salt water vessels will be regulated by the federal USEPA final 2013 Vessel General Permit which does require mid-ocean ballast water exchange. This discharge standard is based upon the IMO limits of size and number of living organisms that can be transported and discharged in receiving waters such as the Duluth Superior harbor. Millions of aquatic invasive species (AIS) will continue to be discharged from each ship loading in the Great Lakes. One encouraging requirement includes fresh water Lakers to also meet the IMO standard. But the fresh water vessels need only apply for a variance to the state claiming that they could not find a "type-approved" system in the "yellow pages" of ship equipment to install and they get another year after 2018 to search basically unlimited.

If the goal of this permitting process is to prevent the discharge and spread of invasive and destructive living organisms into Lake Superior, it has failed miserably. Comments from commercial stakeholders basically say "don't worry; trust us". The cheap dumping of untreated ballast water into our harbors and the lake will continue indefinitely. The spread into inland waters is well on its way. Draining and cleaning of small fishing boats is one thing but draining inland waters is not cheap.

LeRoger Lind

SAVE LAKE SUPERIOR ASSOCIATION 44TH ANNUAL MEETING NOTES OCT 2012 TO SEPT 2013

1. Experienced changes in composition of SLSA Board: Glenn Maxham retired after 25 years of service. Gary Glass joined the Board. Alice Pierce announced her intention to retire as Treasurer but remain a Board member. Sally Munger assumed duties of Newsletter distribution and membership communications. LeRoger Lind assumed duties of Newsletter editor with the assistance of active member Todd Ronning configuring the newsletter and maintaining the Website. Former Board Member, Nancy Paisley, continues to attend the Duluth Harbor Technical Advisory Committee for Save Lake Superior Association and send detailed reports.

2. Continued updating Website www.savelakesuperior.org and added complimenting Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/groups/126136084083229/>. Sign up on Facebook and ask to be added to the open group "Save Lake Superior Association". Add articles and comments on our issues.
3. Initiated the task of composing comments on the PolyMet Northmet Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our contractor and expert on Clean Water Act and other federal environmental rules and regulations began the process in August and will continue until comments are due. We have received funding from Freshwater Future and are also collaborating with a number of other groups. The SDEIS document will be officially issued for public comment on November 22nd just in time for Thanksgiving and the yearend seasonal holidays.
4. Began the process of organizational capacity building again with funding from Freshwater Future on an Insight Grant. Decided that the very things that we would need to complete the project were not available this year due to lack of time and adequate funding. To be continued.
5. Board members contributed significant amounts of time and personal expense in developing responses to corporate propaganda, media misrepresentation, political maneuvering and other devious tactics to cover up the potential harm to the environment if the PolyMet and Twin Metals copper-nickel mining projects were permitted. This effort will continue into the foreseeable future. We need active member involvement on this and other projects.
6. Submitted comments on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's General Ballast Water Treatment Permit draft. They plan to continue with the same plan issued in 2008 and extend the deadline for installation of ballast water treatment equipment on-board until 2018, 2 years past the original due date of 2016. They did add the freshwater Lakers to those requiring the treatment equipment but offered so many opportunities for further delays that the equipment might never be installed. We objected and asked that they require treatment of all ballast water in ON-SHORE treatment facilities by 2018. Cheap dumping of pollutants into our harbors must end or fishing, tourism, recreation and other virtues of Lake Superior and its watershed will disappear. We learned this lesson at Reserve Mining Company on the North Shore.
7. We continue to research the barrels data from the submerged Ordinance barrels to the source of the pollutants at Twin Cities munitions plants. Dan Rau is developing some very interesting data and strategies. The work will continue into next year when we hope to issue a report and request that all barrels be removed from the lake. Details will be added to the website in the next few months.
8. We are also supporting the effort of MCEA, the IKES and other organizations to require Lutsen Mountains Corporation to prevent the discharge of sediment from their ski hills into the Poplar River. The NPDES permit appears to be the only enforceable vehicle to achieve compliance with clean water standards. They are proposing the long term, unenforceable TMDL process and using public grants to remediate damage caused by a private corporation.

TWO LONG-TIME MEMBERS HAVE PASSED ON

We have lost two long-time members of SLSA this year. Astrid Sjovall of Spring Park, MN and Arthur Wright of Duluth, MN were both dedicated t to the preservation of clean water in Lake Superior. We will miss their support and membership.

Alice Pierce

350.ORG DRAWS THE LINE AGAINST INCREASED PIPELINE TRANSIT OF DIRTY OIL

Two Harbors and area residents joined the rest of the country in "drawing the line" against more crude oil pipelines and increased volume through current pipelines in an event at the Two Harbors breakwater on September 20. A large group lined up along the breakwater for photos to send along to a national demonstration center. Protesters were linked up nationwide drawing the line against further damage from this dangerous source of water pollution. An



agenda for the national movement will evolve from these individual events and hopefully influence decision makers to avoid permitting these projects. We have two major expansions being planned in Northern Minnesota both of which expressed interest in using the Duluth-Superior harbor as a loading point for interlake and global shipping of crude oil. The Alberta Clipper currently runs from Hardisty, Saskatchewan to Superior, WI. Its volume would be doubled to 880,000 barrels per day. The Sandpiper is a new pipeline and would carry hundreds of thousands of barrels of North Dakota shale oil daily also to Superior. The existing Calumet pipeline from the Superior refinery to the Superior shipping port could carry 200,000 gallons per day for shipment on the Great Lakes! A one inch diameter hole in a pipeline in North Dakota recently flooded a farm field with thousands of gallons of crude oil. Small holes are very difficult to detect but cause big problems. The ground water in that area will be poisoned for many years if not decades. The Michigan Kalamazoo River oil spill has cost millions for clean up so far and they are far from finished. How many reasons would the Minnesota public utilities commission need to shut these ventures down before they start?

LeRoger Lind

Please send us your change of address when applicable.

Your SLSA Board Members

LeRoger Lind (Pres.),
Will Munger Jr., (Sec.),
Alice Pierce (Treasurer),
Arnold Overby,
Sally Munger,
Dan Rau
Lori Andresen,
Gary Glass

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Lutsen Mountains Ski Area begins Withdrawal of Lake Superior Water Project

Published October 21, 2013, 08:34 AM

Work begins on pipeline to Lake Superior

The project will replace a controversial pipeline from the Poplar River, a designated trout stream.

By: Associated Press report, MPR.org/100.5 FM

Work begins this week on a pipeline that will bring water from Lake Superior to the Lutsen Mountains ski area.

The project will replace a controversial pipeline from the Poplar River, a designated trout stream. The resort's co-owner, Charles Skinner, says they've used water from the river to make snow since the 1960s.

The new \$5 million pipeline will provide water used in snowmaking at the resort and will send water to the Superior National Golf Course and nearby vacation homes.

Minnesota Public Radio News says the state awarded a \$3.6 million grant to pay for most of the pipeline, with the rest coming from local partners.

SLSA comment

Millions of gallons will be pumped from Lake Superior each day for use in snow-making, golf course watering and resort consumption at the Lutsen Mountains resort complex. Water flow in the Poplar River will be increased beyond its natural levels with the potential for more sediment runoff from existing and new ski hills in planned expansions. The river will more easily become a raging torrent during ever-increasing rain events such as that in 2012. The only enforceable means of reducing this potential would be to require an NPDES permit for point source discharge of sediment into the river. The TMDL process imposed by the MPCA is just more stimulus-response reaction to a situation that needs serious environmental review and erosion prevention action. This project sets a bad precedent for protection of a trout stream and protecting water quality in Lake Superior.

LeRoger Lind