MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (6/9/2011) – The University of Minnesota and Dakota Aggregates, LLC, have entered into an agreement for phased mining on University property in Dakota County over 40 years.

The agreement follows completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and authorization of the University’s Board of Regents to execute the lease on 1,722 acres of its 5,000-acre UMore Park property, both in November 2010. Following local jurisdictional approvals, preparation activities for mining tentatively commence later in 2011, and phased gravel mining will tentatively begin in Spring 2012. The terms of the agreement limit gravel mining to a total of 160 acres at any given time.

The lease generates income for the University based on the sale of sand and gravel. The University’s net proceeds from the lease will be held in the Legacy Fund under the control of the Board of Regents and will be designated for long-term support of special academic pursuits not adequately funded by state, federal or tuition resources. Based on tons of material mined, Dakota Aggregates, LLC, will also contribute funds toward student scholarships and other academic pursuits.

The two-year EIS analysis, conducted in accordance with the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, addressed ways to minimize dust, noise, traffic and other potential impacts of the mining process.

The UMore Development LLC, a University company, oversees planning and development activities on the UMore Park property. LLC President Charles C. Muscoplat said, “We undertook a deliberative and inclusive process, at the direction of the Board of Regents. The lease reflects a public process, quality technical analyses and the best thinking of oversight agencies, local jurisdictions, and University representatives.”

The University’s vision for the overall property that lies in both the City of Rosemount and Empire Township is for a sustainable community of 20,000 to 30,000 people that will be developed over the next 30 years. A variety of activities can occur simultaneously on this large parcel of land, including University research and education, residential and commercial development, and gravel extraction on the western third of the property.