PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Sand and Gravel Resources at UMore Park
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

Thursday, November 6, 2008
Rosemount Community Center
Rosemount, MN
What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

- A legal, full disclosure document that identifies the anticipated environmental impacts and mitigation commitments of a proposed project.

- In the State of Minnesota, the EIS process is overseen by the Environmental Quality Board.

- The environment is defined as all natural, socioeconomic, and community subjects that may be affected by the project.
Why is an EIS Being Prepared?

- To help inform the University of Minnesota Board of Regents through a public, participatory decision-making process on whether to pursue commercial mining.
- To comply with Minnesota environmental rules, which requires an EIS whenever a proposed sand and gravel project exceeds 160 acres.
EIS Study Subjects

- The EIS process considers the full range of natural, socio-economic, and community subject areas including:
  - Groundwater
  - Traffic
  - Site Contamination
  - Air Quality/Dust
  - Storm Water/Water Quality
  - Wetlands
  - Operational and Truck Noise
  - Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Additional Potential Effects Identified Through Public Involvement
What Happens Next?

- Following the study scoping process, which is underway, the key subject areas will be carried into the Draft EIS for detailed analysis.
- The level of technical analysis will be dependent on the magnitude of the issue.
- If necessary, mitigation needs will be defined when adverse impacts cannot be avoided.
- Public and agency engagement will continue to play a very important role through the EIS process.
Public Involvement

- The University is committed to an open and public planning process.
- The University will continue to engage the surrounding communities and agencies throughout the study process.
- Public involvement will play a critical role in the ultimate success of the project.
Public Involvement Tools and Techniques

- Public Meetings
- Web Site – www.umorepark.umn.edu
- Agency and Jurisdictional Coordination
- Public Information
Ongoing Public Input Opportunities

- Ongoing informal public input will be gathered throughout the EIS process.
- Formal comment periods will follow publication of the scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and draft EIS documents.
- While the University welcomes input throughout the process, only those comments submitted during the scoping and draft EIS comment periods become part of the official record.
Anticipated EIS Schedule

- Complete Study Scoping Process – January 2009
- Conduct Public Meeting to Review the Proposed Scope of the EIS – February 2009
- Prepare Draft EIS – February through July 2009
- Conduct Public Meeting to Review the Draft EIS – August/September 2009
- Prepare Final EIS – Late 2009
- Complete EIS Process – Early 2010