UMore Park Sand and Gravel Resources EIS – TAC Meeting 3
October 29, 2009
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
UMore Park Administration Building

Meeting Chair: Chris Hiniker, Senior Planner, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
Minutes by: Bob Rogers, Planner, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.

Present: Karen Kromar - MPCA; David Swenson, Bill Olsen - Dakota County; Andy Brotzler - City of Rosemount; Dean Johnson - Empire Township; Chris Elvrum - Met Council; Janet Dalgleish - University of Minnesota; Jim Aiken, Evan Christianson - Barr Engineering; Chris Hiniker and Bob Rogers - SEH

Copies to: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

I. Introductions
   A. Meeting Roster/Sign-in Sheet

II. Wetland Delineation Report Update
   A. Chris Hiniker, senior planner, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., summarized the status of the delineation reports that have been completed and submitted to both Empire Township and the City of Rosemount as the Local Governmental Units (LGUs). Following the new review/comment requirements, the reports have been noticed for a 15-day comment period and final approval by the LGUs is anticipated in early November. One question was asked regarding the total acreage of wetland and potential impacts from the mining operations. Based on the delineation reports and mining plan, there are approximately 1.73 acres of wetland onsite and approximately 0.37 acres will be impacted by the project.

III. Site Environmental Impact/Remediation Update
   A. Jim Aiken, senior environmental consultant & hydrogeologist, Barr Engineering, provided an update of the additional investigations that have occurred as part of the EIS process. Aiken indicated that even though the UMore Mining Area (UMA) boundary has shifted slightly resulting in Sites of Concern (SOCs) 1 and 2 to no longer fall within the UMA, these sites were still investigated. Aiken indicated that SOC 4 and SOC 5 are being handled in accordance with the Army’s previous investigations and that the findings will be identified in the Draft EIS. In summary, the preliminary findings show little potential for groundwater impacts. As part of the project implementation and permitting, response action plans (RAP) and emergency contingency plans (ECP) will be developed. These documents are subject to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) review and approval and the content will define how the operator(s) working onsite will address well abandonment, reporting and handling of underground storage tanks and/or unearthing impacted soils.

IV. Groundwater Update
   A. Jim Aiken provided an update on the groundwater investigations. As previously discussed, the multi-aquifer flow model indicates groundwater at UMore Park generally flows from the southwest to the northeast (towards the Mississippi River). This finding was first announced in the spring and confirmed in July as additional groundwater data was collected onsite. Groundwater in the UMA does not flow towards the Vermillion River, south of the site.
B. Aiken summarized several groundwater simulations that were run to assess potential impacts of mining operations and groundwater extraction from a water supply well and the mining lake on future development.

1. A key finding that resulted from one of the simulations is that there is a “low vulnerability area” for environmental impacts that falls in the east-central part of the UMA. The proposed ancillary facilities are anticipated to be located in this area which further reduces the potential of groundwater impacts resulting from a potential spill.

2. Another key finding was that the proposed mining operations were not anticipated to result in water-supply concerns within the City of Rosemount and Empire Township. A question was raised regarding the model’s use of the Rosemount well field located east of Highway 52. Barr will further investigate this concern and provide any changes in the assessment as part of the EIS documentation.

C. In general, the groundwater assessment concludes that there are no significant effects on groundwater supply resulting from the mining and ancillary facility operations proposed on the UMA.

V. EIS Update/Schedule

A. Chris Hiniker provided an overview of the technical work that has been completed as part of the EIS and that technical reports are being finalized and will be distributed for review in the near future.

B. Representatives from both Empire Township and the City of Rosemount requested to receive a copy of all documentation at the same time as the University. Copies of the technical reports and the Draft EIS will be forwarded to the City and Township at the earliest possible date to allow adequate time for review and edits, if needed, prior to the official publication of the materials.

C. The tentative project schedule distributed at the TAC meeting indicated publishing the Draft EIS in late January 2010, which would allow for a public hearing/open house meeting to occur in mid-February. The EIS schedule targets a Record of Decision/Adequacy Determination being made by the University’s Board of Regents in June 2010.

VI. Next Meeting – Chris indicated that the next TAC meeting will likely occur in late November or early December to discuss the technical reports for such topics as traffic, noise, air quality/dust, groundwater, surface water, etc. Additional TAC meetings will occur following the Draft EIS comment period and during preparation of the Final EIS.