

Sand and Gravel Resources - Environmental Impact Statement Process Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Environment Impact Statement?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a legal, full disclosure document that identifies the anticipated environmental impacts and mitigation commitments of a proposed project.

Why is an EIS being done?

For two reasons. First, the University is committed to the public, participatory process that informs the University of Minnesota Board of Regents through their decision-making on whether to pursue commercial mining on the property.

Second, it is a State of Minnesota requirement anytime a proposed sand and gravel project exceeds 160 acres an EIS must be conducted.

How does the process work?

The UMore Park Gravel Mining EIS will be written in two phases: a Draft EIS and a Final EIS. The Draft EIS presents the results of all studies, reviews, consultations and coordination conducted regarding the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed project alternative(s). Following completion of the Draft EIS, a preferred alternative is identified based on the analysis presented in the Draft EIS and the comments received during the official public and agency review and comment period. The Final EIS further evaluates the preferred alternative and describes any mitigation commitments to avoid and minimize potential adverse affects of the project.

Who reviews and approves the EIS?

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents, as the Responsible Government Unit (RGU), will review and approve the publication and distribution of the Draft and Final EIS. A public and agency review and comment period -- aided by the State's Environmental Quality Board (EQB) -- will be held for both the Draft EIS and the Final EIS. Ultimately, the University of Minnesota Regents will make a determination whether to proceed with commercial mining.

When will the documents be completed?

The Draft EIS is anticipated to be completed in late 2009, and the Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by summer of 2010.

Can I review the document when it is completed?

Yes. Notice of the Draft EIS will be made through government and public information channels and made available for public review at local libraries, the Rosemount City Hall, the Empire Township Office, and the UMore Park Administration Building in Rosemount.

What areas of environmental impact review are included in an EIS?

- Threatened/Endangered Species
- Social and Community
- Transportation/Public Infrastructure
- Noise/Vibrations
- Archeological and Historic Sites
- Visual/Aesthetics
- Cumulative/Indirect Impacts
- Land Use
- Farmland
- Water Quality/Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Wetlands
- Soil and Water Contamination
- Vegetation
- Floodplains
- Fish and Wildlife

Who can I contact for more information on the sand and gravel resources or the EIS?

Please contact:

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What is the timeline for this EIS?



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