

## **U of M seeks public comments on proposed sand and gravel project at UMore Park; Open house scheduled for Feb. 5 in Rosemount**

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See details at [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu)

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL ( 1/12/2009 ) – The University of Minnesota is hosting a public meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009, to invite public comments on its proposed Sand & Gravel Resources Project, located on a portion of University property in Dakota County.

The University is undertaking a public process to evaluate a potential plan to open a new aggregate mine(s) and ancillary operations on the western third of its 5,000-acre UMore Park property. The property lies within both the City of Rosemount and Empire Township.

The public process entails preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Sand & Gravel Resources Project, consistent with the requirements of the state's Environmental Quality Board. The first step in the EIS process is to invite the public to provide comments that will help determine the scope of the project. Two documents – a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and a Draft Scoping Decision Document (SDD) – have been written to define the project purpose and need, describe the alternatives considered, and detail the methodology for studying potential social, economic, and environmental impacts that could result from the proposed Sand & Gravel Resources Project.

The Feb. 5, 2009 public meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rosemount Community Center Ballroom located at 13885 South Robert Trail in Rosemount, Minnesota. A project presentation will be held at 6:30 p.m. Project team members will be available preceding and following the presentation for informal discussion. Formal comments, based on Environmental Quality Board guidelines, should be submitted in writing, or verbally to the on-site court reporter at the Feb. 5 meeting. Formal comments will be considered in determining the scope of the environmental document.

Copies of the Scoping EAW and the Draft SDD are available online at the UMore Park website: [www.umorepark.umn.edu](http://www.umorepark.umn.edu). Printed copies are available for review at the Empire Town Hall, the Farmington Public Library, the Rosemount City Hall, and the UMore Park Administration Building.

The public comment period on the Scoping EAW and Draft SDD will remain open until Monday, February 16, 2009. Formal comments -- in writing – can be submitted via the EIS comment box on the UMore Park website or to: Steven Lott, University of Minnesota-UMore Park, 1605 West 160<sup>th</sup> Street, Rosemount, MN 55068 or via e-mail at [lottx020@umn.edu](mailto:lottx020@umn.edu)

A draft EIS document will be tentatively available for public review by early Fall 2009.