

# PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

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

**Thursday, November 6, 2008  
Rosemount Community Center  
Rosemount, MN**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
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# 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](http://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