

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*Office of Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
Treasurer*

Office of the President

*334B Morrill Hall
100 Church Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

*Office: 612-625-4517
Fax: 612-626-2278
<http://www.budget.umn.edu/>
Email: ubudget@umn.edu*

January 22, 2010

Robbie LaFleur, Director
Legislative Reference Library
645 State Office Bldg
100 Martin Luther King Blvd
St Paul MN 55155-1050

Re: Vermillion Highlands Annual Report

Dear Ms. LaFleur:

Minnesota Statutes Section 137.52(b) requires the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to annually report to the legislature on the University's efforts and the efforts of the United States Department of Defense to remedy environmental impacts associated with the former Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW) on the University land in Rosemount, Minnesota. That land is under the cooperative management of the University and the Department of Natural Resources. Since the passage of this legislation in 2006, the land has come to be designated as Vermillion Highlands and it is operated as a wildlife management area under state law.

In January 2009, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Dakota County and the University submitted comments to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the revised draft report of the Focused Site Inspection (FSI) of portions of the former GOW, including Vermillion Highlands. In its January 30, 2009, comment letter to the draft FSI, the MPCA advised USACE that a full and complete Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is necessary for the entire GOW site. The USACE issued the final FSI Report on March 31, 2009.

In September 2009, USACE completed an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) over portions of the Vermillion Highlands to further investigate human and environmental exposure to hazardous substances associated with GOW. The USACE is expected to issue the final SI and Risk Assessment Report in late February 2010. This Report will summarize soil, groundwater and surface water sampling conducted during both the FSI and ESI studies, and assess whether the potential exists for environmental conditions created by historical GOW activities to pose significant threats to human health and the environment.

In the event that potentially significant human health or ecological threats are found to exist, USACE will recommend that a RI/FS be completed with respect to releases associated with those threats. The purpose of a RI/FS is to completely define the horizontal and vertical extent of the historical releases of hazardous substances discovered through the SI process and to identify and study potential remedial action alternatives for addressing those releases. A remedial action plan or plans can then be developed and implemented by USACE, which will

prevent any further threat to human health or the environment. The USACE's selected response action(s) will be reviewed by MPCA staff to ensure that they are consistent with planned public use of the Vermillion Highlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.H. Pfutzenreuter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard H. Pfutzenreuter
Treasurer

cc: Anne Cieslak, Board of Regents, University of Minnesota
William Donohue, Office of the General Counsel, University of Minnesota
Charles Muscoplat, Statewide Strategic Resource Development, University of Minnesota
Donna Peterson, University Relations, University of Minnesota