

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

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January 16, 2013

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

*Office of the Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer / Treasurer
Office of the President*

*334B Morrill Hall
100 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Office: 612-625-4517
Fax: 612-626-2278
<http://www.budget.umn.edu/>
Email: ubudget@umn.edu*

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 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Since the passage of this legislation in 2006, the land has come to be designated as Vermillion Highlands: A Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area.

In February 2012, the University issued a report of a remedial investigation (RI), which covered part of the former GOW land, including the northeast portion of Vermillion Highlands. The purpose of the RI was to identify and assess potential risks to human health and the environment associated with historical uses of the former GOW land so that cleanup alternatives can be developed in the future to address any unacceptable risks. Relative to Vermillion Highlands, the RI found lead, arsenic and dinitrotoluene in some of the soil samples collected near former GOW structures that had been used to process and store cannon powder prior to shipment. The University presented the RI findings to the local units of government and the public in the spring/early summer of 2012. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has indicated that an RI will be required of the other former GOW areas within Vermillion Highlands.

At the MPCA's request, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) performed a Public Health Assessment during 2012 of the GOW site, including Vermillion Highlands. The MDH has not yet issued a final report of its findings; however, staff have advised that they also believe additional investigation is necessary in Vermillion Highlands to further assess the potential risks to human health and the environment. The final Public Health Assessment Report will be issued in 2013.

The MPCA asked the University to enter into a Cooperative Cleanup Memorandum of Agreement to address future investigation and cleanup associated with the former GOW land. The Department of Defense owned the land and arranged for construction, operation,

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decontamination and demolition of the GOW The MPCA has indicated that it will arrange for a meeting with the representatives of the University and the Department of Defense in 2013 to discuss a Cooperative Cleanup Memorandum of Agreement that includes future investigation and cleanup of the land.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Pfutzenreuter

Treasurer

cc: Linda Cohen, Board of Regents, University of Minnesota
Brian Steves, Board of Regents, University of Minnesota
Carla Carlson, UMore Development LLC
William Donohue, Office of the General Counsel, University of Minnesota
Jason Rohloff, University Relations, University of Minnesota
Pamela Wheelock, University Services, University of Minnesota