

# Presenter

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# Citizen Petition for an EAW



# Request

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St. Louis County received a citizen petition for an EAW from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.

The petition is regarding a potential request for the expansion of an existing general purpose borrow pit as an Extractive Use - Class II to include additional property.



# EAW

An Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is a brief document designed to set out the basic facts necessary to determine whether an EIS is required for a proposed project. Its primary legal purpose is to provide the information needed to determine whether the project has the potential for significant environmental effects.



# EAW Process

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- EQB determines if the petition complies with the requirements of MN Rule 4410.1100 subparts 1 and 2 and forwards the petition to the RGU within five days of receipt of the petition. Petition received from EQB 3-12-24.
- The RGU reviews the petition and makes a decision to approve or deny the need for preparation of an EAW.



# EAW Mandatory Threshold

- The mandatory threshold for the extraction or mining of sand, gravel, stone, or other nonmetallic minerals, other than peat, which will excavate 40 or more acres of land to a mean depth of ten feet or more during its existence.
- The proposed expansion to add an additional 20 acres does not meet the mandatory threshold. If the project is an expansion or additional stage of an existing project, the cumulative total of the proposed project and any existing stages or components of the existing project must be included when determining if a threshold is met or exceeded if construction was begun within three years before the date of application for a permit or approval from a governmental unit for the expansion of additional stage per MN Rule 4410.4300 subp. 1. The existing gravel pit has been in existence since the 1960s and received a pre-ordinance permit 43631 in 1994 and a conditional use permit for expanded use to include portable hot mix and recycling of asphalt in 2011. The existing extractive use authorizations were permitted before the three-year timeline and are not required to be included in calculating the mandatory threshold.
- An EAW can only review impacts of actions that are not yet approved.





# St. Louis County

April PC

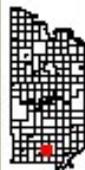


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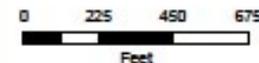
Source: St. Louis County  
Map Created: 3/29/2024

Disclaimer: This is a compilation of records as they appear in the St. Louis County Offices affecting the area shown. This drawing is to be used only for reference purposes and the County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

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## Northland Constructors proposed expansion boundary map

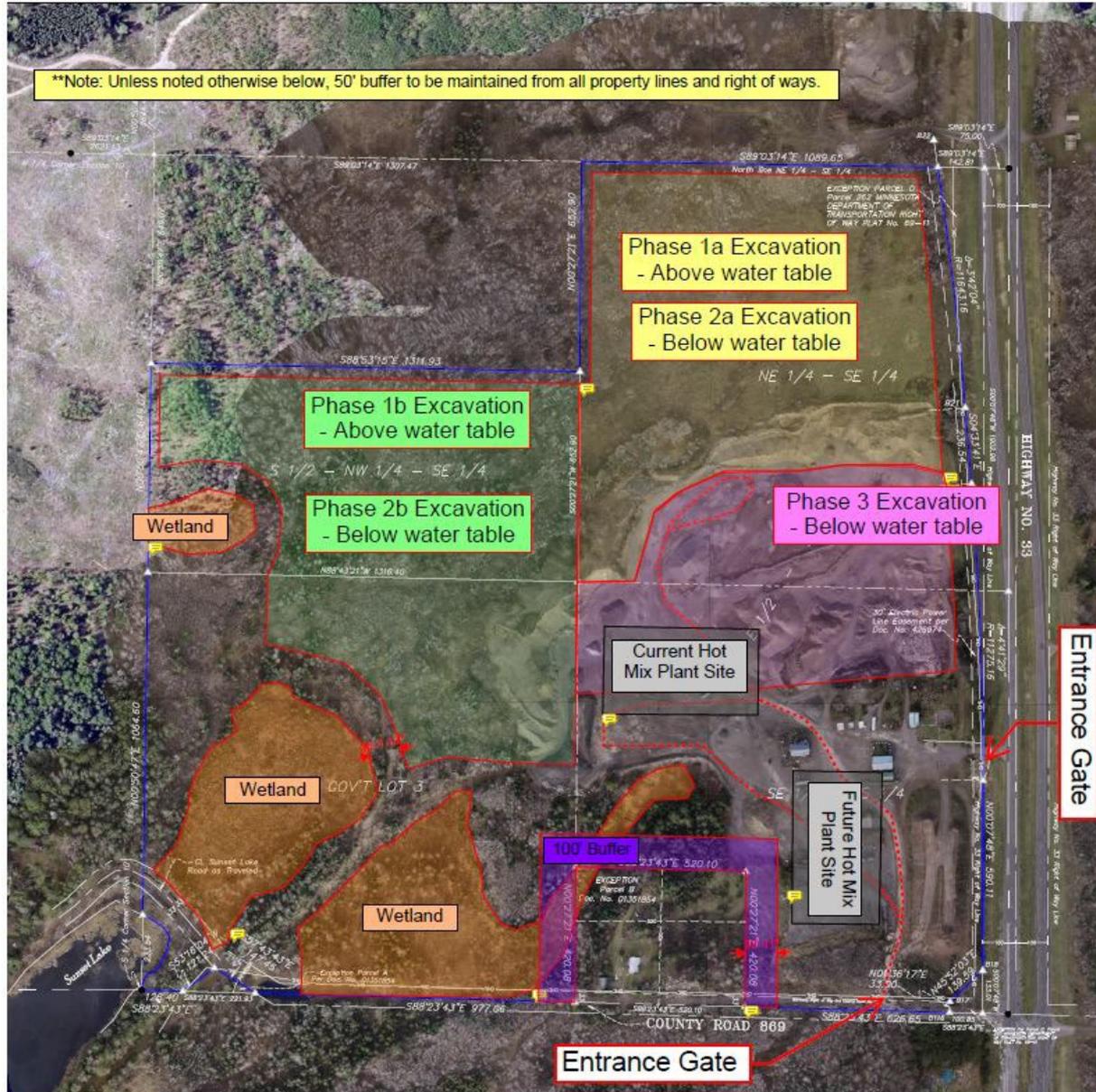


St. Louis County MO

# Northland Hwy 33 Pit Site Overview Diagram

- Legend**  
 — Property Lines  
 - - - - Truck Haul Routes

**\*\*Note:** Unless noted otherwise below, 50' buffer to be maintained from all property lines and right of ways.



# EAW Criteria

In deciding whether a project has the potential for significant environmental effects for the proposed 20-acre parcel, the following factors shall be considered per MN Rule 4400.1700 Subp. 7:

- A. type, extent, and reversibility of environmental effects.
- B. cumulative potential effects. The RGU shall consider the following factors: whether the cumulative potential effect is significant; whether the contribution from the project is significant when viewed in connection with other contributions to the cumulative potential effect; the degree to which the project complies with approved mitigation measures specifically designed to address the cumulative potential effect; and the efforts of the proposer to minimize the contributions from the project.
- C. the extent to which the environmental effects are subject to mitigation by the ongoing public regulatory authority. The RGU may rely only on mitigation measures that are specific and that can be reasonably expected to effectively mitigate the identified environmental impacts of the project; and
- D. the extent to which environmental effects can be anticipated and controlled as a result of other available environmental studies undertaken by public agencies or the project proposer, including other EISs.



# Decision

1. Approve the preparation of an EAW if the evidence presented demonstrates the project may have the potential for significant environmental effects.
2. Deny the petition for the preparation of an EAW.

