

January 30, 2024

Elizabeth Lincoln, Director
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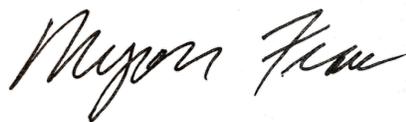
Dear Ms. Lincoln:

On behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, I submit the following annual report to the Legislature under Minnesota Statutes Section 137.52(b) regarding 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, a World War II smokeless powder production facility located on University land in Rosemount, Minnesota. That land includes Vermillion Highlands: A Research, Recreation, and Wildlife Management Area, which is managed under a cooperative agreement between the University and the Department of Natural Resources. Per Minn. Stat. §3.187, the cost to prepare this report was \$756.00.

In 2023, the University continued to perform the first phase of the Feasibility Study requested by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to identify cleanup options for identified hazardous substances at the site. This study is being completed in the northcentral portion of the site, which is closest to the ongoing and planned residential and commercial redevelopment projects. The University anticipates that based on this study, the MPCA will select a cleanup plan later this year that is consistent with the planned property uses in that area of the site.

The University, the Army Corps, and E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company have very recently reached a tentative settlement in the cost recovery litigation the University commenced in federal district court. As a result, the trial scheduled for February 5, 2024, has been taken off the Court's calendar. The parties are drafting a proposed Consent Decree to document all terms of the settlement, which include a payment by the Army Corps to the University to be applied against the University's past and future response costs at the site. Once prepared, the Consent Decree is subject to Court review and approval, with a hearing currently set in April for that purpose.

Sincerely,



Myron Frans
Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations

Elizabeth Lincoln

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cc: Brian Steeves, Executive Director and Corporate Secretary, Board of Regents
Jon Steadland, Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Douglas Peterson, General Counsel
Alice Roberts-Davis, Vice President, University Services
Melisa Lòpez Franzen, Executive Director of Government and Community Relations
Leslie Krueger, Assistant Vice President for Planning, Space, and Real Estate
Jami Markle, Central Region Wildlife Manager, DNR, Vermillion Highlands Joint
Steering Committee