

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*Office of the Senior Vice President  
for Finance and Operations*

301 Morrill Hall  
100 Church Street S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

January 25, 2022

Elizabeth Lincoln, Director  
Legislative Reference Library  
645 State Office Bldg.  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1050

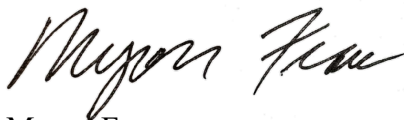
Dear Ms. Lincoln:

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 (GOW), 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 the requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes Section 3.187, the cost to prepare this report was \$595.

The University completed the Remedial Investigation of the site in 2017. In approving the Remedial Investigation, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requested that the University and the Army Corps complete a Feasibility Study to identify response action alternatives for the releases of hazardous substances identified during the Remedial Investigation. The Army Corps refused to perform or fund the Feasibility Study. The University is now performing a Focused Feasibility Study of sites of concern located in the northcentral portion of the site. The University anticipates submitting a draft Focused Feasibility Study Report to the MPCA and to make it available for public comment later this year. The MPCA will then select response action alternatives for the sites of concern located within the study area.

The University's litigation in federal district court against the Army Corps and its contractor for GOW, E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont), is ongoing. In that litigation, the University seeks recovery of a money judgment including the approximately \$3.3 million the University has incurred in past investigation costs, its ongoing costs of completing a Feasibility Study, and a declaration that the Army Corps and DuPont must pay their fair shares of future cleanup expenses. The trial in the litigation is presently scheduled to begin in late June 2022.

Sincerely,



Myron Frans  
Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations

cc: Brian Steeves, Executive Director and Corporate Secretary, Board of Regents  
Douglas Peterson, General Counsel, University of Minnesota  
Michael Berthelsen, Vice President, University Services  
Matt Kramer, Vice President, University Relations  
J.D. Burton, Chief Government Relations Officer, University of Minnesota  
Leslie Krueger, Assistant Vice president for Planning, Space, and Real Estate  
Jami Markle, Central Region Wildlife Manager, DNR, Vermillion Highlands Joint  
Steering Committee