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March 5, 2020

Mark R. Rupnow
Director, Environmental Remediation
United States Steel Corporation
Penn Liberty Plaza 1
1350 Penn Ave., Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4211

Re: St. Louis River U.S. Steel Superfund Site, Duluth, MN
Notice of Intent to Perform a Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Dear Mr. Rupnow,

This letter is addressed to you as a representative of U.S. Steel Corporation, which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency identified as a potentially responsible party for the St. Louis River U.S. Steel Superfund Site (U.S. Steel Site) located in Duluth, Minnesota. This letter serves as a Notice of Intent to Perform an Assessment and is being sent on behalf of the natural resource trustees (Trustees)¹ for the U.S. Steel Site.

The Trustees for the U.S. Steel Site are the State of Minnesota, acting through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the 1854 Treaty Authority (the Bois Forte and Grand Portage Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa), the U.S. Department of Commerce, acting through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pursuant to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations, 43 C.F.R. Part 11, the Trustees have completed a Preassessment Screen, which is enclosed with this Notice. The findings, conclusions, and determination therein are hereby adopted and fully incorporated in this Notice. The Trustees intend to make the Preassessment Screen available to the public.

¹ NOAA and DOI are Federal Trustees under authority of Subpart G of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 C.F.R. 300.600(b)(1-3), pursuant to 43 C.F.R. Part 11. The State of Minnesota is a State Trustee under the NCP, 40 C.F.R. 300.605. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the 1854 Treaty Authority are Indian tribe Trustees under the NCP, 40 C.F.R. 300.610.

Information reviewed and evaluated in the Preassessment Screen form the basis of the Trustees' conclusions that the following criteria, as set forth in 43 C.F.R. § 11.23(e), have been met:

1. Releases of hazardous substances have occurred.
2. Natural resources for which the Trustees may assert trusteeship under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) have been, or are likely to have been, adversely affected by these releases.
3. The quantity and concentration of the released hazardous substances are sufficient to potentially cause injury to natural resources for which the Trustees may assert trusteeship under CERCLA.
4. Data sufficient to pursue a Natural Resource Damage Assessment are available or likely to be obtained at a reasonable cost.
5. Currently implemented and planned response actions will not sufficiently remedy the injury to natural resources without further action.

Based on these findings, the Trustees have decided to proceed with a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) for the U.S. Steel Site. We refer you to the Preassessment Screen for a description of the facility, associated releases of hazardous substances, and natural resources that are potentially impacted by such releases.

This Notice also constitutes your formal invitation and notification of your opportunity to participate in the development and performance of the NRDA. The Trustees appreciate U.S. Steel's interest in the NRDA process as reflected in U.S. Steel's prior communications with the Trustees as well as the July 17, 2019 and October 3 and 4, 2019 meetings with the Trustees.

Please respond within thirty (30) calendar days of your receipt of this Notice and indicate whether you wish to participate in the NRDA process. Your response should provide a primary contact person and should be submitted as either a hard copy or email to:

Susan Johnson
Lead Administrative Trustee Representative
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Avenue South, Suite 400
Duluth, MN 55802
Susan.Johnson@state.mn.us

If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail or by phone at 218-302-6601.

Sincerely,



Susan Johnson
Lead Administrative Trustee Representative
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

SJ:kmk

Mark R. Rupnow

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Enclosure: Preassessment Screen and Determination for U.S. Steel Site

cc: (Via Email)

Susan Johnson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Ronald Wieland, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Nancy Schuldt, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Millard (Sonny) Myers, 1854 Treaty Authority

Betsy Galbraith, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Greg Baker, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration