



2.1 might be damaged as a result of the mining operation or any reclamation or restoration  
2.2 operations connected with the mining operation;

2.3 (3) an application fee of:

2.4 (i) \$25,000 for a permit to mine for a taconite mining operation;

2.5 (ii) \$50,000 for a permit to mine for a nonferrous metallic minerals operation;

2.6 (iii) \$10,000 for a permit to mine for a scam mining operation; or

2.7 (iv) \$5,000 for a permit to mine for a peat operation;

2.8 (4) ~~a bond which may be~~ financial assurance as required pursuant to ~~under~~ section  
2.9 93.49 or 93.491; and

2.10 (5) a copy of the applicant's advertisement of the ownership, location, and  
2.11 boundaries of the proposed mining area and reclamation or restoration operations, which  
2.12 advertisement shall be published in a legal newspaper in the locality of the proposed site  
2.13 at least once a week for four successive weeks before the application is filed, except that if  
2.14 the application is for a permit to conduct lean ore stockpile removal the advertisement  
2.15 need be published only once.

2.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 93.481, is amended by adding a subdivision  
2.17 to read:

2.18 Subd. 8. **Responsible persons.** For purposes of nonferrous mining operations, the  
2.19 permittee and any person who manages, directs, or conducts operations under this section,  
2.20 including a parent entity or affiliate who materially participates in that management,  
2.21 direction, or conduct of operations, is responsible for complying with sections 93.44 to  
2.22 93.51, rules adopted under those sections, and any permit conditions required by those  
2.23 sections or rules.

2.24 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 93.49, is amended to read:

2.25 **93.49 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE OF OPERATOR; FERROUS MINING.**

2.26 The commissioner shall require ~~a bond or other security or other~~ financial assurance  
2.27 satisfactory to the commissioner from an operator of a ferrous mine. The commissioner  
2.28 shall review annually the extent of each ferrous mine operator's financial assurance  
2.29 under this section.

2.30 Sec. 4. **[93.491] FINANCIAL ASSURANCE OF OPERATOR; NONFERROUS**  
2.31 **MINING.**

2.32 Subdivision 1. **Financial assurance required.** As a condition for issuing a permit  
2.33 to mine, the commissioner of natural resources shall require financial assurance from a

3.1 nonferrous mine operator sufficient to cover the reasonably estimated costs of contracting  
3.2 with a third party for closure, corrective action, reclamation, and postclosure maintenance.  
3.3 When determining the amount of financial assurance, the commissioner shall consult with  
3.4 the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency and with individuals with documented  
3.5 experience and expertise in nonferrous mining reclamation and water treatment.

3.6 Subd. 2. **Long-term water treatment costs.** The financial assurance shall include  
3.7 the reasonably estimated costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining any water  
3.8 treatment facilities that may be needed as a result of the mining activity to ensure  
3.9 compliance with federal and state environmental requirements after mining ceases.

3.10 Subd. 3. **Form of financial assurance.** The financial assurance shall be in a form  
3.11 the commissioner of management and budget determines will adequately protect the  
3.12 state's taxpayers if a nonferrous mine operator or other responsible person defaults on the  
3.13 permit obligations. The commissioner of management and budget may not accept the  
3.14 following as financial assurance under this section: corporate guarantees, self-insurance,  
3.15 financial tests, captive insurance, or any other form the commissioner of management and  
3.16 budget determines may become unavailable to the state if the nonferrous mining operator  
3.17 or other responsible person defaults on the permit obligations.

3.18 Subd. 4. **Release of financial assurance.** (a) Before the release of any amount of the  
3.19 financial assurance to the permittee of a nonferrous mining operation, the commissioner  
3.20 of natural resources shall publish a notice of the action in the State Register and the  
3.21 Environmental Quality Board Monitor.

3.22 (b) The portion of the financial assurance attributable to the estimated cost of water  
3.23 treatment shall not be released until the discharge has ceased for a period of five years, as  
3.24 determined by ongoing monitoring and testing, or, if the discharge is continuous, until the  
3.25 operator has met all applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards without  
3.26 treatment for five consecutive years following closure of the mine.

3.27 (c) Written objections to the commissioner's financial assurance release decision may  
3.28 be filed with the commissioner no later than 30 days following the publication required  
3.29 under paragraph (a). Within ten days after the final day for filing written objections, the  
3.30 commissioner shall determine whether there is a reasonable basis for holding a hearing  
3.31 that would allow the presentation or introduction of information that would aid the  
3.32 commissioner in making a final determination on whether to release all or part of the  
3.33 financial assurance. If the commissioner concludes that any of the objections meet those  
3.34 requirements, the commissioner shall commence a contested case under the contested case  
3.35 procedures adopted by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

4.1            Subd. 5. Treatment of financial assurance in environmental review process. The  
4.2 commissioner of natural resources or other responsible government unit shall include an  
4.3 analysis and estimate of the financial assurance that would be required for each alternative  
4.4 in any draft or final environmental impact statement for a nonferrous mining operation.  
4.5 The analysis shall include an adequate discussion of reasonably foreseeable best-case,  
4.6 worst-case, and most likely scenarios from an environmental perspective.