

March 6, 2023

To: Mineland Vision Partnership

From:

Michael Burton  
Initiative Foundation

Kevin J. Egan  
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Re: Cuyuna Country

The following updates our past reports on activity in the Cuyuna Range.

### **Emily Manganese Project**

The Emily manganese deposit consists of a potentially large medium-to-high grade manganese deposit within an iron formation (the mineralization is termed '*manganiferous iron ore*'). The deposit is located in the norther portion of the Emily District of the Cuyuna Iron Range, approximately two miles from the City of Emily, Crow Wing County, Minnesota.

In the summer of 2020, North Star Manganese Inc (North Star), Cooperative Mineral Resources (CMR) and People's Security Corporation (PSC) signed an agreement on the assessment, development and operation of the Emily Manganese Project. North Star is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nevada Silver Corporation and both CMR and PSC are wholly owned subsidiaries of Crow Wing Cooperative Power and Light Company.

Since 2020, North Star has been working diligently on a number of technical studies based on the prior data generated and accumulated by CMR. North Star has also undertaken additional geological work on the Emily Project area, including data previously generated by US Steel, Pickands Mather, the State of Minnesota, the US Geological Survey, and others.

Earlier this year, the Nevada Silver corporation and its Minnesota subsidiary North Star Manganese received all necessary approvals and commenced drilling operations at the Emily project site. The company indicated that 27 verification drill holes are planned with the intention to confirm the presence of manganese and iron as reported in the past.

Further, North Star indicated that its goal was to determine both the continuity of the manganese from previous tests and to see if the mineral quality was of sufficient quality to produce battery grade manganese. Drilling will continue into the summer months, and, after that, laboratory work will commence. North Star indicated that, if the manganese proves viable, it will create a long-term mining plan. If it is not, North Star indicated that it would shut down its operations in Emily.

### **Tamarack Nickel Project**

Talon Metals, through its subsidiary Talon Nickel, has proposed the development of an underground nickel mine in Tamarack, Minnesota, located in Aitkin County. Tamarack is between McGregor and Cromwell on Minnesota Highway 210. The goal of the project is to be able to supply minerals needed for the construction of electric vehicle batteries.

As a companion to the mine, a mineral processing facility is contemplated for a brownfield site located in Mercer County, North Dakota, in the western part of that state. The infrastructure bill passed by the Congress last year will provide \$114,000,000 to construct the processing facility, which will process minerals from Tamarack and other sites throughout North America.

Talon advised that the completion of the processing plant and the opening of its mine in Tamarack will occur before 2026. Tesla has committed to purchase 75,000 metric tons of nickel concentrate from Tamarack if shipping commences prior to January 1st, 2026.

As of last fall, Talon had yet to begin the permitting process for the underground mine and an adjacent rail loading facility. Recognizing that copper nickel mining had never taken place in Minnesota and noting that it had taken years to receive permits for Polymet facilities in Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt, Talon advised in a press release that its decision to no longer process minerals at its Tamarack site will significantly reduce land disturbance and the scope of environmental review in Minnesota.