

# Tilden Mining Co : 12501

NPDES - Reconnaissance Inspection

Inspector: Richards Scott

Start Date: 08/16/2024      Completed Date: 08/21/2024

<b>NPDES - Reconnaissance Inspection</b>				
1. Date of Inspection:		08/16/2024		
2. Approximate Start Time:		10:00 AM		
3. Permit No.:		MI0060000		
4. Facility Designated Name:		Tilden Mining Co		
5. Inspection Purpose/Description		Scheduled		
6. Inspection Participant Information				
Participant Name	Title	Affiliation	Phone Number	Email Address
Michael Korvela	Environmental Coordinator	Cliffs Michigan Operations	906.204.9067	michael.korvela@clevelandcliffs.com
Scott Richards	Environmental Engineer	EGLE WRD	906.869.1239	richardss3@michigan.gov
Jay Parent	WQ Unit Supervisor	EGLE WRD	906.236.9611	parentj@michigan.gov
7. Opening Conference Notes:				
<p>Cliffs has identified, mapped and monitored stormwater locations from the Tilden and Empire Mines which contribute selenium loading to three watersheds adjacent the mine sites. The NPDES permits for Empire and Tilden Mine require an annual update to the Selenium Stormwater Management Plan (SSWMP). The SSWMP is designed to address selenium impairment in the receiving waters proximal to the mines.</p> <p>Cliffs' approved SSWMP (updated January 31, 2024) details the Ely Creek stormwater collection and replenishment systems planned in conjunction with the westward progression of Tilden's North waste rock stockpile. The strategy identified in 2024 SSWMP update was contingent upon the stockpile expansion project proceeding. On June 20, 2024 Tilden Mine / CCI withdrew the Part 301/303 permit application required to support the westerly waste rock stockpile expansion. Since the stockpile expansion effort has been indefinitely paused, the associated strategy identified in the updated SSWMP will be revised. The primary purpose of the site inspection is to observe and discuss identified selenium stormwater locations tributary to Ely Creek.</p> <p>A secondary purpose to the site inspection is to observe ongoing progress of the "Tailings Track" stormwater location identified by Cliffs in 2023 as contributing selenium loading to Warner Creek.</p>				
8. Observation and Discussion Notes:				
<p>Warner Creek / Tailings Track: In effort to inform engineering design of the stormwater collection and replenishment system, excavation to the west and parallel to Warner Creek defined the extents of the identified subsurface selenium source. Soil strata was observed.</p> <p>Peat / organic soils was evident to approximately 5 ft below ground surface, after which clean sandy soil was observed to bottom of excavation (approximately 12+/- feet below grade). Cliffs is evaluating the collection / replenishment strategy BMP.</p> <p>Regarding the Ely Creek watershed, two identified sources were observed: CC-291 &amp; CC-275. These locations are planned to have collection and replenishment water systems installed.</p>				

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9. Closing Conference Notes:

The 2025 SSMP annual update will include Warner Creek investigation results as well as additional information regarding Ely Creek stormwater BMP locations CC-275 & CC-291.

10. Were photographs taken?

Yes  No

See uploaded file "2024-08-15 SSMP Recon Map" for inspection locations.

11. Completed By:

Scott W. Richards, PE