

# Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: July 13, 2021

Name	Please check the boxes that apply.		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – please list.
Mark Jackson		✓	Econ. Development
Rich Courtemanche		✓	Land
John Welk		✓	County Engineer
James Patz		✓	County Attorney
Kirk Peysar		✓	Auditor
Andrew Carlstrom		✓	P+Z
Kevin Turnock		✓	P+Z
Jim Hicks		✓	P+Z
Dan Guida		✓	Sheriff
Rebecca Fudala	✓		Aitkin Age

June 22, 2021

Mark J. Wedel  
Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
515 6th Avenue SE  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Re: Prior Notice of Request to Amend Negotiated State Metallic Minerals Lease

Dear Mr. Wedel:

I am writing to inform you that Kennecott Exploration Company (Kennecott) has submitted a request to add a 40-acre parcel to an existing state nonferrous metallic minerals lease in Aitkin County.

The DNR has authority to issue negotiated metallic minerals leases under circumstances that are described in Minnesota Rule 6125.0600. Most commonly, a negotiated lease is used when the company requesting the lease already holds a state or other mineral lease in close proximity to the area requested for lease. All state metallic minerals leases, including negotiated leases, must be approved by the State Executive Council.

In 2017, we revised our negotiated lease process in order to increase transparency, enhance public input and provide better access to information. Following the State Executive Council's approval of four negotiated leases to Vermillion Gold, Inc. in February 2020, we made further enhancements to our negotiated lease process. Before we bring negotiated lease requests to the State Executive Council for consideration, we are now taking the following steps:

- Conduct a land use screening and SHPO review of the areas requested for lease using the same criteria we use for our public lease sales
- Solicit comments from DNR regional staff about the areas requested for lease, including asking regional staff for recommendations about local associations (e.g., lake owners associations) that should be notified of the proposed leases
- Notify affected local units of government
- Notify Minnesota tribes, the 1854 Treaty Authority, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes and GLIFWC
- Contact any private surface owners of the parcels proposed for lease
- Contact any private surface owners who live within ¼ mile of the areas proposed for lease
- Notify local associations, as applicable

- Publish information about the areas requested for lease on the DNR's website along with interactive web maps of the areas under consideration
- Accept public input for a period of 30 days from publication on the DNR's website
- Send out a GovDelivery message and a state-wide press release to give an overview of the request, and provide information about the public input period and the DNR's website
- Publish the final areas that DNR will recommend for lease on the DNR's website
- Publish the date, time and place of the State Executive Council meeting at which the leases will be considered on the DNR's website

Kennecott has asked to add the following parcel to existing lease number MLMN200029 in Aitkin County:

T49, R22W, Section 21. The SWSE

I have enclosed a map of the lease amendment request area for your reference.

The DNR expects to publish information about Kennecott's lease amendment request, interactive web maps, and information about how to provide input on the lease amendment request on its website on July 2, 2021. The information will be posted at:

[https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/metallic\\_nf/leasing/negotiated.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/metallic_nf/leasing/negotiated.html). We will also be sending a GovDelivery message about the lease amendment request and the posting of information on the DNR's website to all persons who have signed up to receive notices about DNR's metallic minerals lease sales.

If you have any questions, would like our staff to provide a briefing at an upcoming meeting, or would like to provide input about the area under consideration for amendment to the negotiated lease, to please contact me at:

DNR, Division of Lands & Minerals  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
612-390-0914 (cell); [susan.damon@state.mn.us](mailto:susan.damon@state.mn.us)

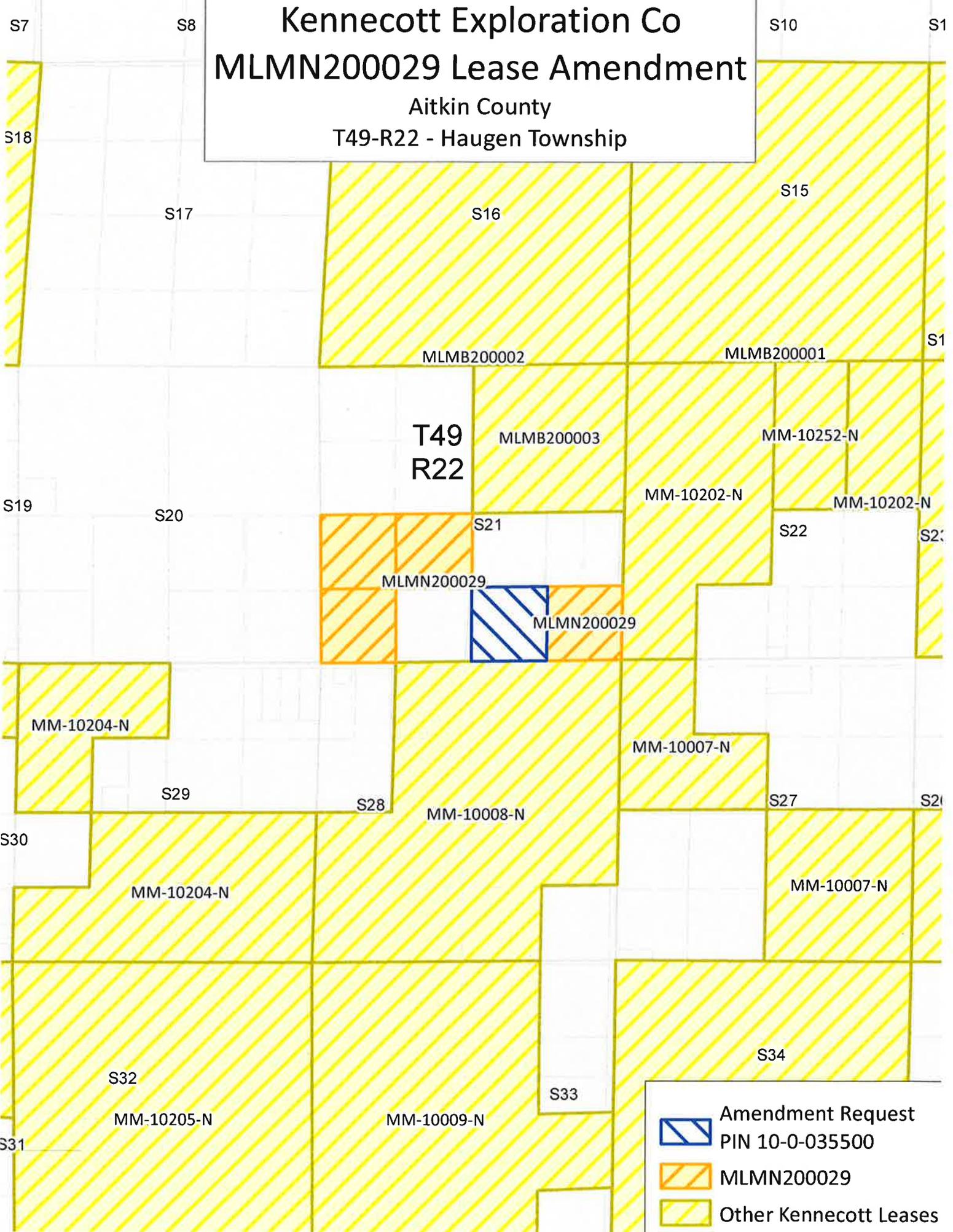
Sincerely,



Susan Damon  
Assistant Director  
DNR Division of Lands & Minerals

Enclosure

**Kennecott Exploration Co**  
**MLMN200029 Lease Amendment**  
Aitkin County  
T49-R22 - Haugen Township



-  Amendment Request  
PIN 10-0-035500
-  MLMN200029
-  Other Kennecott Leases