

A dark green silhouette of Washington County with a white, irregular border, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Holcim Larson Quarry EIS Scoping Meeting

May 28, 2025

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. EAW Process Review
3. Purpose of this meeting
4. Overview of the project and alternatives to be addressed
5. Scoping decision document contents
6. Discussion on areas for potential significant effect in the EAW
7. Questions and discussion
8. Timeline for preparation
9. Closing remarks

Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) Process Review

- What is an EAW?
 - An EAW is a document used to assess the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project.
 - It is required for projects that meet certain criteria or are deemed potentially impactful.
- Outcome of the EAW is either a need for further environmental review (an EIS) or a negative declaration
- Washington County is the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) for the Holcim Larson Quarry EAW
- Public comment period held from Dec 3, 2024-Jan 17, 2025, with 36 comments received

EAW Process Review, continued

- MN Rules 4410.1700, subpart 7 provides criteria for determining the potential for significant impact
- The EAW document and comment period established that the project did have the potential for significant environmental effects in the resource areas including:
 - Cultural resource impacts, specifically archeology
 - Removal of significant vegetation stands
- While not considered a significant impact, the response to comments noted items that need to be updated in the EAW based on comments. These updates will be incorporated into the EIS document
- Any new data or regulations should be incorporated into an EIS document
- County Board of Commissioners acted to require the preparation of an EIS on Feb 18, 2025

Purpose of and EIS and Scoping

- **Purpose of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** to provide information for governmental units, the proposer of the project, and other persons to evaluate proposed projects which have the potential for significant environmental effects, to consider alternatives to the proposed projects, and to explore methods for reducing adverse environmental effects. **Outcome of an EIS is determination of adequacy NOT approval or denial of the project.**
- **Purpose of scoping:** process that is used before the preparation of an EIS to reduce the scope of an EIS, identify only those potentially significant issues relevant to the proposed project, define the form, level of detail, content, alternatives, timetable for preparation, and preparers of the EIS, and to determine the permits for which information will be developed concurrently with the EIS.
- **The EAW shall be the basis for the scoping process.**

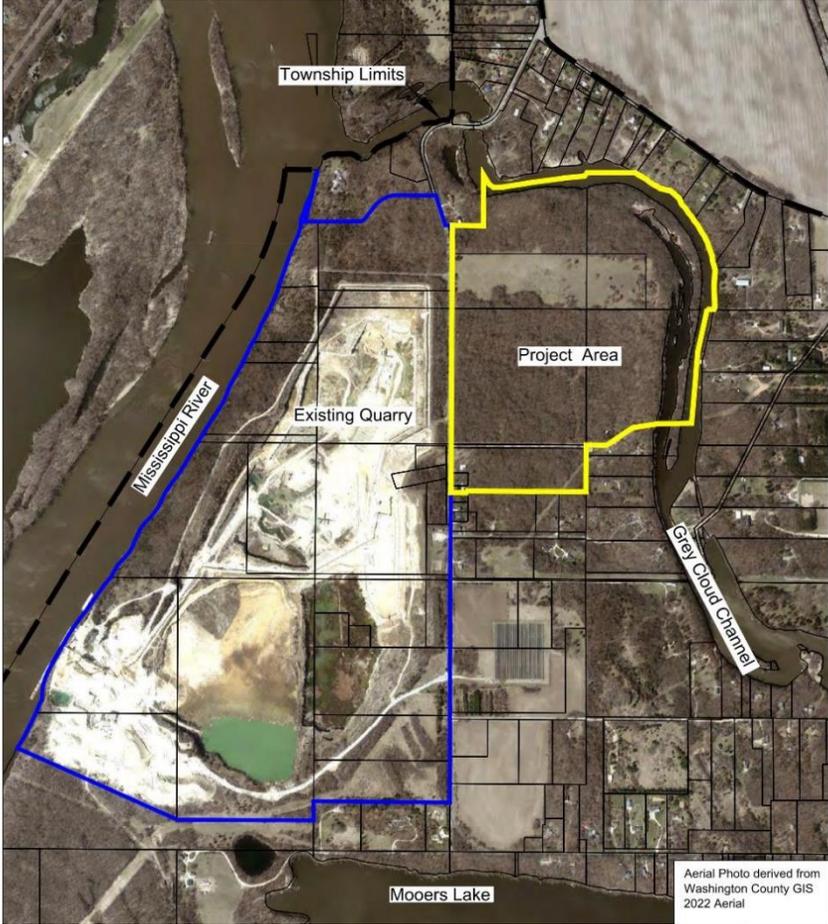
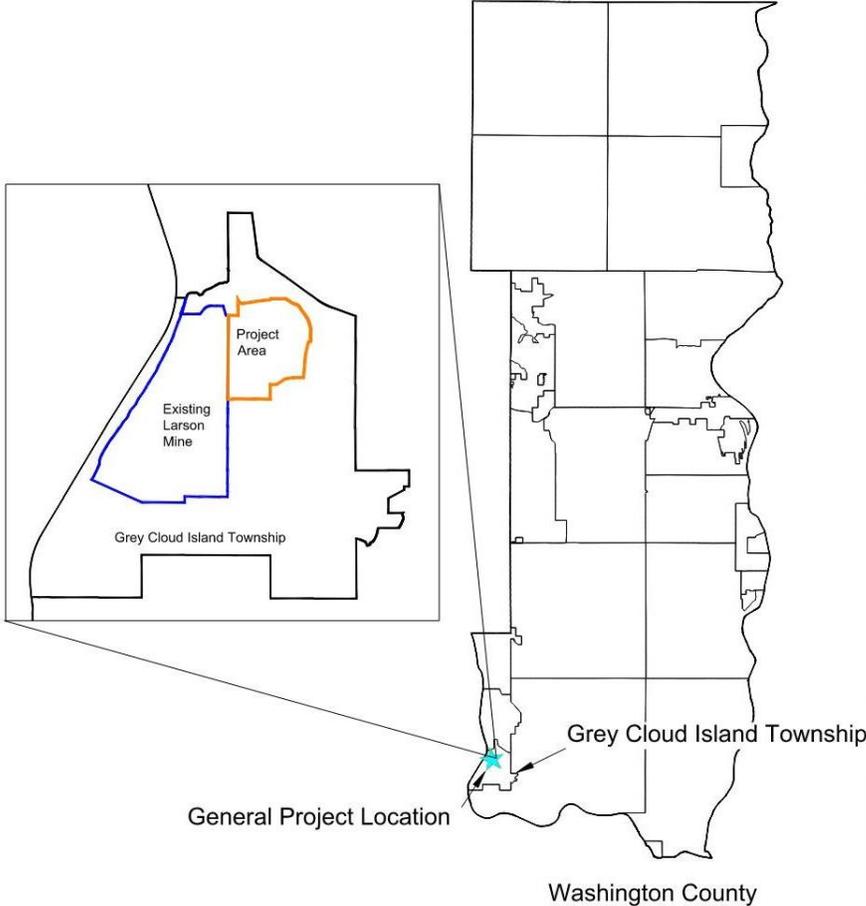
Project Background and Alternatives

Larson Quarry Expansion Overview

- **Project Title:** Larson Quarry Expansion
- **Proposer:** Holcim - MWR, Inc.
- **Location:** Grey Cloud Island Township, Washington County, Minnesota
- **Purpose:** Expand the existing Larson Quarry to access additional 148-acres of limestone reserves east of County Road 75.
- **Duration:** Extend the life of the mine by 20-25 years.
- **Production Levels:** No change in quarry operations or production levels is proposed.

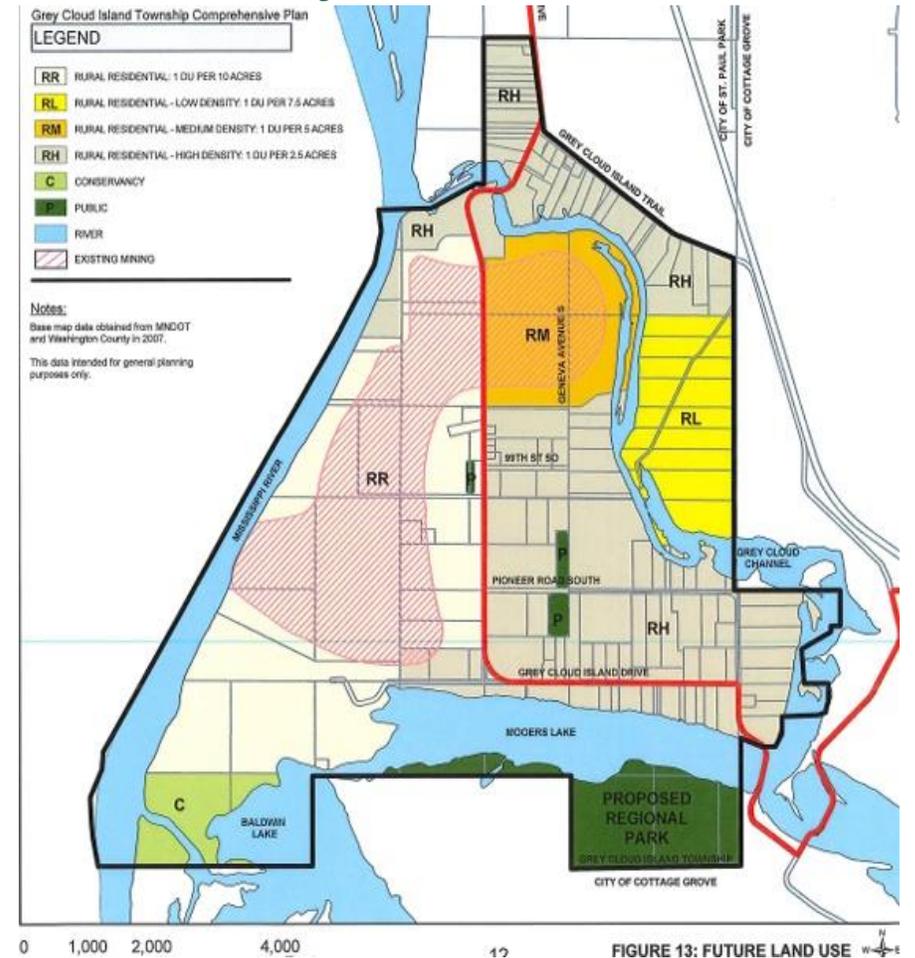
Washington County is the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) for this EAW process. More information is available on the County's website.

Holcim Larson Quarry EIS Expansion Location



Holcim Larson Quarry Expansion - History

- Quarry began production in 1957
- Proposer purchased the eastern expansion area property in 1972
- The expansion has been part of the long-term land use planning for many years
- An initial EAW was completed for the expansion area in 2005
- Acknowledged as mining reserve area for continuation of these operations for several decades in the Grey Cloud Island Township 2040 Comprehensive Plan.



Proposed Quarry Operations

- No change to existing operations
- Shallow deposit of topsoil is removed from the top of the bedrock
- The bedrock is the Prairie du Chien Group dolostone, (commonly referred to as limestone)
- Limestone is consolidated and requires drilling and blasting to facilitate extraction and allow handling and conveying to the main processing area.
- Crushed, screened, washed, stockpiled
- Loaded onto barge or truck for delivery to market



PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The Scoping Decision Document includes an alternatives analysis which identifies the alternatives to be included in the EIS and an explanation why a particular alternative is not included.

Alternatives identified in the analysis which will be considered in the EIS

- No build alternative
- modified designs or layouts
- modified scales or magnitudes

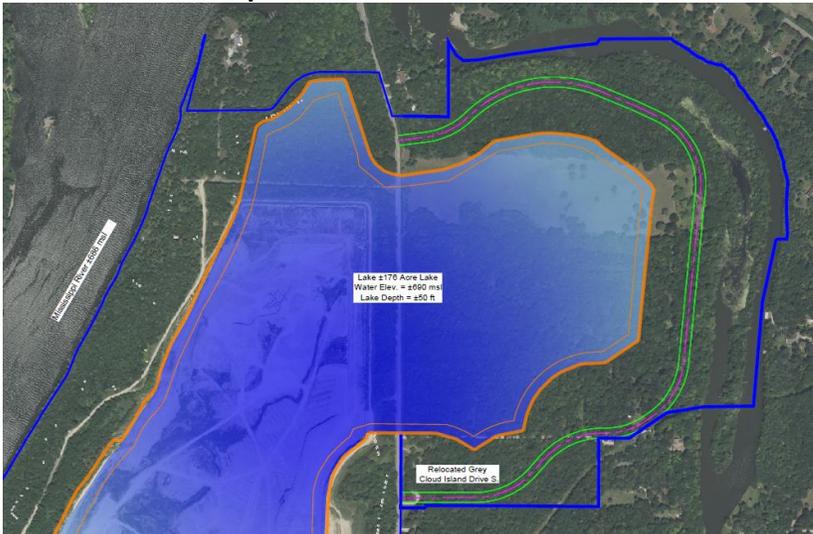
- Reasonable mitigation measures identified in the EIS process will be incorporated into the Project.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The EIS will evaluate and compare the potentially significant impacts of the Proposed Project with other reasonable alternatives including a No Build Alternative.

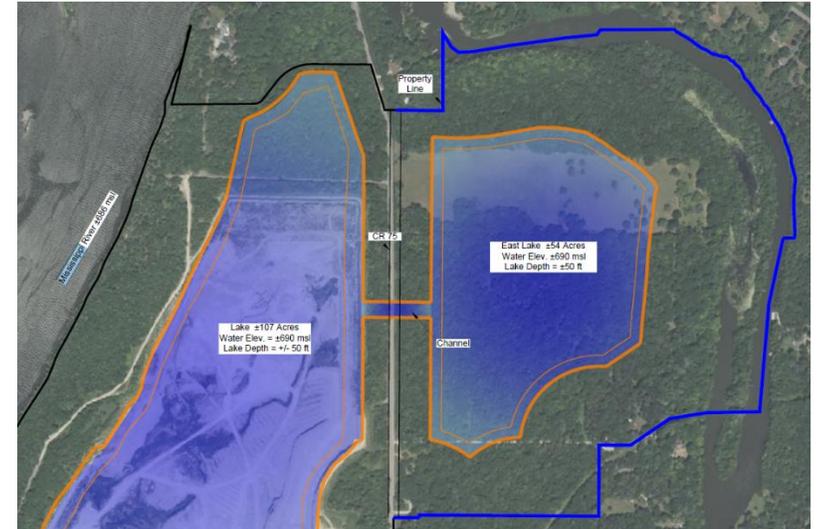
1. Proposed Project:

Expands the existing quarry mine limits by 70 acres and reroutes a portion of CR 75 around the eastern perimeter of the mine limits.



2. Modified Layout/ Modified Scale Alternative (Bridge Alternative):

The Bridge Alternative considers the construction of a bridge on CR 75 with an underpass that will connect the existing quarry with the expansion area and reduces the scale of the mine area from 70 to 53 acres.



Scoping Decision Document Contents

Scoping Decision Documents Contents

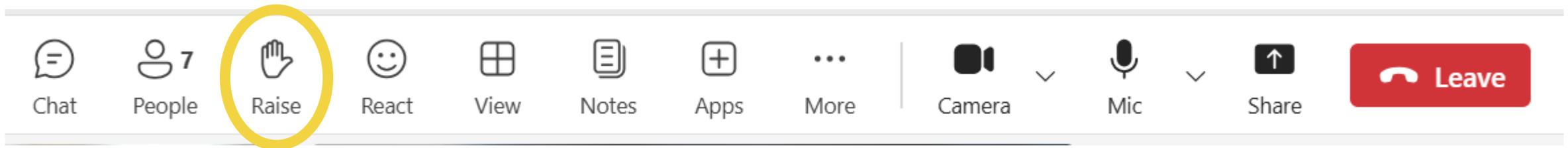
- Purpose and need
- Project alternatives
- EIS topics with potential significant effects as identified during the EAW process
 - Cultural resources
 - Vegetation stands
- Topics requiring updates to the information presented in the EAW
 - Project description, climate adaptation, cover types, permits, water resources, transportation
- New data or regulations
- EIS schedule

Discussion of Areas for Potential Significant Effect

Discussion Ground Rules

Use “raise hand” function

Keep questions and discussion related to the scoping items and EIS process



Significant Vegetation Stands

Proposed EIS Content and Discussion

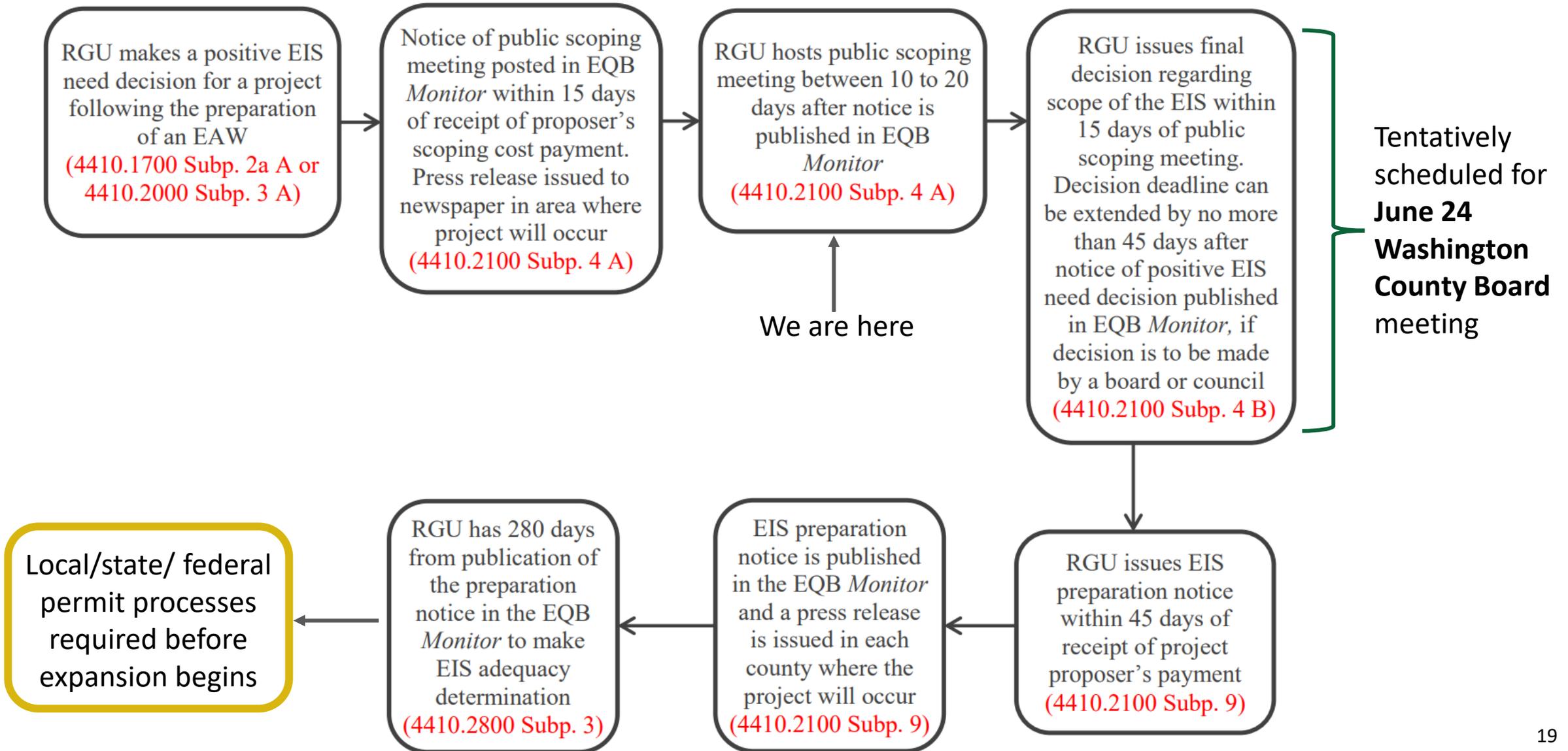
- Discussion of preferred coordination process, required permits/data, and/or identification of necessary studies
- Proposed content – EIS will include:
 - Evaluation of the existing site vegetation including native plant communities and significant existing vegetative stands.
 - Analysis of potential impacts to identified native plant communities and significant vegetation stands for each alternative studied in the EIS.
 - Mitigation measures including a vegetation restoration plan developed in consideration of restoration priorities for natural vegetation restoration, erosion prevention, and slope stabilization to improve the health and habitat of the native plant communities and significant vegetation stands that will not be impacted by the Project.
 - Post mining revegetation plan that utilizes native vegetation.

Cultural Resources

Proposed EIS Content and Discussion

- Discussion of preferred coordination process, required permits/data, and/or identification of necessary studies
- Proposed content – EIS will include:
 - Updated Phase 1 Archaeological Investigation
 - Results of a site review by MIAC, results of any testing, and official determination with respect to soil pile anomalies in the Phase 1 Archeological Investigation.
 - Information regarding Proposer contact with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) from the list of Minnesota Tribes and all tribes listed in the tribal directory Assessment Tool (-TDAT-) for Washington County.
 - Inadvertent Discoveries Plan to be implemented at the Larson Quarry.
 - Mitigation related to cultural resources based on the additional information gathered, studies conducted, and/or plans prepared for the EIS.

Timeline for Preparation of the EIS



Closing Remarks and Questions

Comments or questions can be directed to 651-430-4300 or
publicworks@washingtoncountymn.gov