**Public Notice: Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact – Fiscal Years 2022-2023 East Mesabi Water Treatment Project**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact for public review and comment for 30 calendar days before making the decision on whether, and if so how, to proceed with a proposed action. The EA evaluated the issuance of a Community Grant award to the City of Aurora for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 and 2023 East Mesabi Water Treatment Project. The project components would consist of the replacement of the existing treatment plant, installation of a new surface water intake from the Embarrass Mine Pit and associated raw water transmission line as well as the connection to the Scenic Acres development in the Town of White. Congress appropriated $2,500,000 earmarked for the City of Aurora under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103) and $4,000,000 earmarked under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) for the FY2022-2023 East Mesabi Water Treatment Project.

EPA considered two alternatives for the Proposed Project: The Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, which are analyzed in this EA pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and EPA’s NEPA procedures under 40 CFR part 6. The EA did not identify significant effects to resources because of implementing either the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative. However, EPA will consider public and agency comments prior to making its decision regarding implementation of the proposed project. After evaluating any comments received, EPA will make a final decision. The preliminary decision and finding will become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new significant information is provided to alter this finding.

The Draft EA is available for download from EPA’s NEPA Compliance Database at <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-II/public/action/nepa/details?nepaId=447690> . Questions and public comments may be sent to: Felicia Gaines, gaines.felicia@epa.gov, on or prior to January 19, 2024.