



# East Mesabi Water Project for the City of Aurora



House File 4421 (Lislegard)/Senate File 4468 (Farnsworth)

## PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Aurora on behalf of the East Range Water System requests \$4.0 Million in funding to replace its failing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) with an improved and sustainable water source and treatment facility. This project will construct a new water treatment plant, a new surface water intake structure, and 10,000 ft of water transmission line; all meeting local, state, and federal design standards. This project will regionalize the water system to include the Town of White and provide sustainable water for the east range residents for the next 30-50 years.

## EXISTING CONCERNS

### The City of Aurora currently draws water from the St. James Mine Pit

- High levels of hardness requiring treatment
- Sulfates exceed EPA secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCLs).
- Current distribution system is not metered

### Town of White

- Scenic Acres - Community well drinking water system has known manganese exceeding safe MDH drinking water standards

### The existing facility was built in the 1950's

- Past its useful life
- Not a long term reliable safe drinking water source to the current users

### The existing raw water intake in the St. James Mine Pit is in danger of flooding

- Rising water levels driven by groundwater influence
- Dewatering activity is regulated by MnDNR due to presence of zebra mussels
  - Unable to dewater year round
- Replacement cost estimated at \$9 million



## PROJECT BENEFITS

- The new water treatment plant will have the capacity to serve the City of Aurora, Town of White and support future expansion to include the City of Biwabik and Hoyt Lakes.
- The new raw water intake will be relocated to Embarrass Pit, which has known high water quality and will be sized for future capacity needs. This will eliminate dewatering costs associated with current flood concerns and provide reduced sulfate discharge to surface waters.
- Additional finished water pipeline will be constructed to provide treated water to portions of the Town of White that does not currently receive treated water.

## CONTACT

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See backside for  
more details →



## PROJECT TIMELINE

Preliminary Design

2014-2018

Final Design

2018 - 2023

Bidding Services

2023

Construction Phase Services

2024-2026

## COST INFORMATION

**Total Project Cost**                    **\$33 Million**

**Current Funding Secured**        **\$26 Million**

**Requesting**                                **\$4 Million**

Remaining \$3 Million funded through other sources

## UNIQUE PROJECT ASPECTS:

- Reduce known contaminants in potable water and discharge to environment
- Regionalizes the potable water supply system to potentially increase service population from 1,700 to 5,000 people, reducing overall costs to the users

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