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To: Matthew MacGregor, King & MacGregor Environmental, Inc.
From: James Hammill, Iron Range Consulting & Services Inc.
Date: December 17, 2008
Re: Gray Wolf Discussion

This is in response to your email of December 11, 2008 in which the question is asked about the impact of mining development activities on gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in the “action area” of the proposed Kennecott Eagle mine. Specifically, the action area in this case refers to on-site development activities in T50N, R29W, Section 11 and 12 of Marquette County, Michigan, as shown in Kennecott’s surface facility plan.

Gray wolves are known to be habitat generalists, therefore no cumulative effect models of habitat loss have been developed. However, wolf den sites and rendezvous areas often are viewed as the most sensitive known components of wolf home ranges and accepted by biologists as “critical habitat”. Therefore, our prime concern for this area is to ask about its history of use as wolf den or rendezvous sites. To obtain this information I contacted Brian Roell, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Wolf Program Coordinator, on December 16, 2008. MDNR routinely collects and records locations of wolf den and rendezvous sites and has been collecting that data since 1990. Roell stated that the action area is not now nor has it been used by wolves for den or rendezvous activities. The nearest known rendezvous site is approximately 5 ½ miles west-northwest of the action area, last known to be used in 2007. No den sites have been recorded in the action area. It is my opinion that on site development as per Kennecott’s surface facility plan will have no direct negative impact on gray wolves.

Submitted by:
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Note: James Hammill is President of Iron Range Consulting & Services Inc., a wildlife and land management company. Hammill retired from service to the State of Michigan in 2002, where he served as a wildlife biologist for 30 years. From 1990 to 2002 he was responsible for monitoring Michigan’s wolf population. Hammill has authored and co-authored many scientific and popular articles on wolves. He is a member of the Federal Wolf Recovery Team and as a member of the Michigan Wolf Recovery Team, helped to formulate the Michigan Wolf Recovery Plan. He has monitored wolves in Maine under contract with the National Wildlife Federation, and is a board member of the International Wolf Center.