

**FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**  
**April 14, 2008**

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**Nelson Mine Expansion Project**

Aggregate Industries proposes to expand its existing sand and gravel mine (Nelson Mine) onto approximately 404 acres to the south and east into a privately-owned portion of the backwaters of the Mississippi River. The proposed mine expansion would take place over approximately 20 years. The existing Nelson Mine is located at 11250 Grey Cloud Trail, Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

A floating dredge, similar to the existing dredge, would operate in the proposed expansion area. A floating conveyor system will be extended into the backwater mining area to the dredge. In the first few years of mining, the excess sand and fine particles will be pumped to create a barrier dike between Lower Grey Cloud Island and the first barrier island. Once a large enough depression is created by the underwater mining in the backwater area, the excess sand will be pumped into this depression. Mining in the proposed expansion area will take approximately 20 years. The main processing plant is proposed to remain in the existing location for the foreseeable future and would be used for the crushing, screening, washing and barge loading of approximately 1.5 million tons of aggregate per year.

The City of Cottage Grove has prepared a Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document to identify issues and analyses to be contained in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Scoping Decision Document is a preliminary document based on information currently available. It is subject to revision based on the entire record of the scoping process. Copies of the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document are available for public reviewing during regular business hours at Park Grove Branch Library; 7900 Hemingway Avenue South, Cottage Grove, MN and at the City of Cottage Grove; 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN. The Draft Scoping Decision Document is also available for review online at <http://www.cottage-grove.org/nelsonmineproject>.

An open house will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Cottage Grove City Hall, 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN. Public comment on the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document can be submitted during the comment period beginning April 21, 2008, and ending on May 21, 2008. If you have questions, contact John McCool, Senior Planner, City of Cottage Grove, 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016; by telephone at 651-458-2874; fax at 651-458-2881; or via email to [jmccool@cottage-grove.org](mailto:jmccool@cottage-grove.org).