

January 23, 2026

Elizabeth Lincoln, Director
Legislative Reference Library
645 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1050

Dear Ms. Lincoln:

On behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, I submit this letter as the annual report to the Legislature under Minnesota Statutes Section 137.52(b). This report outlines the University's efforts, in collaboration with the United States Department of Defense, to address environmental impacts associated with the former Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW), a World War II smokeless powder production facility located on University land in Rosemount, Minnesota. That land includes Vermillion Highlands: A Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, which is managed under a cooperative agreement between the University and the Department of Natural Resources. Per Minn. Stat. §3.187, the cost to prepare this report was six hundred dollars (\$600.00).

Background

GOW was operated by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company during World War II on behalf of the United States government. Over decades, the University and federal and state agencies have worked to identify and mitigate contamination on the site.

Settlement and Funding

In 2024, following discovery and motion practice in the University's federal cost recovery action, the University, the Army Corps, and E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company reached a settlement of all claims in the litigation. The settlement terms are documented in a Consent Decree entered by the Court on September 4, 2024. Under the Consent Decree, the United States paid \$13 million to the University to be applied against past and future response costs at the site. The University is required under the Consent Decree to ensure that all necessary remediation of the site is completed with oversight by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Post-Settlement

Since entry of the Consent Decree in September 2024, the University has worked closely with MPCA staff to develop a cleanup plan for contamination in areas closest to ongoing and future redevelopment of the site, including the former GOW 154th Street disposal area. The MPCA has asked the University to complete additional investigation to further characterize the waste material and contamination associated with that area. The University is preparing an investigation work plan for the GOW 154th Street disposal area and anticipates submitting it to MPCA for review and approval this spring.

Based on the investigation results, the University will prepare and submit a Response Action Plan to MPCA for review and approval for the GOW 154th Street disposal area. The University currently anticipates implementing the MPCA-approved plan in the fall of 2026.

In addition to the University-led remediation efforts, remedial action is being pursued with oversight by the MPCA by North Wind Test LLC (North Wind) for a portion of the GOW Temporary Shops area. North Wind purchased 60 acres of land at UMore Park from the University in November 2025 for light industrial development.

The priorities and timeline for cleanup of other areas of the site will primarily be driven by future land use changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg Goldman", written in a cursive style.

Gregg Goldman
Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations

cc: Brian Steeves, Executive Director and Corporate Secretary, Board of Regents
Douglas Peterson, General Counsel, University of Minnesota
Alice Roberts-Davis, Vice President, University Services
Erin Sexton, Vice President, Government and Community Relations
Leslie Krueger, Assistant Vice President for Planning, Space, and Real Estate
Gretchen Miller, Central Region Wildlife Manager, DNR, Vermillion Highlands Joint Steering Committee