



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM TO BE INTRODUCED
Superior Watershed Partnership Seeks Public Input at Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

Marquette, MI – November 28, 2012

The Superior Watershed Partnership is hosting a series of town hall meetings to introduce the Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) that will conduct an on-going, independent assessment of the Rio Tinto Eagle Mine and report findings to the public.

Under the cooperative agreement announced in October, Rio Tinto is providing the Marquette County Community Foundation with funding (\$300,000 annually) to establish and oversee independent program to conduct environmental monitoring related to mining operations. SWP staff will coordinate and implement the program working with universities, contractors and EPA approved laboratories to evaluate the Eagle Mine, the Humboldt Mill and transportation routes. Monitoring will include verification of Rio Tinto's permit requirements for air quality, groundwater, surface water, wildlife, plant life as well as additional monitoring of other potential impacts. The CEMP is also designed to accept third party funding to expand monitoring if needed.

SWP/CEMP Town Hall Meetings are distinct from previous community forums held by Rio Tinto. Members of the public, community organizations, tribes and others are encouraged to attend to learn more about the program, ask questions and provide recommendations for additional monitoring. Anyone who is unable to attend can provide feedback by calling the SWP at (906)228-6095 ext.20 or on-line at cempmonitoring.com. Additional town hall meetings will be held quarterly in 2013 to report to the public and seek additional input.

Community Forum Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, December 3	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Humboldt Township Hall – 244 CR FAF, Champion
Tuesday, December 4	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Powell Township School – 101 Deutsch Ave, Big Bay
Wednesday, December 5	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Baraga Best Western Hotel – 900 US41, Baraga
Thursday, December 6	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Lakeview Arena – 401 E. Fair Ave, Marquette

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Additional CEMP Project Background

<http://www.cempmonitoring.com/marquette-county-community-foundation-announces-independent-environmental-monitoring-program-of-eagle-mine/>

About Superior Watershed Partnership

The Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to protect and improve the natural resources of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on a watershed basis; by promoting responsible individual and community actions that ensure a sustainable environment, encourage a sustainable economy and help improve quality of life. A recognized leader in watershed protection, SWP provides technical, educational, and monitoring assistance on a variety of water quality, land use and community initiatives through creative, science-based solutions.

If you'd like more information please contact the Superior Watershed Partnership.

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