

Mesothelioma study to be released April 12

MESABI DAILY NEWS

Posted: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 11:06 pm | *Updated: 11:35 pm, Tue Mar 12, 2013.*

CHARLES RAMSAY REGIONAL EDITOR

MINNEAPOLIS — A public meeting on the major findings of the Minnesota Taconite Workers Lung Health Study will be held at 3 p.m. April 12 at the Mountain Iron Community Center.

“This will be a way to discuss the findings in a public forum,” Justin Paquette of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health said in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon.

“We’ve always wanted to be as transparent as possible,” he added, about study results.

The \$4 million study, which has been conducted during the past several years, has sought to determine some of the causes of raised mesothelioma cancer rates among taconite workers on the Iron Range, particularly in lung health.

There are five areas in the research:

- An occupational exposure assessment.
- A mortality (cause of death) incidence study.
- A cancer incidence study.
- A respiratory health survey of taconite workers and spouses.
- An environmental study of airborne particulates.

Other partners in the research have included the University of Minnesota Duluth’s Natural Resources Research Institute; area health care providers; unions; mining companies; lawmakers; and local, state and federal agencies.

Also, “researchers will be discussing the next steps” beyond the study, Paquette said.