

TWIN PORTS INTERCHANGE

EROSION CONTROL

SLOPE STABILIZATION

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

REBUILDING DULUTH'S BUSIEST INTERCHANGE

THE CHALLENGE

The Twin Ports Interchange in Duluth, Minnesota, known locally as “The Can of Worms,” was one of the state’s most complex and congested highway corridors. Carrying more than 80,000 vehicles daily, including over 5,000 heavy trucks, the aging infrastructure suffered from blind merges, left exits, and chronic bottlenecks that created safety risks and slowed freight movement. The \$435 million, five-year reconstruction required careful coordination to untangle the network of highways while maintaining traffic flow through one of Minnesota’s busiest commercial routes.

Beyond the traffic challenges, the project presented demanding environmental and construction conditions. Large-scale earthwork, steep slopes, and continuous activity increased the risk of erosion and sediment runoff, particularly during heavy rainfall. Concrete sawing operations also produced high-pH slurry that required careful handling to maintain regulatory compliance. The project needed environmental solutions that could keep construction on schedule, protect nearby waterways, and meet strict regulatory standards without slowing progress.



ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS KEEP WORK MOVING



THE SOLUTION

eco-Guard, a Nexterra company, worked alongside Ramy Turf Products, also a Nexterra company, to deliver a coordinated erosion and stormwater management strategy. The team supplied approximately \$420,000 in blankets, hydro-mulch, and custom seed blends tailored to Duluth's soils and climate. These materials stabilized slopes, controlled sediment, and accelerated vegetation growth, creating living barriers that protected the site while allowing construction to move forward efficiently.



To address the challenges of concrete sawing, the team also developed a proprietary pH-neutralizing slurry treatment. This approach enabled safe discharge, maintained full regulatory compliance, and eliminated delays often associated with slurry management on high-traffic infrastructure projects. MnDOT engineers recognized the solution for its speed, practicality, and effectiveness in keeping construction on track.

THE RESULTS

The completed Twin Ports Interchange now delivers safer travel, smoother traffic flow, and improved freight mobility across the region. Stabilized slopes, controlled runoff, and thriving vegetation provide long-term environmental performance while reducing maintenance needs. By combining advanced materials, technical expertise, and innovative environmental solutions, the project demonstrates how complex infrastructure upgrades can remain compliant, resilient, and on schedule while delivering lasting benefits to the public and regional commerce.



ERO-GUARD

Ero-Guard is an industry-leading manufacturer of high-quality erosion control products built for demanding projects across the country. Since 2004, Ero-Guard has earned its reputation by delivering consistent product quality with the response time that keeps jobs moving.

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