

2020 North-Central Section Meeting  
Duluth, Minnesota | 18-19 May 2020

18 March 2020

Dear GSA Members, 2020 North-Central Section Meeting Participants, Colleagues, and Friends,

We are writing to inform you that the Geological Society of America 54th Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section will be canceled in Duluth, Minnesota, 18–19 May due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The health and safety of our members and event attendees are always our highest priorities, and with the growing number of travel restrictions for both academia and industry, the nation declaring a national emergency, and social distancing recommendations from the CDC and WHO, we have determined that we could not in good conscience continue with the meeting.

For over a year we have been planning on hosting a section meeting. The local planning committee and officers of the North-Central Section were excited to welcome you to the 54th Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America in Duluth, Minnesota.

Sadly, the presence and spread of the novel coronavirus, both internationally and in the United States, makes it both impossible to hold a meeting that would even approximate the value of a place-based gathering, and irresponsible to encourage or expect participation, or even offer participation, when attendees could be exposed to a communicable disease and return home transmitting an illness to family and friends even before it manifests itself.

Although an in-person North-Central Meeting will not take place, we are exploring ways for the sessions and abstracts to still be presented virtually. As we work out those details with the Technical Program Chairs of the North-Central Section and our vendors, we will share that information with all the presenters.

GSA will be issuing full registration refunds for the meeting to all attendees, and attendees do not need to contact GSA for their refunds. Our Sales & Services Department will be in touch should they need anything in order to issue the refund. We also recommend that those who made hotel reservations, whether within the official blocks of the Canal Park Lodge or the Holiday Inn & Suites or at other nearby hotels, cancel those reservations before there are any penalties. In addition, many airlines ([United](#), [Southwest](#), and [Delta](#)) have announced that they are working with customers who have changing travel plans.

This decision is not an easy one for the local committee and leadership of the North-Central GSA Section and GSA HQ, but we feel it is the right one given the current situation. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we work together for the health and safety of all our attendees.

Best Regards,

Vicki S. McConnell  
Executive Director, GSA

Karen Gran  
General Chair of North-Central Section Meeting

Nancy Williams  
North-Central Secretary