

Executive Order #309

**Relating to the Creation of the
Wisconsin Science Advisory Council on
Metallic Mining**

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a well-established tradition and history of mining its metallic ore resources for the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has an equally well-established tradition and history of protecting and preserving its environmental heritage; and

WHEREAS, mining of metallic ore reserves represents a significant economic opportunity in this state; and

WHEREAS, certain metallic mining practices have caused degradation of surface and ground water through acid drainage and the release of heavy metals; and

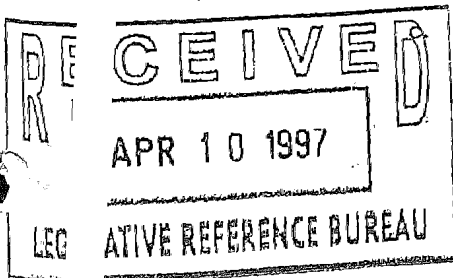
WHEREAS, technology has been advanced that promises to prevent or eliminate environmental pollution caused by the mining of metallic ore reserves; and

WHEREAS, the interests of the citizens of Wisconsin will best be served by basing decisions regarding metallic ore mining in this state on sound scientific principles;

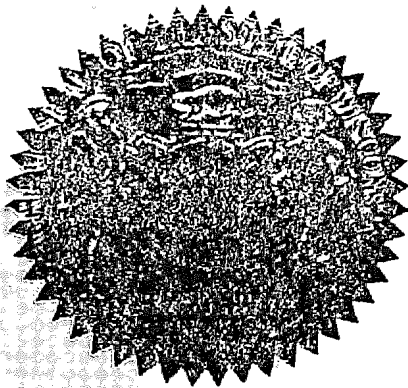
NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, and specifically by Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Create the Wisconsin Science Advisory Council on Metallic Mining (hereinafter "Council") and require the Council to perform the following substantive functions:
 - a. Identify the technologies that are effective in preventing or eliminating environmental degradation from metallic ore mining operations;
 - b. Review, on a site-specific basis, proposed metallic ore mining operations in this state and determine the effectiveness and feasibility of implementing technologies to reduce or eliminate environmental impacts, including acid drainage and the release of heavy metals from the tailings site, from the proposed metallic ore mining operations;

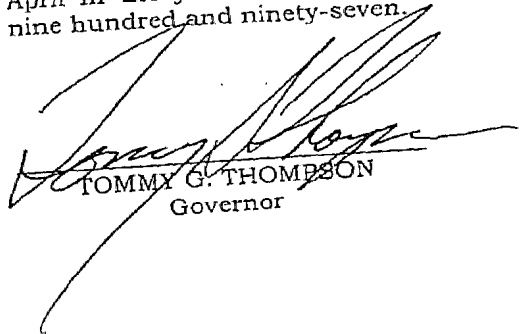
Formulate and submit recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (hereinafter "Secretary") concerning the existence of technology that will ensure compliance with state groundwater and surface water statutes or rules by metallic ore mining operations and confirm that any proposed metallic ore mining operation would utilize these technologies.



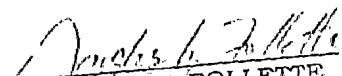
2. Provide that the recommendations of the Council required in paragraph 1. c. shall be considered in state environmental impact statement preparation and permit decisions.
3. Provide that the Council shall be composed of five members who shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.
4. Provide that the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Council and shall designate a chair from such membership to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Secretary.
5. Provide that members of the Council must have training and experience in at least one of the following disciplines, each of which must be represented on the Council: geology or hydrology, environmental engineering, metallic ore mining, and environmental risk assessment and management.
6. Direct agencies of the State of Wisconsin to cooperate fully with the Council and provide assistance to the Council upon the request of the Secretary.
7. Direct the Department of Natural Resources to provide staff and other necessary support to the Council.
8. Require the Secretary to establish dates by which the Council must submit the recommendations required in paragraph 1. c.
9. Provide that the Council shall submit such information and reports to the Secretary as the Secretary directs.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this seventh day of April in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven.


TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State