

JUN 04 1997

WE THE PEOPLE

No one safe from mining exploitation

To the Telegram:

I am writing because I believe the people of Douglas County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith, on May 12, and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon, is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our north woods.

It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison."

I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's work on that."

Let's put the dump right down there with Gov. Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the [waste] water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire.

Based on Duff's statement, even Douglas County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home?

If your answer is, "No," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Branchel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the assembly floor as soon as possible.

Laura Furtman
Webster

7-1-97

THE DAILY NEWS

A4 Steve Sandberg / Managing Editor

Lacks sensitivity

I am writing because I grew up in West Bend and believe the people of Washington County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

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"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Washington County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "No," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Branchel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wisconsin

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mining backers seize jobs issue

Focus groups helped identify strategy for opposing moratorium.

By WILL FANTLE

A slightly provocative media campaign has been developed, following the state Senate's approval of a mining moratorium bill. With the TV ads, full-page newspaper ads and letters, writing strategy apparently didn't work in the Senate, its organizers think. It helped identify an issue—jobs—that they can use to defeat the legislation in the Assembly.

The costly ad campaign by Crandon Mining Co., a subsidiary of Exxon and the Algon, took shape late last year with the help of focus groups. All the rage in political and marketing circles, focus groups bring together carefully selected ordinary citizens, set them in a fishbowl, and plumb their hearts and minds for any ideas and angles. The proceedings are videotaped and the one-way mirrors as a moderator directs the discussion. Executives and consultants sit behind the mirror, in a soundproof room, monitoring on televisions as the spectacle plays out.

Mary Kay Grassnick, a spokesperson for Crandon Mining Co., says these focus groups are part of the company's "business research." After claiming the company held only one focus group, she acknowledges a second one in Madison. She declines to say what useful information they provided.

But Paul Kajina is willing to talk. A West Alton member focus group last December. "They were looking for brains to see how we'd do TV ads," he says. "The group was initially contacted by phone and offered \$60 to participate in a discussion on northern Wisconsin. He was asked about his income level and if he belonged to a union (he works for Ronny's and is a union member). Neither Exxon nor Crandon Mining, he says, were identified as a sponsor.

When he went to the evening meeting, Kajina found a dozen men and women in the room, all in their 40s and 50s. The first question, he recalls, was "What does up north mean?" The group was then asked for reactions to a series of broad ads. The ads messages described a new mine in northern Wisconsin, the latest technology, with oversight by the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We were asked to make notes on what we heard," says Kajina, adding that most participants were "very skeptical" of the ads. Then group members were quizzed about their attitudes and perceptions of labor unions. At this point, Kajina realized what was happening.

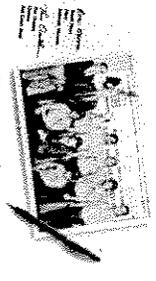
Ah-hah, that's Exxon! he blurted out, referring to the people behind the mirrored glass. Kajina was reassured that no, it was not Exxon. At Crandon Mining who was watching. In Kajina's mind, Kajina tried to take his notes along but was told to leave his papers or

he wouldn't get paid. When he peeked into the back room, he saw two men and a woman. His welcome exhausted, Kajina was told to "get out" and he says, "literally physically escorted out."

Crandon Mining Co.'s focus-group-refined TV ads have been in news across Wisconsin on Jan. 27 according to Crandon. So, says the misinformation that opponents of the Crandon mine were spreading through the Internet, editorials and phone campaigns.

WISCONSIN DOESN'T NEED A MINING MORATORIUM.

COME SEE US AND WE'LL SHOW YOU WHY.



Crandon Mining Co. took out full-page ads in daily newspapers throughout Wisconsin.

None of the ads, however, confronted the environmental concerns consistently raised by mining foes, such as water contamination and toxic waste disposal. Instead, the ads highlighted warm fuzzy images of tortlefish Wisconsin's early mining history, and fears about possible job losses.

Al Goddicks, a mining foe and executive secretary of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, calls the TV ads "insidious." They were designed, he says, to mask the "total failure of Exxon's technical models." These poli-

tico-oriented models have come under fire from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and, more recently, the state DNR.

But it's the jobs issue on which mine proponents have zeroed in. One of the TV ads featured a Milwaukee steelworker and union official arguing for jobs and the mine. During last month's debate on the moratorium bill, a dozen steelworkers came to lobby against the bill. Their employer and CEO, Jeffrey Grate of Harrier Paper Industries—the Algon Milwaukee mill—warned that 1,200 jobs could be lost if the moratorium bill passed.

The media campaign was "successful" in that it reframed the terms of the debate," says Jim Egan, spokesperson for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the business lobby group. "It forced the jobs issue to the forefront."

But Goddicks says the jobs issue is deceptive. The mining equipment made by Milwaukee workers is used by international companies and not in Wisconsin. He notes that Harrisberger makes above-ground mining machinery, while Exxon has proposed an underground mine. And Harrisberger's Grade 7000 haul truck, the jobs status report, touting a Wisconsin "job" multiplier. It was "an overstatement," Goddicks says. Nor is it true that organized labor backs mining or opposes the moratorium. Union leaders from the Communications Workers, Auto Workers and the South Central Federation of the AFL-CIO have condemned Exxon's worker-safety record. In 1990, they say, Exxon had the worst safety record among the nation's 20 largest underground coal producers. The Algon, Exxon's partner in the Crandon mine, has also been assessed for its safety practices. And Homer begins a former United Steelworkers official, declares the company's terrible track record at its uranium mine near Elliot Bay, Ontario.

The mining moratorium bill is now in the hands of the state Assembly, where it has been assigned to the Environment Committee. This is the same committee that strangled the legislation last year by refusing to hold hearings on it. Rep. Spencer Black, one of the bill's authors, is "cautiously optimistic" about the bill's prospects in light of the strong support (29-33) it received in the Senate. Black expects that Exxon and its allies will seek to add amendments that will render the bill meaningless.

We'll have to keep up the pressure," says Black. "This is the classic case of billions of dollars' worth of environmental damage done by people who love our environment." Millions of people who love our environment? Kajina will retort and launch another media barrage remains unknown. "Our advertising plans" says Gramacki, "are contingent on what the opposition does." Perhaps more to the point, Exxon's Madison lobbyist, Dale Alberts, told state senators in February that the company is prepared to spend "whatever is required."

BRIEFLY

MADISON

McCoshen: Mining letter no big deal

The state Commerce secretary said a brief note he sent to a mining lobbyist — five months after removing himself from mining issues because of conflict-of-interest concerns — was a routine follow-up to a conversation.

Bill McCoshen downplayed the significance of the letter.

"It was a pleasure to meet you recently. I enjoyed our conversation," McCoshen wrote in a Feb. 11 letter to Dale Alberts, lobbyist for Crandon Mining Co. "Please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Commerce or myself if we may be of assistance to you in the future."

McCoshen said another lobbyist introduced him to Alberts at a private function. McCoshen also said he has never held a formal meeting with Alberts.

In September, McCoshen notified his top two aides that he would not participate in matters involving mining because his wife, Carol, was considering a job from Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the state's largest business group. Carol McCoshen was hired by the group to assist on mining issues.

McCoshen's agency was given responsibility for mine safety regulation in July.

Meanwhile, Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, urged the state Ethics Board to compel Crandon Mining to disclose whether it is funneling money through WMC to pay for Carol McCoshen's work.

Crandon Mining is seeking permission to operate a zinc and copper mine in Forest County.

Poll: Most seem to oppose mining

Recount secures seats for anti-mining candidates

By Jeff Meyers

State government reporter

Wisconsin residents appear to be tilting against the proposed Crandon zinc and copper mine, according to an independent poll released Monday.

The poll, conducted by the St. Norbert College Survey Center in cooperation with Wisconsin Public Radio, indicated significant opposition to the mine proposed by the Exxon Corp.-Rio Algom Ltd. joint venture called Crandon Mining Co.

State Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, called the poll results "amazing" considering "a one-sided, \$1 million advertising campaign" on behalf of the mine.

"It's a tremendous boost" to the anti-mine effort, Black said.

But the pollster said there was "not a clear consensus" on the project, to be located near Crandon and the headwaters of the Wolf River.

"While there are clearly more who are opposed to the mine, there is currently not a majority position on this issue," said David Wegge, director of the St. Norbert College Survey Center.

That's in part because the re-

Discussion planned on poll results

Some of the results of the latest St. Norbert College-Wisconsin Public Radio poll will be discussed this morning on Tom Clark's call-in show between 7 and 8. The program airs on 970 AM WHA or 90.7 WHAD. Later today, at 11 a.m., survey director David Wegge and Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer will appear on Larry Miller's call-in program to discuss other environment-related survey results.

sults of the key Crandon mine question are from a sample that's smaller than the overall pool of 407 respondents questioned by telephone from March 18-23.

The poll first asked all 407 respondents if they had read or heard something about the Crandon mine. The 64 percent of respondents who said yes to this question then were asked: "Do you favor or oppose the development of this zinc and copper mine near Crandon?"

Forty-eight percent of this smaller group of respondents said

By Ron Seely

Environment reporter

An entire slate of newly elected anti-mining candidates survived a recount Monday in the town of Nashville near Crandon in north-eastern Wisconsin, site of the proposed Exxon copper and zinc mine.

All three incumbent Town Board members as well as the town clerk were ousted last week. The vote came after the Town Board, despite considerable opposition, in December approved a controversial agreement with Crandon Mining Co., the partnership formed by Exxon and Rio Algom to build the mine.

Monday's recount was sought by

incumbent board member Edward Bula, one of the losers in the election, and backed by other mining proponents. They charged that voters on the Mole Lake Indian Reservation near the proposed mine were enticed to vote by being offered a free meal of hot dogs (an accusation that prompted some to dub the affair "Weinergate"). Also, those seeking the recount charged that ex-felons and out-of-state residents were allowed to vote on the reservation.

But Robert Van Zile, one of the newly elected board members, said that during Monday's recount, the Forest County Board of Censors found no evidence to support the charges.

"I put the question to them," Van Zile said. "I asked them if there was any evidence in support of the allegations, and they said there wasn't."

Elected to the Town Board were Van Zile, Chuck Sleeter and Duwayne Marshall. They replace Town Chairman Richard Pitts and board members William Marquardt and Edward Bula. Also, pro-mining candidate Joanne Taccopina defeated incumbent Town Clerk Carol Marquardt.

Van Zile said it is possible that the new town officials will make changes to the agreement with the mining company.

"I think there are some things that can happen," Van Zile said.

they opposed the project, 31 percent favored the project, and 22 percent were "not sure."

The margin of error for this key question is larger than the plus or minus 5 percentage points that applies to questions with the full scientific sample, Wegge said. The

margin of error on this smaller sample was plus or minus 6 percentage points, said Wisconsin Public Radio's Joy Cardin.

Attempts to reach Crandon Mining officials weren't successful.

Kevin Keane, a spokesman for Gov. Tommy Thompson, said the

large number of undecided showed that there "is a lot of rhetoric on both sides of the issue."

"We need some science to be able to determine whether this is good or bad," said Keane, referring to an advisory council being appointed by Thompson.

Water/Crandon mine project must satisfy state, U.S. regulators

From page 1

treated wastewater to the Wisconsin River at the Hat Rapids Dam, south of Rhineland. This is not a significant addition to the big river's flow.

The Corps of Engineers has stepped into the picture because the one body in the Lake Michigan watershed. At issue is whether pumping ground water out of the mine would be a diversion of water from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi Valley watershed, of which the Wisconsin River is part.

The state Department of Natural Resources says it would not be at least not from a legal perspective, because the federal diversion law applies only to surface waters.

The Corps of Engineers will decide the issue within a month, says Ben Wopat, chief of the Corps regulatory branch in St. Paul district office.

Should the Corps disagree with the DNR, the company would need approval from all other Great Lakes states for its 28-mile-long discharge pipeline. That is not likely, because several Michigan elected officials already have announced their opposition to the diversion.

If the diversion is vetoed, one alternative would be rerouting the discharge to another river flowing into Lake Michigan, according to Stan Druckenmiller, executive assistant to Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer.

The company would consider laying the pipeline east to the Menominee or Peshtigo rivers or even Green Bay, said Don MacCrandon, Mining's permit manager. One other option would be to pump treated wastewater into Sagami Creek, a tributary of the Wolf River.

But the Wolf River is a state-designated Outstanding Resource Water, protected by discharge limits that are more stringent than those imposed on the Wisconsin River.

Water Quality an Issue
Even if the Corps agrees that the discharge is not legally a diversion of Great Lakes water, the company is still not out of the woods on its discharge plan.

Crandon Mining's plan to pump its treated wastewater into the Wisconsin River could not be allowed under Wisconsin's existing environmental protection regulations, Druckenmiller said.

Why not? Too much organic matter already is being dis-

Hearing is set on moratorium bill

The Assembly Environmental Committee has scheduled a May 12 public hearing on a bill already approved by the state Senate, that initially was intended to block state permits for the Crandon Mining Co. project.

The hearing begins at 2:30 p.m. in the Risk County Community Library in Ladysmith.

This so-called metal-mining moratorium bill, introduced by Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison), would prohibit the state Department of Natural Resources from issuing any permits until it can find mining projects in other states that meet two conditions.

The conditions are: A mine charged to the river from sewage treatment plants, paper makers and other industries. Druckenmiller said. As bacteria digest the waste, the microbes consume dissolved oxygen in the water that is needed for fish and other aquatic life. This action is known as biological oxygen demand, or BOD, and it is usually expressed in parts per million of oxygen used by the bacteria.

Crandon Mining could pour its treated wastewater there only if it contained less than detectable amounts of BOD, according to Druckenmiller.

But the company's proposal estimates that its discharge would contain up to 10 parts per million of BOD, and laboratory techniques can detect as little as one-fifth of that amount.

We're going to have to clean up the water even more, but at first blush this does not look like a problem, Mac said. Reducing BOD to 2 ppm or less is possible by adding an extra treatment step before discharge, he said.

Effects of Pumping
In the wet environment of Forest County, even the seemingly simple step of pumping water out of a mine could have other effects.

The natural flow of ground water beneath the surface will be reversed in some areas and begin moving toward the ore body as pumps pull water out of the mine. The mining company, the DNR and the Corps of Engineers all are studying whether less ground water will seep toward

the surface, possibly reducing stream flows and lake levels.

A company report concluded that "de-watering" the mine would not change water levels on most lakes in the area.

Only Shunk Lake will experience a major change, but the lake is entirely on mine property and has no fish, according to Crandon Mining.

The DNR will not complete its own analysis of these potential impacts until this summer or fall, officials said.

Crandon Mining would be required to provide a notification plan for all surface water resources that could be harmed by mine pumping, said William Tamm, the DNR's project manager. This plan would detail how the company intends to bring water from another source to replace water lost to a stream or lake.

A well that would be away from the influence of mine pumps is one possible source.

After the DNR signals its decision, the Corps of Engineers is expected to complete a separate ground water study by the end of the year. That information will enable the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to finish its independent report on possible effects on streams and lakes, which could be published by next spring.

Public Input
Late this year or early next, the DNR also expects to publish its draft environmental impact statement, a comprehensive summary of the proposed min-

ing operations and their potential effects on natural resources.

Within 60 days of releasing the report, the DNR must hold a public hearing to receive comment on the document, according to Tamm.

"This will be the most significant point of public input," Tamm said.

The agency will respond to these comments and decide whether to revise any of its conclusions.

At that time, mining opponents likely will target their criticism on a proposed waste rock landfill known as a landfill management area. As they have in the past, critics will dispute that environmental protection measures to be built into the landfill are sufficient to prevent leaks of metals, acid and other contaminants.

About four months after the hearing, the DNR will release its final environmental impact statement. This could come by the summer of 1998, setting the stage for a final confrontation among concerned citizens, the mining company and the DNR.

Under state law, the DNR must hold a contested case hearing within six months of issuing the final impact statement. It could be scheduled by January 1999 at the earliest.

This hearing could last up to six weeks and provide the public with a final look at the regulatory can before the state decides whether to issue mining permits.

A written decision — either denying or approving state permits — would come about six months after that, or the fall of 1998.

After more than three and a half years of work to date, the Crandon Mining Co. expects to complete its studies of the mine's environmental impacts in May or June.

Since Crandon Mining was formed in the fall of 1993, the company has spent \$20 million on environmental studies and feasibility design.

Another factor in the mine's prospects will be the market for metals.

In 1996, the state had published a final environmental impact statement on Exxon's earlier request for permits to mine the ore body. Those documents did not disclose any findings that would have blocked approval. Regardless, Exxon withdrew its application, citing low metal prices on the global market.

Should metal prices slump again, would the company postpone the project a second time?

Not likely, Mac said. "We've restructured the mine so it will be more competitive at lower metal prices," he said. One change was to reduce daily production goals to 5,500 tons of ore.

At this time, the market also is cooperating with the company.

Since Jan. 2, zinc prices have risen on about a dime to 35 cents per pound. Copper prices have risen more than \$1 per pound for several years.

Crandon mine chronology

1983 - Bannock and Mineral Co. approves discovery of zinc and copper deposit south of Crandon in Forest County.

1985 - Bannock environmental suit seeks permits to mine the big bog.

1986 - Fall. Bannock withdraws application. Mining law repeal passes.

1987 - September. Crandon Mining Co., partnership of Bannock Coal and Minerals Co. and Bob Ripstein Ltd. says it will seek permits to mine the ore body.

1987 - April. Company says it will discharge treated wastewater to the Wisconsin River on a tributary of the Wolf River at a bad leach pond.

1987 - December. Town of Nashville board approves a local agreement with Crandon Mining, providing the project with all necessary town permits.
December 1998 to February 1999. Forest County approves local agreement and mining permit.

1997 - April 15. Town of Nashville votes cast board members.

1997 - May or June. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to decide whether Crandon Mining Co.'s proposed discharge of wastewater to Wisconsin River is a discharge of Great Lakes water. Company submits final studies to state on the forming of acids in its proposed waste rock landfill and potential movement of acids, metals and other pollutants out of landfill.
Late summer or fall. DNR completes separate studies on mine's impact on streams and water table.

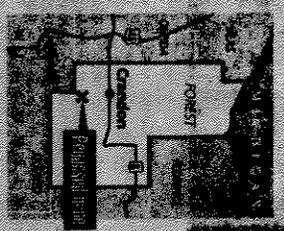
1997 - November 1997 to January 1998. DNR releases draft of state environmental impact statement. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases federal study of mine's impact on ground water.

1998 - 60 days after release of draft environmental impact statement, DNR will hold public hearing to obtain oral and written comments.
Spring. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency releases separate study on mine's impact on streams and water.

1998 - Summer. State releases final environmental impact statement.
October to December. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases draft of federal environmental impact statement, schedules public hearing.

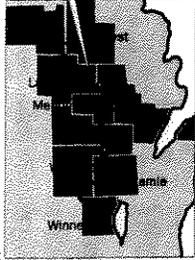
1999 - January. The big bog after state's final environmental impact statement is published. State conducts contested case hearing over bog to six weeks to receive additional public testimony and technical comments on the statement.
Spring. State sets schedule to conduct briefs and response briefs from participants (mining company, regulators, Indian tribes, local government, environmental groups and others).

1999 - Summer. Final federal environmental impact statement and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' decision on whether to issue federal mining permit.
Fall. Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources decision on whether to issue state permits.



Exploring the Wolf River, Crandon mine debate

Wolf River



NORTHWESTERN ART

Mining moratorium bill

Senate Bill 3, popularly known as the "mining moratorium," passed the Wisconsin Senate March 11 on a 29 to 5 vote. It was introduced in the Assembly two days later and sent to the Environment Committee. A public hearing on the bill is scheduled for Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. at State Fair Park in West Allis. The committee is expected to vote on the bill in early November.

According to the Legislative Reference Bureau, the legislation: "Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from issuing a metallic mining permit for the mining of a sulfide ore body until DNR determines that a mine has operated in a similar sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada for at least 10 years without polluting groundwater or surface water and that a mine that operated in a similar sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada has been closed for at least 10 years without polluting groundwater or surface water."



THE WOLF RIVER in Winneconne is a hot fishing spot for residents and tourists.

Mining bill will protect our natural resources

By SPENCER BLACK

Imagine an airplane that crashed every time it took off. Suppose the manufacturer of that plane then claimed that he had new technology that would prevent future problems and invited you and your family along on the next flight. Before you boarded that plane, you would probably want to see at least one successful flight.

That scenario is similar to the situation we now face with proposals to open mines in sulfide ore bodies in northern Wisconsin such as Exxon's proposed Wolf River mine. Why? Because every mine in a similar sulfide ore body has led to severe environmental damage.

Wisconsin will be the big loser if Exxon's proposed Wolf River mine ends up polluting drinking water supplies or our rivers and lakes. For that reason, I have proposed the Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill. My bill will prohibit the opening of a



Rep. Spencer Black

sulfide minerals. In order to extract the copper, zinc and other metals, the mining operation pulverizes the sulfide rock. While the valuable minerals would be shipped to Cana-

waste sulfide tailings mix with air and water, sulfuric acid is created.

Across the country, sulfide mining wastes have caused extensive environmental damage from acid draining into rivers, lakes and drinking water supplies. A great many rivers in Appalachia and the Rocky Mountains remain lifeless due to acid drainage from mines even decades after the mines were closed and the mining companies moved elsewhere.

The potential for acid drainage pollution from such a large dump would concern us wherever it was located. But its location in the headwaters of the Wolf River, one of our state's most famous and pristine rivers and the Fox River's largest tributary, makes it especially threatening.

Exxon cannot cite even one example of a mine in a sulfide ore body similar to the Wolf River deposit that has not caused extensive pollu-

tion. Even though Exxon admits that past mines have caused great environmental damage, they now claim that new technologies will prevent that damage at their Wolf River mine. However, those technologies are unproven. Reports indicate that some recent mine operations have been promising, but other new mines have become environmental disasters. For example, the Summitville mine in Colorado, which opened only 10 years ago, had to be shut down after polluting many miles of trout streams and poisoning water supplies in southern Colorado. Taxpayers in that state will pay as much as \$150 million to try to clean up the damage.

Mining advocates claim that the four year history of a small mine in Ladysmith should clear the way for Exxon's proposed Wolf River mine. The Ladysmith mine is a fraction of the size of the Wolf River mine. What makes the comparison even

more disturbing is that the Wolf River-Crandon mine will process the ore on site.

Exxon and other mining advocates claim that we don't need the mining moratorium bill because Wisconsin's mining laws are already strong enough. However, our mining laws contain many loopholes. For example, mining is the only industry in the state that does not have to follow the strict standards of the state's Groundwater Law — the law that protects our drinking water. Mines follow separate, but weaker, rules. Also, many of the provisions of the mining laws can be waived at the request of the mining company and with the approval of the Department of Natural Resources.

This is especially worrisome now that the DNR is a politically controlled agency. The change to a politically controlled DNR was made at the request of lobbyists representing the mining industry. In fact, since the DNR became a polit-

ically controlled agency, its watchdog Public Intervenor, whose job was to watchdog the DNR, has been eliminated.

The latest effort by Exxon to kill the mining moratorium bill has been based on the routine suggestion by legislative lawyers to make a technical change to the language of the bill. This technical clarification which happens on almost every major legislation has already been accomplished by an amendment drafted by the nonpartisan Legislative Council.

This fall, the state Assembly is scheduled to vote on the mining moratorium bill. The state Senate has already passed the bill by a bipartisan vote of 29-3 despite a multimillion dollar lobbying and advertising campaign by Exxon.

The mining moratorium bill is a common sense approach to prevent mining operations from polluting our drinking water and rivers and lakes. Our greatest wealth in Wis-

Mining moratorium won't accomplish anything

By Marc Durr

Few issues in Wisconsin generate strong emotion, political activism, protest leading to arrest and doom-day predictions as metallic mining. This is ironic considering Wisconsin was named the "Badger State" because of its rich mining history dating back to the 19th century.

The proposed Cranston mine has prompted recent uprisings among concerned parties and environmental groups, including some considered extreme and radical, like Earth First and the Wisconsin Greens. These groups oppose the Cranston mine and back legislation authored by Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison) which attempts to stop metallic mining in Wisconsin for decades. While Black's bill (Senate Bill 3) and mining issues deserve thorough attention, the Legislature must be careful and not allow politics and radical agendas interfere.

Proposing a mining moratorium automatically suggests Wisconsin's environmental regulations are inadequate to protect our lands, forests and waters. This is ludicrous. When Wisconsin's comprehensive mining and environmental laws were enacted in the early 1970s and 1980s, they were considered the best in the nation. Since that time, these laws have only been strengthened.

A publication by the National



Rep. Marc Durr

Mining Association credited Wisconsin with enacting "arguably the toughest environmental regulations impacting mining early in the environmental movement." In fact, Black wrote a column on Wisconsin's continual high rank on environmental quality published February 17, 1995, in the Clark County Press in which he writes, "When states are ranked on the quality of their environment, Wisconsin is almost always at or near the top. ... Wisconsin has long been a leader

in enacting strict laws to keep our outdoors clean."

In light of this, should we have confidence in our state's environmental regulatory structure and allow the mining permit process to work rather than let emotional politics intervene. It is better to trust the state's technical experts, scientists, independent consultants and professionals to scrutinize proposed mine projects and protect the environment.

There is no doubt the cave-manish methods of mining in the 1800s and early 1900s were damaging to the environment. However, modern mining technology and engineering has dramatically changed that record so that environmentally responsible mining is the standard. In fact, the only way a mine can receive a DNR permit to operate in Wisconsin is if it will meet strong environmental requirements and it will not endanger public health, safety or welfare.

Modern mines have operated throughout North America without harm to the environment. Colorado's Henderson Mine, Missouri's Viburnum Mine #27, California's McLaughlin Mine, and Montana's Stillwater's Cameo mine have all operated in an environmentally responsible manner, many in sensitive areas. Wisconsin's Flam-

beau Mine in Ladysmith, which operated from 1993 until this year, has been hailed as a success and complied with all of our tough environmental regulations. It is important to note that if Black's mining moratorium bill had been in effect in the 1980s, the successful Flambeau Mine would have been prevented for many decades.

Few bills have generated as much confusion and emotion as Senate Bill 3, the so-called "mining moratorium" bill, which passed the state Senate in March. Because of amendments added to the bill in the Senate, there has been a great deal of confusion over what the bill actually does. As a result, an impartial legislative attorney was asked to write a legal opinion on SB 3. The conclusion was that the bill imposes no moratorium on mining and adds no more stringent provisions to protect the environment or Wolf River from unproven mining practices.

One can't help but wonder why the bill's proponents failed to pass SB 3 in a way that would actually result in a moratorium on mining in Wisconsin. Perhaps supporters of the measure know SB 3 wouldn't pass the Senate in that form. Or maybe they were more interested in creating a hot political issue than in working to strengthen Wisconsin's already tough environmental laws.

Supporters of SB 3, who claimed to be protecting the environment, cast anyone opposed to this do-nothing legislation as a villain. In truth, their actions and their bill were nothing but political posturing and empty rhetoric.

While the focus has been placed on SB 3, which provides no further protections to the environment, many of my Republican colleagues have been working on initiatives guaranteed to give the DNR the regulatory tools it needs to protect the environment while allowing mining to occur. Some of these are as follows:

- 1) Last session a new law was enacted which makes mining companies perpetually responsible for costs and clean up associated with mine waste facilities.
- 2) New rules were requested to enhance the groundwater rules as it relates to mining.
- 3) DNR was asked to forward new rules that require mine operators to place in a special fund adequate moneys to cover any preventative and remedial actions necessary to clean up the site or problem caused by the mine; and
- 4) A bill, AB 236, would require an applicant demonstrate they will use proven technology to protect surface and groundwater from contamination in order to obtain a min-

ing permit.

Our environment is far too important to be used as a pawn in a political game, use scare-tactics and make questionable prognostications. Just as a diverse group of people came together to create our tough mining laws in 1981, I would welcome those who would join me to reach a consensus on improving our current laws.

Our position is clear: If a mining company can't prove its operation is safe, if they can't make assurances their mine won't contaminate ground or surface water in Wisconsin, they won't receive a mining permit to operate in our state. Current Wisconsin mining laws require state-of-the-art engineering design, technology for pollution prevention, environmental monitoring, and strong financial rules to guarantee mines in Wisconsin are built, operated and reclaimed to high environmental standards. There is no need to have policies delay mining in Wisconsin for several decades because of what is already in place.

MARC DURR, a Republican, is chairman of the Assembly's Environment and Utilities Committee. He represents the 96th district, which includes New Berlin, Brookfield and Elm Grove.



Gregg Underhelm (R-Oshkosh): The contacts I have gathered from my district are strongly in opposition to the mine. That certainly affects my thinking. I wish the bill would be debated solely on the merits of the issue. There is a lot of emotional baggage that comes with this topic. The opponents of mining have used that strategy effectively. There have been legitimate concerns as well as the fears that have been raised.



Carol Owens (R-town of Nekimi): We shouldn't legislate out of fear. It drives people to do very strange things. As it is worded now, I won't vote for the so-called mining moratorium. I could change my mind if the legislation is made better. The question is who operates the mine and under which rules. The Cranston mine will be mined — that's a given — only a matter of when.



Judy Kussman (R-town of Clayton): Senate Bill 3 is based on some good science. If I were to vote on that bill today, I would support it. My constituents are overwhelmingly in support of strengthening our mining laws. The Cranston mine is a little different because you're going down into the mine and refining the ore in place. Senate Bill 3 is a reasonable piece of legislation. This is incredibly important when you talk about the headwater of the Wolf River. It affects my entire district. Somewhere between 25 percent of the state's water comes in that area. We can't take the chance.

DATELINE: WISCONSIN

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

western U. is 2-4 (now 2-5). Northern Illinois U. at Parkville was 0-3 (4 of the 5 were routs). Notre Dame, that Chicago considers its own was 1-4 (now 2-1), and the Bears, once known proudly as the "Mountains of the Midway," and later simply as "The Bears," were 0-6 and facing the Packers again Sunday.

Chicago Tribune sports writers were beside themselves and ecstatic. This sports columnist I had come was having a ball, with particular relish Bears owner Michael McCauley, reported in Chicago as the enemy -- for frang Mike Ditka.

And then we had Boston Globe political analyst David Walsh commenting that it may already be too late for VP Al Gore in 2000, enmeshed in the money scandal as he is. When Walsh concluded, he said he could now see more clearly Colin Powell as the next president, with John McCain and Bill Bradley probably close.

Walsh wrote, "...it will be extremely difficult to deny Vice President Al Gore the Democratic nomination. Very likely Gore cannot win the election, but he probably won't do much better than Bob Dole did."

Walsh also mentioned the deflating news of opening office in the Madison public schools where the teacher union has not hundreds of thousands of dollars in TV ads "sancting" the school board and Superintendent Cheryl Wilby because the two sides are still far apart on the size of the teacher wage boost.

State Senator Alice Clausung (D-Memmons) is shaking her finger at Assembly Speaker Ben Brannet (R-Steinway) as a warning that the confirmation hearings for Brannet as Secretary of Ag will be no cake walk.

She chairs the state Senate's Ag committee. Clausung is a former physical education teacher, an environmentalist (Sierra Club, among others), an airplane pilot and a parent. She also knows a bit of a fishhead.

One of her tougher questions at this time are, why didn't the Governor do a search for the best professional to head the Ag Department instead of handing the job over as a political reward to insure that the department will remain tightly under his thumb?

Remember, Alan Tracy didn't like taking orders from the Madison very much. That's why he's gone.

Since the Ag Department also deals heavily in trade and consumer protection, Clausung could go sharply after Brannet's credentials. Brannet has established himself as a very sharp



SEN. ALICE CLAUSUNG

politician, but some things about the Ag Department let it have to hang on its job. Could it be so easy to get rid of her? Clausung is a Michigan State University graduate with any attention to the American and National



DONALD PETERSON

women, not too unexpectedly, you want to know exactly what is going on here? Stay tuned.

There is also Alan Clausung again, weighing the pros and cons of the state's new bond issue. The Governor and the State Revenue Board is now very cautious about it.

How to get all those bonded and pledged fathers to send money for their abandoned offspring remains a truly perplexing problem, with hundreds of millions of dollars hanging in the balance. Columbia County in South Central Wisconsin has not a terrible problem with it, and it is getting worse. No solution in view. Corporation Counsel Donald Peterson is still looking at it. It won't go away, Donald.

Imagine that. In 1974 it is the Clinton Tapes. Now, 23 years later it is the Nixon Tapes. We don't seem to have moved so far.

In Federal court in Madison, Lisa Matteson, 27, off, was convicted October 1996 of embezzling \$30,000 from the Bank of Wisconsin branch in Harmony Grove on Lake Wisconsin.

She was heard earlier and got caught through a routine audit. Though she was convicted on the bank embezzlement, the facts reported they also suspect her of stealing another \$22,200 from two estates.

It was a plea copy and she'll be sentenced December 18. In Wisconsin, you mostly cop a plea bargain to avoid a prison sentence. It's the name of the game.

Do you feel sorry for all those people living in and around Dodgeville, one of Daws County's boom towns?

There was a time, 30-40 years ago that Dodgeville was a good town. The road, Dodgeville, was a good town. The road, Dodgeville, was a good town. The road, Dodgeville, was a good town.



KURT DEV

But that farmer on the north side of 51, just east of Arlington is a small hog farmer. However, last week, the state from his spreading hog manure on surrounding roads was enough to cut off your breathing. Motorists on 51 were subjected to it for a good half mile while passing. How'd you like to live there?

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TOM PINK

year is \$4.7 million, up approximately \$530,000 over the present budget.

The highway department spending plan is up \$390,000 for next year, and health and

CONTINUED PAGE 16

Columbia Co. Bd. OKs new record

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

has been going up every year for a long time, at least for a decade.

And the increase this time, of \$1.3 million, is not a record. Not even close.

The biggest single budget increase for the county board came in 1994, when it went up \$4.7 million from the year before.

The new nearly \$40 million budget is the product of the county board's Finance Committee, controlled by the heavyweights of the board, Supervisors Orin Anderson, of Wisconsin Dells, the head of the county board's "Seven Apostles" leadership corps, John H. Tramborg, of Fall River, Robert L. Hancock, of Average, who is next in line for the board chairmanship, and Ed Riley, a past chairman and also of Average.

To give an idea where the new budget comes in from an overview, the Columbia County Board's annual budget only 10 years ago in 1987, was only \$18.6 million. The 1998 budget then is just over double in a county in that time that has only grown by only 27.70 percent. The budget for 1998 is \$109 to \$6,000.

In the 1990s, it literally exploded into two departments -- the county highway department and the health and human services department.

Hard to imagine there is that much instability in this country among the male sex, all these guys crying and shouting their imagined sins...

League pro World Series playoffs? Who are these guys, anyway?

They say some nearly 1 million so-called "Promise Keepers" rallied in Washington D.C. to be inspired to be honest, diligent and caring husbands and fathers, mainly, but make types as well.

Some called it simply old fashioned male bonding. Some others scorned it as just one big PR scam -- for somebody.

What if it did though was the up a bunch of

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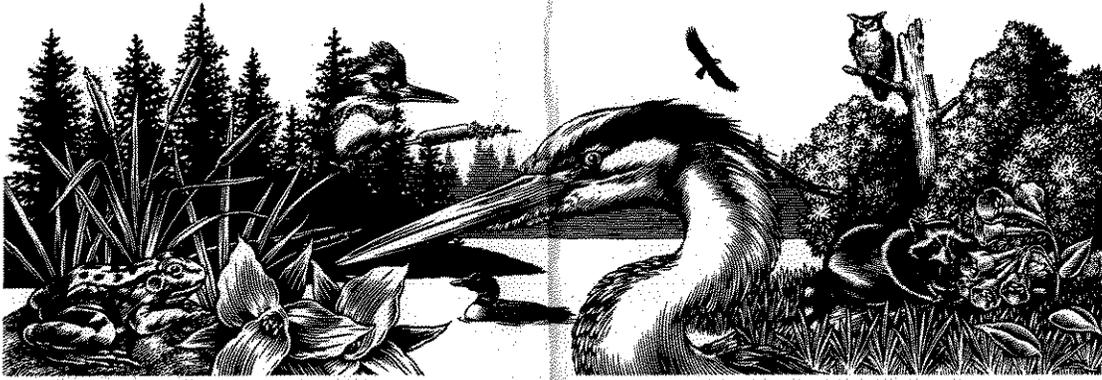
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When you live here, protecting the environment and ensuring jobs means everything.

Lots of tourists come to Forest County every summer. Some go home wishing they could find a decent job here, so they could stay for good. Believe it or not, some of us who live here wish for the same thing. There isn't a lot of work—not at wages that support a family. That's why most of our young people, when they finish school, go someplace else to build careers.

A mine in our county can change that. It offers opportunities we've never seen before, including more than 400 well-paid jobs. If the mine is built, our children will at least have a choice to stay and raise their families in this beautiful country.

We're not about to trade our environment for jobs. If the mine won't protect our lakes, streams and drinking

water, we don't want it. But if we can have it both ways—quality jobs and a quality environment—then mining belongs here.

No one complains when Milwaukee, Appleton and Madison bring in new, responsible industry. All we're asking is the right to do the same.

James Kinnear
Vernon Kincaid,
Mayor, City of Cranston

Edward Huetli
Edward Huetli,
Chairman,
Forest County Board of Supervisors

Melinda Otto
Melinda Otto,
Executive Director,
Cranston Chamber of Commerce

Alton "Bud" Leon
Alton "Bud" Leon,
Businessman

Richard H. Smith
Richard H. Smith

David B. Smith
David B. Smith

Tom H. Smith
Tom H. Smith

Bill Tegen
Bill Tegen

John Tegen
John Tegen

Printed for by the Cranston Mining Company

Critics: New techniques for safe mining untested

By Ron Seely

Environmental opponents Monday said a proposed mining moratorium is necessary in Wisconsin to protect against environmental disaster.

A hearing on the proposed moratorium, which would require mining companies to give an example of a mine that has been safely closed for 10 years, was held in Green Bay before the state Senate's Environment and Agriculture Committee.

Exxon and Rio Algon have formed a partnership called Cranston Mining Company to seek permits that would allow the companies to mine 55 million tons of copper and zinc from an underground mine on the headwaters of the Wolf River just south of Crandon in northeastern Wisconsin.

But opponents on Monday said technology to prevent groundwater from acid mining wastes remains untested over a long period of time.

"The tailings from these mines remains dangerous forever," said Carl Zwickler, state west regional director for the Sierra Club. "The real effort to risk our state's rivers, lakes, and drinking water

until the technology is proven. That's why we need the mining moratorium bill."

Proponents of the mine argue the moratorium is unnecessary because of Wisconsin's mining laws. But by Monday afternoon, the bill by Cranston Mining presented a report at a meeting in Milwaukee that criticized the proposed moratorium as arbitrary, unworkable, and irrelevant. "It's unfair," the consultant said, "to use old mines to evaluate the environmental safety of new mines."

Critics who testified at the Green Bay hearing also cited Exxon's handling of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska as a reason for skepticism about the company's promises to run a clean mine.

David Holm, with the Milwaukee-based National Wildlife Federation, estimated a \$4 million punitive damage judgment that came in the wake of the spill. He criticized the company for paying millions to "sink standing levees" instead of compensating victims of the spill.

"We shouldn't just compare sites like Exxon or Rio Algon to take care of our lakes and rivers," Holm said.

and Mill near Denver, which has operated without environmental problems since it opened in 1979, the McLaughlin Mine near Salt Flashes that opened in 1965, and the Sullivan Mine in Michigan in the Benneville Mountains, which has operated 85 years from Yellowston National Park since 1967.

Mining

Continued from Page 1B

mines have been reclaimed using modern technology but added that none of them has been shut down for 10 years.

"We fully expect that at 10 years, they will meet the criteria," she said.

But Strziboski went on to criticize the criteria in the proposed mining moratorium. She said the tests outlined in the proposed bill — including that a mine be successfully reclaimed for 10 years — are "untested" and "arbitrary" meanings and irrelevant.

Judging the safety of new mines by using old mines that didn't use modern technologies, Strziboski said, is like evaluating the safety of a new car by comparing it to a Model T. Among the mines cited in the study are the Henderson Mine

Advocates fight back with 'mining success' examples

By Ron Seely

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mentally Responsible Mining" put on by the Wisconsin Mining Association, the National Manufacturers Association, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and several other pro-mining groups.

"Environmentally responsible mining is the norm across the country," Strziboski said. "It's not an aberration."

Cranston Mining Co. is a partnership formed by Exxon and Rio Algon. The companies want to build a 2,000-foot underground zinc and copper mine in northeastern Wisconsin near the headwaters of the Wolf River. The state Department of Natural Resources is studying the permit request and

not a final decision is still more than a year away.

But opponents have assembled a drive to pass legislation that would forbid mining in the state until a mining company has offered a bond not more than 10 years old and certified work shut down and reclaimed would be 10-year period without polluting surrounding waters. A hearing on that proposal will be held Monday in Green Bay.

Despite the extensive nationwide search, the Cranston Mining consultants were unable to find a mine in the country that meets both requirements of the proposed law.

Strziboski, who has worked 29 years as a geologist and has also consulted for Noranda Minerals, said the proposed mining company exploring in Wisconsin, said several

Please see MINING, Page 5B

■ Critics respond

Mining/Senate approves moratorium bill by big margin

From page 1

as soon as possible, said coalition leader Bob Hudel.

However, Dale Alberts, Cranston Mining's public affairs manager, described the legislation as unfortunate and unnecessary. If lawmakers take the time to visit the Flambeau mine near Ladysmith, they could see for themselves how today's mining industry and existing regulations work to protect the environment.

"Can we comply with all applicable state and federal laws? The answer is unequivocally yes. That is the yardstick by which we should judge the mining industry," Alberts said.

"The problem with the bill is it doesn't present environmental standards, it presents arbitrary and nebulous criteria by which you're supposed to judge an industry and a project," he added.

Three Republican senators — Carol Buettner of Oshkosh, Margaret Farrow of Elm Grove and Joanne Huelsman of Waukesha — voted against the moratorium. Sen. Alan Lasee (R-DePere) was absent.

Shiblick attributed opposition early in the debate to fears that the bill would ban mining. He maintained it was a ban only on irresponsible mining.

"What we're trying to do, and ultimately did in this bill, is raise the bar of excellence, to make it very difficult for people to pro-

Details of bill

Highlights of the mining moratorium bill approved by a 29-3 vote by the Senate Tuesday.

■ Mining companies seeking state environmental permits to open mines would be required to prove that a similar surface mine has operated elsewhere in North America for at least 10 years without polluting ground or surface water. Pollution is defined as voiding environmental laws.

■ Companies also must prove that such a mine has been closed for another 10 years with no sign of water pollution.

■ While the bill would check approval of the Cranston mine until it shows no harm to the environment, it also would apply to all future mining projects in the state.

pose a mining operation in Wisconsin without first passing a test, a "show me" test," he said.

"Show me a mine that's operating the surface and ground water, and show me one that's been successfully reclaimed for 10 years or more without endangering the environment as well," Shiblick added.

Cranston Mining is a Wisconsin partnership formed by Exxon Coal and Minerals Co. of Houston and Rio Algom Ltd. of To-

ronto. The proposed mine is about five miles south of Cranston.

The vote followed a day that included demonstrations at the Capitol by members of the Ojibda and Mole Lake Chippewa Indian bands.

Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison), Assembly sponsor of the bill,

"This strong bipartisan vote will mean it will be very difficult for the Assembly to deny us a hearing and an open vote."

Black said about 200 people, many carrying signs and banners, gathered on the Capitol steps for a noon rally in support of the moratorium, which would apply to all future mining projects in Wisconsin, not just the one proposed by Cranston Mining.

"It's going to devastate our community, our people," said Robert Van Zile, a Mole Lake tribal leader. During the rally, he led fellow tribal members in a prayer-and-drum ceremony.

Steelworkers from Harrischleger Industries Inc. of St. Francis, the world's largest manufacturer of mining equipment, showed their opposition. Sporting yellow T-shirts with the manufacturer's initials in bold black letters, they watched the debate from the Senate gallery.

Senate OKs bill on mining rules

Moratorium measure now heads to Assembly

By RICHARD P. JONES of the Journal Sentinel staff

Madison — The state Senate overwhelmingly approved a mining moratorium Tuesday that would prevent an Exxon company from unearthing zinc, copper and other deposits near Cranston until it shows that it will not harm the environment.

On a 29-3 vote, the Senate passed and sent the Assembly a measure that would require the Cranston Mining Co. to show that the project would cause no water pollution in 20 years of operating and restoring the site.

To do that, Cranston would have to point to a similar mine elsewhere in the United States or Canada that operated pollution-free for at least 10 years and, once closed, caused no water contamination for another 10 years.

The moratorium's sponsors and environmental groups hailed the vote, while a spokesman for Cranston Mining called the measure unreasonable and arbitrary.

"It stands a good chance of passage in the Assembly, and I think the governor will have no choice but to sign this," said Sen. Kevin Shiblick (D-Stevens Point), author of the proposal.

"The vote of 29-3 reflects the fact that people in this state are very nervous about Exxon building a massive mine and hazardous waste dump in the headwaters of the Wolf River," added Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison), sponsor of the legislation in the Assembly. "This strong bipartisan vote will mean it will be very difficult for the Assembly to deny us a hearing and an open vote."

Wisconsin Citizen Action, a coalition of environmental, labor, religious and community groups, will press for an Assembly vote.

Please see MINING page 4

Duff statement alarms taxpayer

I am writing because I believe

Forum

the editor of The Star

the people of Sun Prairie need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill.

The hearing was held in Ladysmith on May 12 and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade.

I attended the hearing because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Cran-

don is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our north woods.

It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building.

Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me."

Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the [waste] water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of

(Continued on page 13)

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Reader Forum

(Continued from page 12)

Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder of any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry.

It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Sun Prairie is not sacred.

Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "no," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative.

And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.

THE STAR
6-5-97

State cancels contract for child welfare system

Page 3

WISCONSIN

Couple who left children alone will stand trial

Page 5

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1998

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL — STATE EDITION

SECTION B

Janz At Large



WILLIAM JANZ

Petitions oppose Crandon mine

Organizers say 40,000 residents signed in support of Senate bill that could stop plan

By STEVEN WALTERS
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Madison — Leaders of several environmental groups Thursday presented lawmakers with petitions they said were signed by 40,000 residents who supported a Senate-passed bill that would stop a proposed mineral mine near Crandon.

The petitions were filed in advance of Assembly debate, which may occur Jan. 22, on the

so-called mining moratorium bill. The legislation would require any company wanting to build a mine to prove that similar mines had both run and had been closed for 10 years without causing pollution.

The Senate passed the bill by a 29-3 vote last spring.

The law would affect the Crandon Mining Co., which is seeking state and federal permits to remove 55 million tons of copper and zinc from an ore

body 5 miles south of Crandon in Forest County.

The company is a subsidiary of Exxon Coal and Minerals of Houston, and Rio Algom Ltd. of Toronto.

Leaders of the Sierra Club, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Citizen and the Menominee Nation said the mine threatens to pollute the Wolf River and should not be built.

The Exxon subsidiary "has the big bucks" to lobby lawmakers on the issue, but the petitions — stacked about 18 inches high — prove there is "overwhelming

public support" for the mining moratorium, said Keith Ruppelle, of Wisconsin's Environmental Decade.

Caryl Terrell, of the Sierra Club's John Muir chapter, said 12,000 miles of U.S. rivers have been permanently damaged by mines, crippling tourism and sport fishing in those areas.

Menominee Nation member Ken Fish said his tribe's reservation is downstream from the mine site and mining companies should be required to "prove they can mine safely" before being allowed to operate.

Mary Kay Grasmick, a spokeswoman for the company

in Crandon, says the signatures account for about 1% of the state's population and collecting them was a "meaningless exercise."

She added Wisconsin already has tough mining rules on the books and that many people support the mine, particularly in Forest County.

Senate Deadlock

The bill's Assembly sponsor, Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison), said any changes made in the Senate-passed bill would kill the proposal because the Senate

Please see MINE page 2

Teacher with MS becomes a living lesson

Mine/40,000 sign petition

From page 1

is deadlocked, 16-16, with one seat vacant, and will not reconsider issues as controversial as mining this year.

For that reason, the Assembly should simply pass the Senate bill and send it to Gov. Tommy Thompson, Black said. "The public is very concerned," he added.

Black said a majority of the 99-member Assembly had promised to support some version of the bill in the past, but he could not promise that the Senate-passed bill will pass the Assembly.

"If (Assembly members) keep their word, we will have more

than enough votes," Black said.

But Rep. Marc Duff (R-New Berlin), chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee, said he opposes the Senate-passed bill because "it does nothing to protect the environment."

Black "doesn't care" that the bill will do nothing to stop the Cranston mine because he is pushing the bill only as a political symbol, Duff said. The issue has legislators "paranoid" in an election year and some Republicans will vote for it to get the political "monkey off their backs," Duff predicted.

If the Senate-passed bill becomes law, it will be challenged in court, Duff said.

Assembly Majority Leader

Steve Foti (R-Oconomowoc) said he could not predict what will happen when the Assembly debates the mining bill, which will not occur before Jan. 22.

"We have a lot of individuals all over the place on this issue," Foti said.

Foti said he hoped to support amendments to the Senate bill that would "strengthen" environmental laws on mining but not ban mining. He said similar amendments were proposed when the Assembly Environment Committee debated the bill, but they did not pass.

The state Department of Natural Resources has said it will make a tentative decision in 1999 on the whether the Cranston mine should be built.

17-22

Marc,

The enclosed article relates well to the Crandon Mine.

As Yogi Berra would say,
"It's déjà vu all over again."

Ron

Canadian Rockies Coal Project Sparks Ire

Suit Seeks to Bar Open-Pit Mine Near National Park

By TAMMIE CARLISLE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
HINTON, Alberta — A battle is raging over the construction of an open-pit coal mine in a spruce-cloaked valley less than two miles from the border of Canada's world-renowned Jasper National Park.

Here, on the eastern flank of Canada's Rocky Mountains, drilling crews are clearing timber to sink 1,500-foot exploration wells. Less than two months after a joint federal-provincial environmental review panel handed down a controversial decision approving the \$177 million project, access roads already crisscross the mine site below Alberta's distinctively flat-topped Cheviot Mountain.

Eventually, mine operators plan to excavate 24 pits, each more than half a mile wide and as much as 150 feet deep, cutting a 25-square-mile swathe some 15 miles up the valley. The mine would produce 3.2 million metric tons a year of high-grade coal, mostly for export to Asian steel mills.

Backers say the project will create 900 construction jobs and 450 mining jobs, and would generate more than \$65 million of provincial tax revenue over 20 years. The mine is to be built by Cardinal River Coals, a joint venture between Luscar Ltd. and Consolidation Coal Co., coal-mining concerns based respectively in Edmonton, Alberta, and Pittsburgh.

Conflicts Over Project

But to critics, approval of the coal excavation is only the latest example of how pro-business governments in Canada are undermining a tradition of protecting the environment. The mine site is located on environmentally sensitive land owned by the province of Alberta. It abuts Jasper National Park, a prized mountain wilderness visited by three million people a year and designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

As a result, environmental groups have gone to court to block the project. Last week they won a preliminary skirmish when the court denied a motion to dismiss their lawsuit.

Alberta's approval of the mine isn't the decision upsetting environmentalists. Mario's new conservative government, for example, has approved logging and mining in an old-growth northern pine forest near a provincial park. Meanwhile, Northwest Territories' government, by a pro-business former energy minister, recently approved construction of an open-pit coal mine on the easily scarred

lands before this, Canadians routinely



rejected business proposals to develop areas around national and provincial parks. In some Canadian regions they still do, such as in British Columbia last year, when the socialist provincial government appropriated the site of a large proposed copper mine near national parks in the north of the province and declared the tract a wilderness preserve.

Reasons for turning away billions of dollars of potential resource development have included national pride in Canada's international image as a land rich in unsullied wilderness, and a strong desire to lure well-heeled tourists: Some 25 million people visit Canada's 37 national parks annually, the Canadian government estimates. But cries for job-creation are getting louder, with Canada's unemployment rate stalled above 9% even as the country's economy gathers steam.

Wendy Francis, conservation director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, says the growing number of pro-business decisions is making Canada's reputation as a protector of natural places "outdated," and nowhere more so than in resource-rich Alberta. "The current Alberta government doesn't seem to place any kind of a priority on environmental protection in general, and protected areas in particular," she says.

Promoting Resource Development

Indeed, this isn't the first time that populist Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has risked the ire of environmentalists to promote resource development. Since coming to power in 1993, his government has allowed logging, cattle-grazing and oil and natural-gas drilling on the environmen-

tally sensitive eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. And it approved natural gas wells within Dinosaur Provincial Park, close to another World Heritage Site.

The Klein government also has repeatedly permitted resource development to continue on lands designated "special places" under one of its own environmental programs designed to preserve endangered ecosystems. At the same time, it slashed funding to provincial energy regulators who oversee the province's important energy industry.

However, until the Cheviot mine decision, Alberta environmentalists took comfort from the fact that approval by the Canadian federal government also was required for local development projects potentially affecting national parks. The mine-approval decision — the first under a new review process designed to give provinces a greater say over industrial development in environmentally sensitive areas — changed that.

Permanent Damage 'Justified'

The review panel found that the Cheviot mine would cause permanent damage, including habitat losses for fish and large carnivores such as cougars and grizzly bears. Nonetheless, it concluded that "the majority of environmental effects, including socio-economic effects, are either positive or, where adverse, are not significant" and therefore "justified in the context of the project as a whole."

That was followed by the environmentalists' lawsuit in which a coalition of five national and regional organizations, including a group that recently won a court battle to block expansion of a ski resort in Alberta's Banff National Park. They also point out that the coal mine will be at the heart of an isolated refuge for rare Alpine plants that aren't found anywhere else.

However, jobs, not grizzly bears, were uppermost in the minds of Hinton community leaders and labor groups, such as the United Mine Workers of America, who supported the mine proposal. Their arguments at a lengthy public hearing this summer centered around the belief that industry and sound environmental practices could co-exist.

Mines and the Landscape

Cardinal River's mine project manager, Fred Munn, says he is "very confident" that the process his company followed to obtain approval for the Cheviot mine will withstand court scrutiny. He says that coal mines do permanently alter the landscape, but not necessarily in ways that harm wildlife.

Indeed, he claims that at some of the

company's other mine sites, land reclamation programs have increased local populations of large ungulates such as elk and mountain sheep. "We have to accept that mines create change, but also create opportunities for improvement," he says.

Cam Hanthuk, a spokesman for Alberta's Environment Department, also takes the view that industrial development and environmental protection are compatible, and says that, based on its track record, the Alberta government has no need to change the environmental policy it has followed since 1993. "I would suggest that with the grizzly population increasing in Alberta, we may be doing something right," he says.

No light at end of tunnel in mine fight

By Jeff Meyers

The fight over the proposed moratorium mine isn't winding down, some ways, the real action is at beginning.

Within hours of a stinging defeat in the state assembly last week, mine opponents had shifted their intense lobbying effort back to the state Senate.

"We lost the battle but not necessarily the war," said state Rep. Kenner Black, primary promoter of the so-called mining moratorium bill.

Black said the version he wants isn't ban the mine but would delay it until it could be opened safely. He and his allies are trying to restore their version of the bill, which aims to require a mining company to provide an example of environmentally safe mine in North America before it could get permits to operate a mine in Wisconsin.

"I think we have a good chance of a case of good public support," said Black. D. Madison, who filed some of the calls from activists volunteering to help. "People are very upset — not only with the gutting of the mining moratorium bill — but with the way it was done."

The environmentalists' new mission: Strip out language Black claims would "take the moratorium out of the moratorium bill" and result in legislation that would be "just about the same as passing no bill."

The target is a Republican revised definition of pollution that environmentalists contend would expand the list of possible examples of "non-polluting" mines. Republicans, many of whom admitted they felt pressure to make some anti-mining statement this election year, say the new definition really makes the bill tougher.

The methods: a flurry of telephone calls, letters and other messages from a broad array of activists to state senators. The Senate approved one version of the bill last year on a 29-3 vote; the Assembly on Thursday returned the revised version to the Senate on a 75-21 vote.

Black still voted for the overall bill even though he called it a charade, something Republicans will use to argue for Senate approval of the revised bill when it comes up. Black said he wanted to give the Senate a chance to kill the Republican's pro-mining changes.

The two houses must agree on one version before it goes to Gov. Tommy Thompson, who refuses to say if he would sign it. A Senate floor debate could occur as early as Feb. 3.

The hurdles: Republican opposition, continuing Assembly rhetoric and a counter-lobbying effort from Cranston Mining Co. the company seeking state permits for the right to mine 55 million tons of zinc and copper near the headwaters of the Wolf River.

Please see MINE, Page 4B

Mine

Continued from Page 1B

Exxon was involved in the project until Friday, when it announced the sale of its 50 percent interest to partner Rio Algom Ltd., a Canadian mining firm. That move recalled Exxon's December 1996 announcement suspending its initial mining plan in Exxon, which announced its discovery of one of North America's

last great zinc deposits in 1976. Rio Algom had revived the mine idea with a new partner in September 1993. Now Rio Algom is the sole owner.

But Exxon's departure — while it cheered activists who thought it a sign that their effort is working — doesn't mean the mine proposal is sidetracked. In fact, Rio Algom strongly reaffirmed its commitment to the project.

Rio Algom said it believes the mining moratorium bill is unnecessary, given the state's strict regulations. But at the same time it said it anticipates permits to be issued in the next two years — proof, says Black, that mining interests like the Assembly version of the bill.

For the time being, this all means the controversy will be centered in the political arena.

Thompson, whose poll-tested position is that he supports the mine if it can be operated safely, is up for re-election this year. And his Democratic challenger, Ed Garvey, is vowing to do whatever he can to derail the project if he's elected in November.

Some suggest Thompson wants to sign some version of the bill to neutralize the issue. "He's going to sign it because it's the only thing in his armor," said state Sen. Joe Winkler. D. Verona, who helped shape the strong Senate bill last year. Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, R-Waukesha, suggested Thompson would sign a

"responsible" bill like the Assembly version. Thompson, meanwhile, is promoting his science advisory panel.

"I am the first person... who does not want a mine that in any way is going to harm or damage our environment — especially our great rivers," Thompson said in last week's State of the State speech. "That is why we must move beyond rhetoric to cold, hard facts."

(Five scientists) will review the proposed mine, inside and out, evaluate every worst-case scenario and use the very best science to determine whether this mine can be operated without harming our environment." Thompson declared. "If this independent body determines that the mine is not safe, it will not be built — period."

Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer, however, hasn't portrayed the body as holding veto power. And Black agrees.

While a governor's support is important, the real decision on a mine rests with regulators within Thompson's Department of Natural Resources, an administrative law judge and the courts. Garvey also admits his power to kill the mine would be limited. "You can't just say, 'We can certainly say we will do whatever we can (to stop it).'"

WJS

Exxon abandons Crandon Mining

■ A day after the state Assembly's passage of a so-called 'moratorium bill,' the energy industry giant sells its project share to Rio Algom.

By Jeff Meyers

State government reports Critics can no longer call it the Exxon mine project.

Exxon Corp. said Friday that it sold its share in the Crandon mine project. The announcement came a day after the state Assembly OK'd a so-called "mining moratorium" bill aimed at the controversial

zinc and copper mine proposal.

Exxon sold its 50 percent share of Crandon Mining Co. to Rio Algom Ltd., its Canadian partner, for \$17.5 million, said Rio Algom spokesman Corey Copeland.

Exxon and Rio Algom announced their Crandon Mining Co. partnership in September 1993. Rio Algom now is the sole owner. A Crandon Mining spokesman said the move doesn't mean a lesser commitment to the project.

"We believe it's a very good project," said Crandon Mining's Dale Albertz. "There's no lessening of the commitment."

"Rio Algom remains committed to the Crandon project," added Rio Algom President Phil James. "The project involves one

of the better zinc resources remaining in the United States, and given our experience with similar mining operations, Rio Algom is well qualified to develop and operate the mine."

Officials with the various companies denied the progress of the bill forced the decision. Rio Algom said it considers the legislation unnecessary given the state's strict laws. It also said it anticipates necessary permits will be issued in two years.

The Forest County mine, about five miles south of Crandon, would extract about 55 million tons of ore over 28 years and employ hundreds of people, Crandon Mining says.

Environmentalists and opponents argue about the strength of the Assembly version of the bill, passed 75-21 on Thursday, but

some type of legislation seems destined to become law.

And given the tone of the legislative debate so far, Exxon was in for nothing more than additional bad publicity. Mining critics often pointed to the Exxon oil spill in Alaska a few years ago.

The legislation now is before the state Senate. Environmentalists are fighting to reverse the bill to something they say would ensure the mine is operated safely.

Friday's announcement came roughly 11 years after Exxon abandoned its first proposal for the rich ore body near the headwaters of the Wolf River. The company then cited poor metal prices as the reason for

Please see CRANDON, Page 2B

Crandon

Continued from Page 1B

withdrawing its permit applications.

Exxon's decision is based on overall business considerations," said a statement from Exxon Coal and Minerals Co. in Houston. "Exxon continues to believe that the Crandon mine is an environmentally sound project which can be built and operated in conformance with Wisconsin's stringent environmental regulations."

Rio Algom's Copeland said the mine is safe for the environment but added the company will meet next week with anti-mining activists.

The "mining moratorium" bill OK'd by the Senate last year would

require a company wishing to open an ore mine to show a similar mine has operated elsewhere in North America without harming the environment.

Under changes by the Republican-led Assembly, the only way Wisconsin officials could reject the example is if it was cited by judges or government agencies for pollution.

Spencer Black, D-Madison, author of the mining moratorium bill, said the sale is good news but doesn't resolve concerns about sulfide mining.

"While the ownership of the mine is changing, the chemistry and the geology of the mine deposit obviously are not," Black said. "But nonetheless, considering Exxon's reputation concerning the environment, the sale has to be considered good news." The AP contributed to this story.

Assembly Republicans Destroy Mining Moratorium!

Green Light for Crandon Mine!

Bad News for the Wisconsin River!

February 3, 1998, Shopper Stopper, Northeastern Dane Zone (463-2291 or 800-444-0446 or FAX# 493-2074) Page

In an almost unanimous vote January 22, 1998, Assembly Republicans voted for the so-called Exxon amendment, which rendered the Mining Moratorium Bill useless. The only Republican representative with enough courage to stand up to the Governor, party leaders, mining and mining equipment company lobbyists was Representative Bill Large of Bear Creek. The bill now proceeds to the Senate where there is a chance the killer amendment could be removed and the bill could be restored to its original effective state.

Voting on behalf of Exxon and other Crandon Mine proponents were local Republican Representatives Sheryl Albers, 50th District (Loganville); Steve Freese, 51st District (Dodgeville); Eugene Hahn, 47th District (Cambria); DuWayne Johnson, 96th District (Eastman); Jean Spillner, 42nd District (Monroe); and Richard Skrandt, 79th District (Mt. Horeb).

Particularly disturbing and sad is the fact that vast stretches of the Wisconsin River, wind through Albers, Freese, Hahn, Johnson and Spillner's Districts, and these so-called representatives of the citizens are well aware of the consequences to the Wisconsin River. The Crandon Mine is approved. No citizens in any of these local districts will benefit in any way from the Crandon Mine. We will only receive one million gallons per day (or 10 billion gallons over the 30 year life of the mine) of wastewater from the mine which will contain cyanide, arsenic, mercury and many other chemicals and minerals deemed too toxic to discharge into the groundwater or Wolf River near Crandon. This mining wastewater will be carried to the Wisconsin River along Wisconsin Department of Transportation highway right-of-ways in an unprecedented 38-mile long pipeline. If the Crandon pipeline is allowed, it is certain that other mines, manufacturers or municipalities will be building sewerlines to the Wisconsin instead of treating wastewater to local water quality standards.

If you are one of the 3,800 persons who spent the time and the 32¢

to respond to the ballot printed in the Shopper Stopper, or you are one of the elected officials that voted for resolutions opposing the mine or pipeline, or you belong to one of the many sportsman, or environmental groups or Native American tribes who have opposed the mine, you have been betrayed, stabbed in the back, and in some cases lied to by these representatives. It is clear that Albers, Freese, Hahn, Johnson, Spillner, and Skrandt think the folks back home are just plain stupid and don't understand what is going on in Madison.

Rep. Spillner's news release after the vote contained two big lies!

1. "Spillner Votes To Protect Wisconsin River" FALSE: The killer amendment which she voted for allows old mines, which did in fact cause pollution, to be used as sources of non-polluting mines simply because no court actions took place or fines were levied on those mines at the time. The Exxon or Killer Amendment requires court action or fines in order for a mine to be considered polluting. Unfortunately, prior to the 1970s there were very few, if any, environmental laws so therefore no court actions or fines could have been levied.

According to a Wisconsin State Legislative Council Staff Memorandum dated January 23, 1998, "...the Bill would not prohibit a mine operator in the 1980's under a jurisdiction that imposed no environmental laws relating to mining, or that did not have any administrative agency that enforced environmental laws relating to mining, from being used to satisfy either of the two pre-conditions in the Bill."

Obviously, pro-mining politicians, with the help of pro-mining lobbyists, created this giant loophole in the amendment. Therefore, the Wisconsin River is still not protected.

Either Rep. Spillner knew about the fraudulent amendment and tried to fool the folks back home or just doesn't understand politics in Madison and the fact that lobbyists and mining advocates will tell any lie to get her vote.

2. Spillner also stated, "Any mine discharge is required by current law to be cleaner (i.e. be less polluted) than the river it flows into." FALSE: If that was really the law, the Crandon Mining Company (CMC) wouldn't be able to discharge its waste into the Wisconsin River since it plans to discharge selenium, a pollutant not now present in the Wisconsin. According to the DNR, CMC plans to discharge 110 micrograms per liter of selenium into the Wisconsin. According to the National Wildlife Refuge System, wastewater have reproductive problems when the selenium level is 8 micrograms per liter. When you have no selenium to start with and then you add selenium, does the water get cleaner?

We asked Spillner about this so-called law she was quoting from and her office assistant later admitted that there was no such law and that she had overgeneralized when she had written her press release.

Although Rep. Spillner voted for the mining companies and against her own constituents, at least she runs to be aware of the Wisconsin River and that it runs through her district. On the other hand, Representative Sheryl Albers seems to be oblivious to the Wisconsin River and the pipeline controversy. Rep. Albers soaked up almost 7% of a page of paper and ink in the January 22, 1998, issue of the *Recess Report* babbling about her opposition to moratoriums and how the DNR says the moratorium would be effective anyway and how mining and zinc are really important.

Zinc is essential to vitamins, over-the-counter and prescription drugs, designed to remedy the effects of everything from sunburn to diabetes," she said.

Not once did she mention the Wisconsin River, which runs through a substantial portion of her district and the fact that the mining company wants to dump 10 billion gallons of mining wastewater into it over a 30-year period. Apparently, she completely missed the fact that 42 counties, towns, villages and cities along the Wisconsin, including Sank

County (the county she resides in) have passed resolutions opposing the mine or the pipeline. She also discounted the phone calls from constituents, the petitions, and the 3,800 ballots opposing the mine and pipeline sent to the Shopper Stopper. Apparently Rep. Albers is willing to risk sacrificing the Wisconsin River, including the fish and the fowl, so that we will be assured of an ample supply of zinc vitamin supplements and diaper rash medication.

As a Republican, I am extremely hurt and embarrassed by the stinky behavior of the Republican Representatives from this area. These people were elected to represent the people of their respective districts here in southwestern Wisconsin and they have failed. It is a well-established fact that many people and elected officials from these districts are opposed to the Crandon Mine and its pipeline to the Wisconsin River, and that the opening of the mine will not benefit anyone from these districts. It will, in fact, cause harm to the Wisconsin River, which is the focal point of the multi-million-dollar tourist industry in this area. On November 3, 1998, these same politicians, Albers, Freese, Hahn, Johnson, Spillner, Skrandt, will be asking once again for your vote as they are all up for reelection. I hope next election day we can elect people of whatever party that will represent the folks back in the district instead of the special interests in Madison.

If you know of any good people in your district who would like to be a state representative, now is the time to encourage them to run. It pays \$40,000 per year and we desperately need new faces.

The Mining Moratorium Bill is now in the Senate and it can be fixed. Please call your Senator and tell him to "FIX THE MINING MORATORIUM BILL," so that sulfide mines will not be permitted until one really has operated for ten years and has been closed for ten years without polluting the water.

Bar Olson, Publisher

Tell your senator to

"FIX THE MINING MORATORIUM BILL"

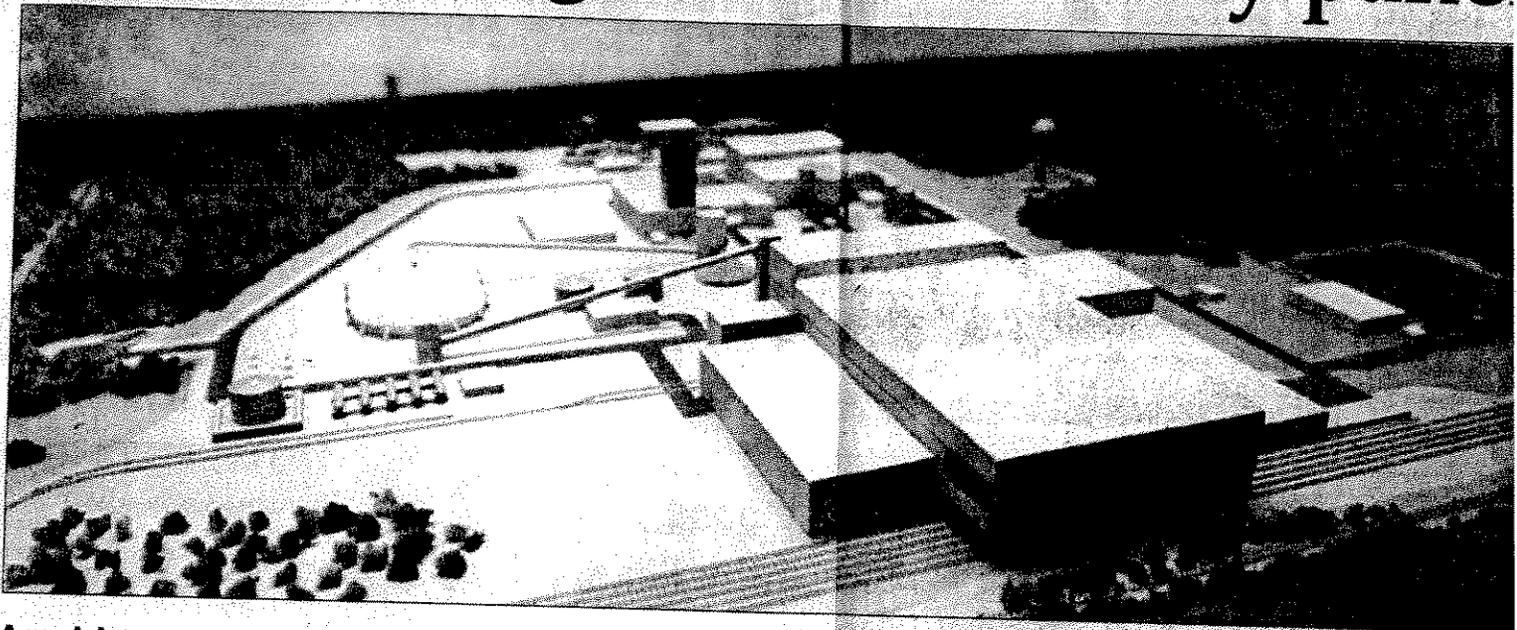
- Senator Bob Welch, 14th District, 608-266-0751
- Senator Chuck Chvala, 16th District, 608-266-9170
- Senator Dale Schultz, 17th District, 608-266-0703
- Senator Joe Winecke, 27th District, 608-266-6670
- Senator Brian Rude, 32nd District, 608-266-5490

(If you don't know who your senator is, call the Legislative Hotline. The operator will tell you when you call.)

1-800-362-9472

CRANDON MINE

Mining bill goes to Assembly pane



A model shows the above-ground structure for the mine as proposed by Crandon Mining Co., jointly owned by Exxon Coal and Minerals Corp. of Houston and Rio Algom Ltd. of Toronto. A mining moratorium bill aimed at the proposed mine is expected to pass in the state Assembly. GNS photo

Key critic expects moratorium to pass in some form in January

By Susan Campbell
Gannett News Service

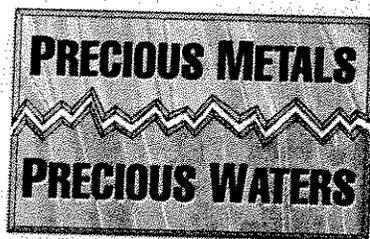
A key opponent of the controversial mining moratorium bill expects it will pass in some form when it reaches the Assembly.

The moratorium, its amendments and a handful of other mining bills are scheduled to be considered by the Assembly Environment Committee when it convenes Tuesday. From there, the bills likely will bounce to the Assembly for a January vote.

"There are a lot of Republicans saying they're going to vote for it, and very few Democrats who are going to vote against it," said Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, a moratorium opponent who heads the Environment Committee.

"Members have gotten literally hundreds of postcards saying how this is critical to our northwoods and tourism, when you can question the reality of that," he said. "Some legislators don't understand the strength of our mining laws and may buckle under the pressure."

On the other side of the aisle, Rep. Spencer Black, the Madison Democrat who authored the mora-



2nd of 3 parts

■ 4A: Reader call-in.

torium bill aimed at the proposed metallic sulfide mine near Crandon, also is optimistic.

The same public that registered almost 50 percent opposition and 31 percent support for the Crandon mine in a St. Norbert College Survey Center poll just after the Senate vote continues to apply pressure.

But Black's not taking anything for granted.

"The voters' voices are being heard, but I've been around the Legislature long enough to know that money talks," he said.

When the mining moratorium passed the Democratic-controlled Senate, 29-3, in March some critics attributed it to partisan politics,



Concentrated lead, copper and zinc samples are shown in jars. Crandon Mining Co. seeks permits to mine an estimated 55 million tons of the ore on about 550 acres.

About the series

The three-day series, "Precious Metals, Precious Waters," was written by Green Bay Press-Gazette reporter Susan Campbell. The series, which started Sunday in the Wausau Daily Herald, continues Tuesday with a look toward the future if mining moratorium legislation is approved.

predicting the bill would have a tougher time in the Republican-controlled Assembly. Some said it was easy for the Senate to pass the bill knowing it might be quashed later by the Assembly.

Many said the overwhelming

Senate vote puts more pressure on the Assembly to adopt the bill.

The weight of the Senate vote combined with the pressures applied by lobbyists, the public and the gravity of the mining issue

Please turn to MINE/4A

Mine

From Page 1A

itself is causing some Republican Assembly members to shrink from taking a firm public stand on the bill today.

The approaching November 1998 legislative elections don't make it any easier.

Although some lawmakers staked out positions early on, many are withholding judgment until the bill, its amendments and the related mining bills are reported out of committee and forwarded to the Assembly.

Rep. David Hutchinson, R-Luxemburg, echoed the sentiments of many. "I have not by any means decided which way I'm going to vote on this thing," he said. "What I would really like is to take the politics out of the whole darn issue and replace it with science and experts in the field like the DNR and Army Corps of Engineers."

But Hutchinson, who grew up along the banks of the Wolf River, also is hesitant to leave the decision about the mine entirely to the state Department of Natural Resources, now that the secretary of the agency is a governor appointee.

"Our move last term to have the governor appoint the DNR secretary makes it much more difficult to say, 'Have the DNR take care of it,' because right or wrong the credibility is questioned by people," he said. "Frankly, I think it might have been a mistake what we did there."

Against moratorium

Rep. Lorraine Seratti, R-Spread Eagle, whose 36th District includes Forest County and the proposed mine site near Crandon, is decidedly against the moratorium.

Seratti opposed the bill from the start, proposing instead legislation intended to make the state's mining

laws more restrictive.

A number of Assembly members are citing Seratti's newly introduced bill as a potentially sound alternative to the moratorium. But it has its critics, too.

The Seratti bill calls on the DNR to identify mining operations that damaged the environment in the United States and elsewhere. Mining applicants would be required to develop plans showing how similar harm would be avoided or mitigated in their projects.

Seratti said she came up with the proposal after visiting an abandoned gold mine in Summitville, Colo., which federal EPA regulators took over in 1992 because of extensive environmental damage from acid rock drainage. A critical problem identified after the mine failure was a lack of baseline data about natural conditions at the site.

Seratti's bill requires that comprehensive baseline data about weather, geologic and other conditions be gathered about any mine site proposed in the state.

"I believe this is really going to do something, and be there regardless of whether or not the mining moratorium is ever imposed or ever lifted," she said. "The Senate bill simply delays these particular mine sites from starting up."

But Black criticized the bill, saying it amounts to little more than a "promise on paper that they'll (mining companies) try not to cause all the damage everybody else has caused. "It's certainly no substitute for a

moratorium," he said. "Any politician who tries to hide behind that as an alternative to a moratorium will find it's very, very thin cover."

Mining implications

Rep. John Gard, R-Peshigo, praised the Seratti bill and said the moratorium likely wouldn't pass in its current form.

But he said he won't know how he'll vote until the moratorium and related mining bills are reported out of the Assembly committee.

The views from his constituents in the state's northeasternmost corner are "all over the board," he said.

"Everybody has to come to grips with banning an entire industry in this state. It's a possibility that has to be considered," Gard said. "That is not something to take lightly, because there are implications for every other industry in this state."

Meanwhile, in the months before the vote it's not only some Assembly members who are hesitant to state a position on the mining moratorium, in Crandon, almost everyone feels the pressure.

"I work in the public eye, so I keep my opinions to myself," said Sandy Marvin, 43, a waitress at the Log Cabin Cafe in Crandon.

She still gets flak from customers about appearing in a televised Crandon Mining ad broadcast around the state last winter to show the economic benefits of mining.

Marvin's role was minor. She flipped the sign in the restaurant window to "open" and smiled. "We got some conflict out of just

being in the commercial and it was like, 'Hey, they paid us 50 bucks,'" she said.

Across town at the Cracker Box restaurant, others' lips are clamped tighter still.

Forest County Sheriff Roger Wilson had only this to say about the mining moratorium and the Crandon mine: "I'm an elected official."

Callers say environmental concerns outweigh Crandon mine benefits

Wausa Daily Herald
Most of the callers to the Wausa Daily Herald Reader Line were opposed to plans for a Crandon mine, saying environmental negatives outweigh economic benefits.

Twenty-five readers called Sunday to voice their opinions on the proposed mine. Eighteen were against the mine, six favored it and one caller said it needs further study.

The following are a selection of their comments:

■ "Mining as a whole has a terrible reputation for not cleaning up after they're gone and the jobs that they bring is up and down, a cycle thing. When the cost of the materials is good, it is mind-boggling. If you go and look around the southern Wisconsin area like the Eagle-Prichard mine in Shullsburg, you're going to find that it's not a good deal. It's bad for the environment when these companies don't pick up and clean up after themselves and the taxpayers get stuck with it."

—Tracy Puntney, Schofield
■ "I don't think that mine should be allowed. Our lakes are already being destroyed by oil from boat motors and our public land and wildlife are being cut to pieces from gasoline engines. There's no sense in rushing in to ruin our environment."

—Bernard Speck, Wausa
■ "It's my understanding now that the tailings will not be put into the Wolf River but into the Wisconsin River through a 38-mile pipeline. The Wisconsin River is just starting to improve in the past years of being a better sort of water, the fish have returned to a good degree and I do not want the ground water to be poisoned... This being the No. 10 largest copper area found in recent years, there must be a great deal of gold and silver, because if we recall LadySmith,

they found thousands and thousands of ounces of gold and silver, which was significant to that area. I would like to see that issue addressed a bit more and if so that they turn that gold and silver back to the protection of the groundwater system in the state of Wisconsin. They talk about the issue of the 400 jobs. That's nothing to the disruption of the coalition of the environmentalists and Indian tribes and other people who live up there that are going to be disturbed by this mining process of taking copper out of 550 acres of land... I'd like to see these issues suggested more closely."

—William J. Ralstwin, Rothschild
■ "I am most emphatically opposed to the mine for any number of reasons, not the least of which is the dangerous precedent Crandon proposes by avoiding stringent water protection laws in their area and taking advantage of the DNR complexity and dumping it into the Wisconsin River. Most of us here feel this is a treasury on what is a lovely natural resource."

—Dean Lintzeyer, Tomahawk
■ Wisconsin want to legislate basic industry out of business? What an anti-business message to send out to the rest of the world. What's next? Paper making? Farming?"

—Dave Moorhead, Eland
■ "The mine is just not in the Crandon area, the mine is also going to be dumping their waste water in the Tomahawk area. This doesn't make any sense in the light of the current overloading of the river, the allocation process we're going through and the inability of the DNR to prevent our river from being overloaded."

—Jim Wise, Tomahawk
■ "I feel that mine should be operating because we need the material produced there. There are all kinds of laws in place which would prevent the mining company from con-

tinuing the area or damaging the environment. This would permit the mine to be shut down instantly if they were caught polluting anything. Life is kind of a compromise of what we take away, what we need and what we damage."

—Larry Diederich, Wausa
■ "I don't think it would be a good idea to allow the mine considering Exxon's poor track record in mining. They say there's going to be a shortage of copper. I think they could recycle a big store of it. I think it would be a lot more of an investment if they would go ahead and let them do that."

—William Haeckel, Edgar
■ "We will reap the benefits, our descendants will bear the risks of the proposed Crandon mine. It's just another disgraceful example of the arrogance of the present generation, I am opposed to the Crandon mine."

—Henry Bruce, Wisconsin Rapids
■ "I do not believe there should be any more mining in Wisconsin than what has already been done unless they can show there is a model mine that was successful!"

—Sharon Carmack, Winkler
■ "The groundwater situation is too complex for them to guarantee that the mine wouldn't eventually pollute the waters in the area."

—George Cleveland, Merrill
■ "I do not believe there's no way they know what's going to happen no matter what officials tell you. The EPA has been wrong and science has only researched. Fifty years from now, they'll change their mind about what they thought 50 years before. I hope we do not get a mine."

—Darlene Ranning, Tomahawk
■ "I feel the mine should not be allowed to operate in the Crandon area. The technology has not been proven. They should wait until a mine has operated for 10 years and closed for 10 years without environmental damage. Tourism is much

more important than the mining jobs that would come into the area. We're likely to lose a lot more dollars than letting the mine in. In addition they're talking about a lot of pollution coming into the Wisconsin River. They're basically not wanting to pay the extra cost to clean up the water so they're going to put a 38-mile sewer line to the Wisconsin River which is not right. The Wisconsin River is already over allocated, over polluted."

—Jeff Deann, Tomahawk
■ "I am against the mine."
—Joan Mees, Antwa
■ "I do not believe we should allow the Crandon mine to operate until it's proven that they can do this mining safely — that it's not going to involve polluting our lakes and water."

—Bob Kranda, Tomahawk
■ "We live on Lake Alice and we're five miles from where the 38-mile sewer line dumps in our lake. It will be the first lake to get the pollution from the mine. When Gov. (Tommy) Thompson was up north and he wanted the stadium he said it was our chance for the northerners to stick it to the southern part of the state. I wonder, is he thinking this is the chance for the southern part of the state to stick it to us with their rotten sewers? My main concern is this: When we were at a meeting and they passed around a piece of the plastic that they're going to use to line the tailings dump — and that tailings dump is going to be 50 football fields wide — that great big piece of plastic is not much thicker than my garbage bags are. I guess we've all used plastic to use to line our flower beds, etc. and we know that it only takes not only the second year and weeds are growing up through the plastic. So how can they say that plastic is going to last hundreds and hundreds of years? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how long that plastic is going to last. There are lies, and

lies and lies and it's so scary if they lie about something like that what else are they lying about."

—Frances Hildebrand, Tomahawk
■ "I do not believe the Crandon mine should ever exist. It will ruin our environment, including all birds and animals."

—Christa Nelson, Schofield
■ "We are definitely opposed to the Crandon mine. We have a cottage on one of the nearby lakes and this mine would certainly pollute our ground water not only to our lake but to all the surrounding lakes. Our wall would be dry in the first hour that the mine would operate because they are going to pull all this water down to mine. Another thing, Exxon and Rio Edgen have the worst track record in other states and countries and why do we want them to mess up our beautiful northern Wisconsin woods?"

—Mrs. Frank Pritschke, Schofield
■ "I do believe that they should be able to mine up there. It will certainly help the community with jobs and other things."

—Howard Lamb, Merrill
■ "I feel we should mine in Crandon because with today's technology we can mine environmentally safe. We need the mine."

—Emerrick Zornberg, Wittensberg
■ "I believe the mine should be allowed to be built and operated. People of Crandon and the surrounding area should decide for themselves what to do with this mine. The people need the jobs. Keep the people of Milwaukee and Madison out of it, the politicians too, it got too political. Vote no on the mining manarum."

—Jim Kristof, Wittensberg
■ "I definitely do not want the mine in the Crandon area. I read your article in the Wausa Daily Herald today and you left out one important factor, there are 18 other mine sites already leased and ready to go in the Oneida, Vilas and Price county areas so once Crandon mine becomes official and starts to process those other mine silver will be developed."

—Jane Schranzeyer, Hazelhurst
■ "No, I do not think it should be allowed."

—Eather Nord, Tripoli

Save the Wisconsin River!

Final Assembly Vote on Mining Moratorium Bill January 21 or 22!

Mining Moratorium Passes Committee, Final Vote in January

by Representative Spencer Black

Supporters of the Mining Moratorium Bill (Senate Bill 3) are one step away from scoring a big victory. The bill to protect the Wolf and Wisconsin Rivers from mining damage has already passed the State Senate by a 29 - 5 vote. The final step for the bill is a vote by the full State Assembly which is expected to take place January 21st or 22nd.

The vote in the Assembly is likely to be close and success will depend on strong citizen involvement - citizens calling their state representatives and telling them to vote for the moratorium. Passage of the Mining Moratorium Bill is up to you.

The Mining Moratorium Bill will prohibit the opening of a new mine in a suitable ore body until a similar mine has been operated elsewhere

for at least 10 years without significant environmental damage. It only makes sense to delay mining until it can be shown by example that EXXON's Wolf River mine will not pollute our rivers, lakes or drinking water.

When the bill comes to the Assembly floor, mining lobbyists will try to amend the bill to make it meaningless. The Exxon amendment would take all the teeth out of the Mining Moratorium Bill. That is why mining moratorium supporters are telling the Assembly, "Pass SB3 WITH NO AMENDMENTS."

Our current mining laws are not strong enough to protect our environment because they are vague and contain many loopholes. For example, mining is the only industry in the state that does not have to follow the strict standards of the state's Groundwater Law - the law that protects our drinking water. Mines follow separate, but weaker, rules. Our mining laws have been further weakened by changes two years ago that made the DNR a politically controlled agency and that eliminated

our environmental watchdog, the public intervenor.

Conservationists are concerned that the DNR may make mining decisions based on political influence. DNR can decide to waive key environmental laws at the request of the mining company. This is especially worrisome now that the DNR is a politically controlled agency. The change to a politically controlled DNR was made in 1995 under strong pressure from lobbyists representing the mining industry.

We have seen the new political DNR do things very differently than the former, independent DNR. For example, DNR recently reversed itself on key conservation issues such as wetlands protection and the raid on the recycling fund. Perhaps the most telling example of political influence is the use by the DNR Secretary of his title and agency name to sponsor a partisan political fundraiser. That would have been unthinkable under the previous, non-political DNR.

The Mining Moratorium Bill is needed to make sure that scientific

evidence, not political influence, determines whether EXXON gets a permit to build a sulfate mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River.

EXXON and other mining companies have unleashed a multi-million dollar lobbying and public relations campaign to defeat the moratorium. EXXON said at a recent legislative hearing it will spend "what ever it takes to defeat the moratorium." With your help, we can overcome EXXON's influence and pass the Mining Moratorium Bill.

WRITE OR CALL YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND ASK THEM TO VOTE FOR THE MINING MORATORIUM BILL WITH NO AMENDMENTS.
The Mining Moratorium Bill is a common sense approach to prevent mining operations from polluting our drinking water and rivers and lakes. After all, our greatest wealth in Wisconsin is not copper or zinc - it is our plentiful supply of clean water.

Representative Spencer Black is the Assembly author of the Mining Moratorium Bill.

What do Wisconsin citizens think about the proposed Crandon (Exxon) Mine?

A poll conducted in October 1997 by Chamberlain Research Consultants for Wisconsin Wildlife Federation showed that 52.5% oppose Exxon's proposed Wolf River mine. Only 28.3% supported the mine, and 19.2% were undecided.

42 counties, cities, villages, and towns along the Wisconsin River have passed resolutions or have gone on record in opposition to the Crandon Mine and/or pipeline.

45 other counties, villages, towns, unions and organizations have passed resolutions or have gone on record in opposition to the Crandon Mine and/or pipeline.

At least 76 Wisconsin municipalities and organizations support the Mining Moratorium.

40,000 Wisconsin citizens have signed a petition supporting the Mining Moratorium.

3,658 Shopper Stopper readers sent in ballots in opposition to the Crandon Mine and/or pipeline to the Wisconsin River. Only 59 readers supported the mine and pipeline.

Last Chance for the Wisconsin River?

Part of the Crandon Mine project is to construct a 38-mile pipeline from Crandon to the Wisconsin River near Rubenstein. One million gallons per day of mining waste water, which would amount to 10 billion gallons over the 30-year life-time of the mine, would be pumped into the Wisconsin if the Crandon

Mine is approved by the DNR. Ammonia, Nitrate, Chloride, Phosphorus, Boron, Cyanide, Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Calcium, Chromium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Potassium, Selenium, Silver,

Sodium, Sulfate, Thallium and Zinc are just some of the chemicals and metals included in the wastewater according to the Crandon Mining Company's permit application. Currently there is NO STATE LAW which could prevent the DNR from granting Exxon a permit.

Moratorium Bill is the only way to stop or at least postpone the mine and pipeline. For a year and a half I have been printing information about the mine and pipeline and now the end is here. It's up to you now. Please call your Representative TODAY!
Barr Olson, Publisher

Assembly Representatives in the Shopper Stopper Distribution Area

Toll-Free Phone Numbers

- Rep. Cheryl Albers, 50th District, 1-888-534-0050
- Rep. Stephen Peese, 51st District, 1-888-534-0051
- Rep. Eugene Hahn, 47th District, 1-888-534-0047
- Rep. Tom Hebl, 46th District, 1-888-534-0046
- Rep. DuWayne Johnson, 96th District, 1-888-534-0096
- Rep. Richard Standard, 79th District, 1-888-534-0079
- Rep. Joan Wade Spillner, 42nd District, 1-888-534-0042
- Rep. David Travis, 81st District, 1-888-534-0081

(If you don't know who your representative is, call the Legislative Hotline. The operator will tell you when you call.)

1-800-362-9472

Call your Assembly Representative today!

Ask them to vote for the Mining Moratorium Bill

(SB3) with NO AMENDMENTS!

It seems like binders go up when people start to talk about guns, preventing productive discussion and activity.
State Rep. DuWayne Johnson, R-Eastman

OPINION

OUR OPINION

Scrutinize mining, don't abandon it

Is it possible to have doubts about the safety of the proposed Crandon mine and also question the wisdom of the mining moratorium bill scheduled for a vote today in the Assembly?

Our answer is a resounding "yes." Members of the Assembly have every reason to question plans for a copper and zinc mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River in northeast Wisconsin, but they should not embrace a one-size-fits-all moratorium that will have ramifications for years to come.

Exxon and Rio Algom, an international mining company, want to pull tons of copper and zinc from a shaft mine that would be located on 550 acres about five miles from Crandon. It's a rich vein of ore that was discovered in 1976 but never tapped, at first because of market reasons but later because of environmental concerns.

Local sentiment in Crandon is split. Many residents covet the jobs the mine would create, but others worry that it will harm the environment and the region's tourism industry. Outside of Forest County, the mine has come under a well-coordinated attack from a coalition of Native Americans, conservationists, hunters, fishermen and environmentalists.

That alliance questions whether the mine will damage the Wolf River watershed, mainly by draining billions of gallons of water that would be treated and pumped downstream through the Wisconsin River. More than 40 downstream municipalities also oppose the mine or the waste water pipeline.

To be blunt, advocates for the mine have never done an effective job of explaining away those worries. Sportsmen and tree-huggers don't often see eye-to-eye, but they're united in their belief that 35 years of mining in Crandon will dangerously deplete water supplies in the region's trout streams, marshes and other tributaries.

The Assembly has every reason to question plans for a copper and zinc mine in northeast Wisconsin, but it should not embrace a one-size-fits-all moratorium.

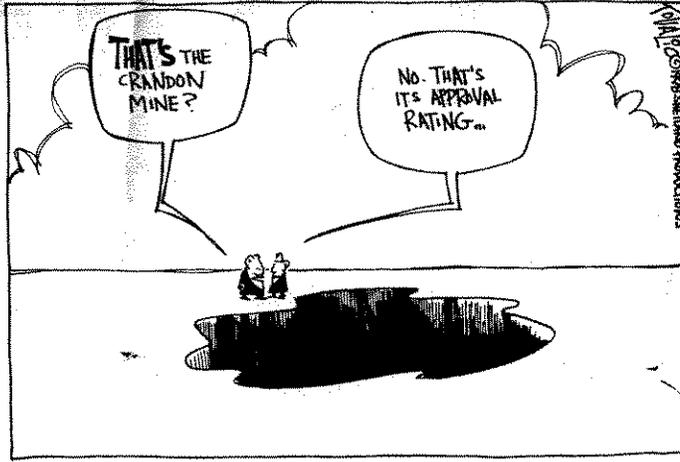
Gov. Tommy Thompson has (belatedly) appointed an independent Wisconsin Science Advisory Council on Metallic Mining to address those concerns and more. But that group won't issue its report until late 1998, and the Assembly is scheduled to decide the fate of the mining moratorium bill today.

Few Assembly members want to stand up for the Crandon mine because there are so many unanswered environmental questions. But a significant number should stand against a moratorium bill that would indefinitely ban mining throughout Wisconsin.

Most mines are safely constructed and responsibly operated. The Flambeau mine near Ladysmith, which shipped the last bit of its ore in August and is now being reclaimed, was bitterly opposed by environmentalists who predicted dire results. Their fears were unfounded; the Flambeau mine operated without a hitch. So why should the Legislature adopt a moratorium bill that treats all mines alike?

The mining moratorium bill before the Assembly today does not even mention the Crandon mine by name. It is a thinly veiled attempt to ban all mining in Wisconsin, a state where most citizens are logical enough to recognize the need for raw materials that come from the ground.

If the Assembly wants to pass a bill saying the Crandon mine should be delisted indefinitely, so be it. Just don't dump an entire industry down the shaft.



Great Pre-emptor comes up against reality

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has mastered the politics of pre-emption — jumping the gun on the Republicans and forcing them time after time to play catch-up in an effort to stay competitive. His skill is keeping the Democrats in the midterm election game.

The "first-strike" strategy of early TV advertising worked so well in 1995 and 1996 that Republican candidate Robert Dole says he realized belatedly he was out of the presidential race



DAVID S. BRODER

credibly aggressively and audaciously" by putting a series of initiatives in play well ahead of the Republican Congress' return to Washington. When GOP leaders decided last fall not to call members back until next Tuesday, they may have assumed that Clinton would hold off his proposals until that night's State of the Union Address. But he has been far too clever for them.

Almost daily since the turn of the year, Clinton has been filling the news void with one after another of his initiatives. Medicare expansion one day, day care for children of working moms the next. A bigger Peace Corps, more aid to college students, protection of HMO patient rights, drug treatment for prisoners, training programs for scarce computer technicians, stepped-up food

jections of Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and jumped on the bandwagon.

That issue will come up for Senate action this year, and just Tuesday, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer gathered reporters in his hearing room for a speech in which he tried to take ownership for the GOP of the whole issue of tax returns and tax cuts.

Celinda Lake has warned her fellow Democrats that on money matters generally, the GOP has an advantage. The Battleground Poll she did with Ed Geiss gives Republicans in Congress higher confidence scores than Clinton on reducing the deficit, improving the economy, keeping the country prosperous and especially on holding down taxes.

The model mine?

Earth-friendly Colorado project is touted as example for Wisconsin

By Don Berke
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Empire, Colo. — Lodgepole and bristlecone pines poke through a fresh blanket of spring snow atop Red Mountain, a peak on the peaks towering above the Henderson mine at Jones Pass.

Elk and bighorn sheep regularly greet mine workers and visitors driving up the mountain on ice-covered Clear Creek County Road 202, thousands feet beneath this alpine scene, explosives and diesel-powered ore-loading machines, known as muckers, are hollowing out a portion of the mountain, removing about 50,000 tons of molibdenum ore muckers pushers piles of ore scooping up to 12 tons of rock on each pass.

The main mine office building sits on the mountainside at an elevation of 10,400 feet. One row is built on a half-mile-long, 100-foot-wide ridge. The other row is built on a 100-foot-wide ridge. The distance between Milwaukee and Green Bay, have been blasted out of the mountain to gain access to the ore, according to senior mine engineer Tommy Thompson, a Wisconsin native, has worked here since graduating in 1976 from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in mining engineering.

Thompson had the ore nearly 15 miles tunnel through the mountains — to a processing mill on the other side of the Continental Divide, south of Parshall on the Williams Fork River in Grand County. There, the ore is ground and dumped into water tanks that are used to produce a mineral used in lubricants and pigments and in the production of iron, steel and metal alloys.

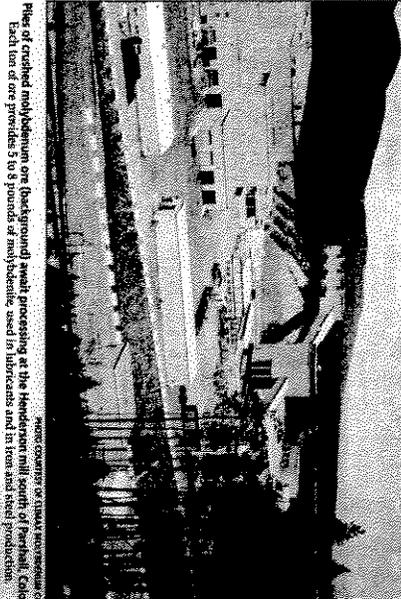
In February, industry officials at meeting in Milwaukee discussed the Henderson mine and mill, the world's largest producer of molibdenite — as a premier example of a modern project that protects the environment.

Rare forest coveys, a species in danger of extinction, live in the mine's water treatment ponds, they said. Brook trout were described as thriving in the west branch of Clear Creek, downstream of the mine's discharge pipe.

Those achievements are not reason the state Assembly and Gov. Tommy Thompson should not approve a metal-ore mining moratorium in Wisconsin, say representatives of the Wisconsin Mining Association, an industry trade group. The association sponsored the February meeting. The state Senate voted in favor of the measure last month.

Public Hearing Tuesday

On Tuesday, the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources will conduct a public hearing on mining technology issues beginning at 1 p.m. in Room 415 Northwest of the state Capitol in Madison. Rep. Marc Duff (R-New Berlin), the committee chairman, said the hearing is one of two public hearings on the moratorium bill in May, he said.



Piles of crushed molibdenum ore (background) await processing at the Henderson mill south of Parshall, Colo. Each ton of ore provides 5 to 6 pounds of molibdenite, used in lubricants and in iron and steel production.

The bill, first introduced by Rep. Spencer Lyle (D-Shelburne), would prohibit new mining for the proposed Canadian mine in Forest County.

Industry praise for the Henderson mine and mill appears warranted, with the exception of a recent leak of pollutants from a water treatment pond. The mine began removing ore from the mountains in 1976, a decade after the mineral deposit was discovered. The company had swapped 11,000 acres of land with the U.S. Forest Service in 1976, which had been a part of the Arapaho National Forest.

In interviews, numerous Colorado environmental officials described the mine's owner, Climax Molybdenum Co., a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper Corp., as "responsible" and "willing to go beyond permit requirements."

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources reported no violations of any permit conditions. The agency is responsible for monitoring the mine's waste rock disposal site, known as a tailings pile.

Discharges from mine wastewater storage lagoons have not violated state limits in the last five years, said Phil Haskins, a quality control division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He reviewed computer records at the request of the Journal Sentinel.

In Madison, Rep. Mark Duff (R-New Berlin), the committee chairman, said the hearing is one of two public hearings on the moratorium bill in May, he said.

Industry praise for the Henderson mine and mill appears warranted, with the exception of a minor leak of pollutants from a waste rock storage area.

Earlier this month, the company began testing a new wastewater treatment facility at the Henderson mine. The new plant also will treat water from a nearby stream, said Tommy Thompson, the mine manager for all of the company's Colorado operations. Currently, mine wastewater is poured into a large storage la-

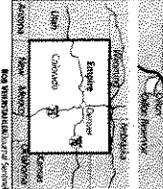
geons. Chemicals are added to remove solids before the water is pumped to a treatment facility. About 1,000 gallons of treated water each minute — more than 1.4 million gallons a day — is pumped into the west fork of Clear Creek.

State permittees limit the amount of pollutants that can be discharged into the creek. The mine's water treatment facility is designed to meet these limits, according to Thompson.

"They have significantly improved the quality of their water discharges," he Woods Creek, she said.

New Treatment Facility

Earlier this month, the company began testing a new wastewater treatment facility at the Henderson mine. The new plant also will treat water from a nearby stream, said Tommy Thompson, the mine manager for all of the company's Colorado operations. Currently, mine wastewater is poured into a large storage la-



In 1990, Allen and other EPA officials imposed more stringent discharge limits on the mine's nearby Lead mine tailings pile. The mine there is closed, and water seeping out of those tailings is collected and treated at a special facility.

China, Molybdenum was named the federal July 1993 deadline for the federal July new limits, according to Thompson.

"They have significantly improved the quality of their water discharges," he Woods Creek, she said.

Also, a crushed-ore storage pit at the Henderson mine was not at all a liner, and the company does not require the company to collect any molibdenite-laden water — salt or molibdenite — flowing off the pit. The water drains to the Williams Fork of Clear Creek.

Wisconsin companies would be required to install drains and pumps around rock storage sites to collect the leached water for treatment.

Colorado environmental officials say the mine's owner is "responsible" and "willing to go beyond permit requirements."

Take above contemplation of the mineral ore than half the amount, Reuters said.

Apart from the Henderson mine's positive record in Colorado, Wisconsin officials say a similar project would face additional restrictions here. Colorado officials' water tailings pile in built into a valley behind a dam, with no bottom lining to prevent seepage of chemical pollutants. Monitoring wells between the dam and a nearby stream will detect any leaks from this site, according to Reuters. A small amount of water has been found in the monitor closest to the dam, and the company is studying new ways to prevent additional leaks.

The proposed Canadian mine in Forest County, by contrast, would be required to construct a landfill with several layers of protective liners on the bottom.

Also, a crushed-ore storage pit at the Henderson mine was not at all a liner, and the company does not require the company to collect any molibdenite-laden water — salt or molibdenite — flowing off the pit. The water drains to the Williams Fork of Clear Creek.

Wisconsin companies would be required to install drains and pumps around rock storage sites to collect the leached water for treatment.

NOV 11 1985

Moratorium or not, struggle over Crandon mine will go on

By Susan Campbell
Gannett News Service

Win or lose, those on either side of the mining moratorium bill say the Assembly vote won't signal a clear endorsement or the final stop for the proposed Crandon mine.

Mine supporters and opponents already are mapping out alternative strategies that range from the courtroom to the voting booth.

The Assembly is expected in January to vote on the moratorium bill, the intent of which would ban

About the series

The three-day series, "Precious Metals, Precious Waters," was written by Green Bay Press-Gazette reporter Susan Campbell. The series on the proposed Crandon mine started Sunday and concludes today.

metallic sulfide mining in the state until it can be proved the technology

exists for it to be done without harming the environment.

Both sides are watching to see whether the legislation does a repeat performance in the Assembly after sweeping the Senate in a surprising 29-3 vote in March.

Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, takes a grim view of what might happen after the vote regardless of which way it goes.

"The issue of mining will probably be litigated no matter what happens," said Duff, chairman of the

Assembly Environment Committee, which is to consider today whether to forward the bill for Assembly consideration.

If a moratorium law looked too much like anti-Crandon mine legislation, Crandon Mining Co. President Rodney Harrill said the company might challenge it in court.

"We've got counsel that have told us that, 'Hey, there's some constitutionality issues here; There's some discrimination issues here,'" Harrill said.

"That's not the thing I personally dwell on, but obviously if the bill passes we would have to take a look at that."

Indeed, Harrill said any decision about whether to challenge the legislation would be up to Exxon Coal and Minerals Corp. of Houston and Rio Algom Ltd. of Toronto, joint owners of Crandon Mining. Legislators say such a challenge may be possible only if the actual permitting for the mine is denied.

The language of the legislation and

Mining moratorium: Huber backs bill, Ourada undecided

Gannett News Service

This is what Assembly members in northeastern Wisconsin have to say about the mining moratorium bill (SB-3) and how they would vote if the legislation were before them now:

Rep. Greg Huber, D-Wausau, District 85: Favors. "There is no need for us to rush into this. That ore has been there for eons and will be there for a long time, so we shouldn't be going after it unless we are absolutely sure it can be done safely."

Rep. Thomas Ourada, R-Antigo, District 35: Undecided. "We want to be responsive to all the concerns, but if only SB-3 is before us, it's not the right answer. Hopefully, there will be amendments that will improve the bill and make it meaningful and address these concerns."

Rep. David Hutchinson, R-Luxemburg, District 1: Undecided. "I don't like the idea of banning anything. I just voted against banning the desecration of the flag. Their heart is in the right place all the people that are against the mine to save the Wolf River. It has to be a top priority, but this isn't the way to do it."

Rep. Frank Lasse, R-Lodgepoleview, District 2: Undecided. "To say mining is great is not right. But to say we should never have any mining, which is ultimately what some of these

groups really want, I don't think that's right either. The question is, how do you find the balance? How do you allow it to occur on privately owned land and protect our environment?"

Rep. Al Ott, R-Brillion, District 3: Undecided. "I don't know what I'm going to do on the bill; that depends upon the amendments. I'm a co-sponsor of Rep. (Lorraine) Seratt's bill. I don't know if that's got all the answers we need either, but it looks like it's got good things in it."

Rep. Mark Green, R-Green Bay, District 4: Undecided. "It's just hard to know, but my guess is something will pass and it will pass on a bipartisan basis."

Rep. William VanderLoop, D-Kaukauna, District 5: Favors. "I place a premium on Wisconsin's stringent environmental standards, and feel that our precious natural resources must be preserved for all of us and for generations to come."

Rep. John Ainsworth, R-Shawano, District 6: Undecided. "I don't think forcing any industry to depend upon 20-year-old regulations is a wise move. The bill is flawed. My assumption is we will have a bill that will be amended to the point where virtually all of us can vote for it, along with several other environmentally

sound bills"

Rep. Joseph Handrick, R-Minocqua, District 34: Against. "I sent a districtwide survey out asking whether people support mining if it meets all the current environmental and regulatory safeguards and that has come back about 2-1 yes. So the area of the state where they're talking about locating the Crandon mine is behind the project — it's controversial, sure."

Rep. Lorraine Seratti, R-Spread Eagle, District 36: Against. "I have said from the very beginning I don't believe the state should be imposing moratoriums on industry. It's not a good public policy."

Rep. Carol Kolso, R-Green Bay, District 88: Undecided. "There are a lot of issues that hurt the bill, but I think mining is a very, very serious issue for the environment in this state. It will be very hotly debated in the Assembly."

Rep. John Gard, R-Peshigo, District 89: Undecided. "The laws need to be strengthened, and I think they will be strengthened. But it's important to separate fact from fiction and not simply vote based on emotion."

Rep. John Ryba, D-Green Bay, District 90: Favors. "I'm all for it and am waiting for the day when they bring it out."

Mine

From Page 1A

for standards the mining company could meet.

Ideally, however, he said the issue of whether Crandon Mining should be allowed to proceed with mining 55 million tons of copper and zinc ore in Forest County should be resolved through the state's permitting process — not the courts.

"The way to resolve it is straight up," Harrill said. "Let's look at the issues. Does it or does it not have a significant impact on the environment?"

Mine opponents plan a different strategy for a different scenario.

If the moratorium bill fails in the Assembly, they say the Crandon mine would become a major campaign issue in the November 1988 legislative and gubernatorial elections.

"There's millions of people who support this bill," said Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, who authored the moratorium bill. "If the legislators listen to Exxon's millions of dollars, those citizens then have their democratic rights to express themselves in the next election."

needed to prove the newer mining technology available today is better than past technology that sometimes had devastating effects on the environment.

Specifically, the Assembly bill calls for the identification of a metallic sulfide mine that has operated 10 years and been reclaimed 10 years without damaging the environment.

Critics say the bill and a proposed amendment would doom mining in the state. The amendment seeks to hold mining companies to an unacceptably high standard, they say, by requiring that no changes be made to a surface or groundwater resource that would make it "less suitable" for human consumption.

"No discharger in the state paper mills or sewage treatment plants could be held to that," Duff said. "If the bill were in effect, the Flambeau mine would never have been built."

Not so, said Black. The amendment is actually clearer than the pollution standard already established in state mining laws, he said.

"It's a scare tactic," Black said of contentions the moratorium bill would kill mining in the state.

"Ironically, it's essentially similar to language within the current law, which the mining companies always praise."

And if angry voters flock to the polls next fall and force out legislators perceived as pro-mine, Black said it could set the stage for introducing a new bill.

Apsanahkwat, chairman of the Menominee Indian Tribe, which last year spent more on pro-moratorium lobbying than any other anti-mine faction, agreed.

"This is a real critical issue about whether or not these people are serious about staying in the business of politics," he said. "Their purpose is to vote in accordance with what their constituency wants, and if they don't, we're going to raise an effort that's going to get them either recalled, removed, or opponents that are going to run against them."

Challenging the mine on the grounds it violates federal trust responsibilities for protecting Indian lands is another approach the tribe might take. Apsanahkwat said, adding the Menominee are "looking at a number of other avenues" as well.

Preferably, residents around the state will understand the bill's merits and make their opinions known to Assembly members before the vote, he said. Apsanahkwat and others say the state's mining regulations are strict, but not tough enough.

Moratorium backers say the bill is

Assembly members speak out on mining moratorium bill

This is what Assembly members in Northeastern Wisconsin have to say about the mining moratorium bill (SB-3) and how they would vote if the legislation were before them now:

Rep. David Hutchison, R-Luxemburg, District 1:

Undecided. "I don't like the idea of banning anything; I just voted against banning the desecration of the flag. Their heart is in the right place — all the people that are against the mine to save the Wolf River. It has to be a top priority, but this isn't the way to do it."



Rep. Frank Lessee, R-Lodgeview, District 2

Undecided. "To say mining is great is not right. But to say we should never have any mining, which is ultimately what some of these groups really want, I don't think that's right either. The question is, how do you find the balance? How do you allow it to occur on privately owned land and protect our environment?"



Rep. Al Ott, R-Brillion, District 3

Undecided. "I don't know what I'm going to do on the bill, that depends upon the amendments."

Press-Gazette

Following are highlights from several mining bills introduced by other lawmakers as an alternative, or complement, to mining moratorium bill SB-3:

■ AB-586: Introduced by Rep. Lorraine Serati, R-Plover. Calls on the state Department of Natural Resources to identify min-

"I'm a co-sponsor of Rep. (Lorraine) Serati's bill. I don't know if that's got all the answers we need either, but it looks like it's got good things in it."



Rep. William VanderLoop, D-Kaukauna, District 5

Favors. "I place a premium on Wisconsin's stringent environmental standards, and feel that our precious natural resources must be preserved for all of us and for generations to come."



Rep. John Alnsworth, R-Shawano, District 6

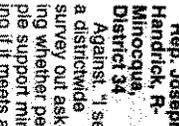
Undecided. "I don't think forcing any industry to depend upon



Rep. Mark Green, R-Green Bay, District 4

Undecided. "It's just hard to know, but my guess is something will pass and it will pass on a bipartisan basis."

20-year-old regulations is a wise move. The bill is flawed. My assumption is we will have a bill that will be amended to the point where virtually all of us can vote for it, along with several other environmentally sound bills."



Rep. Joseph Handrick, R-Minocqua, District 34

Against. "I sent a districtwide survey out asking whether people support mining if it meets all the current environmental and regulatory safeguards and that has come back about 2-1 'yes.' So the area of the state where they're talking about locating the Cranon mine is behind the project — it's controversial, sure."

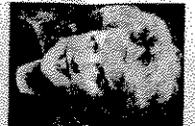


Rep. Thomas Ourada, R-Antigo, District 35

Undecided. "We want to be responsive to all the concerns, but if only SB-3 is before us, it's not the right answer. Hopefully, there will be amendments that will improve the bill and make it meaningful and address those concerns."

Rep. Lorraine Serati, R-Florence, District 36

Against. "I have said from the



Rep. Carol Keiso, R-Green Bay, District 88

Undecided. "There are a lot of issues that hurt the bill, but I think mining is a very, very serious issue for the environment in this state. It will be very hotly debated in the Assembly."



Rep. John Ryba, D-Green Bay, District 90

Favors. "I'm all for it and am waiting for the day when they bring it out."

very beginning. I don't believe the state should be imposing moratoriums on industry. It's not a good public policy."



Rep. John Gard, R-Peshigo, District 89

Undecided. "The laws need to be strengthened, and I think they will be strengthened. But it's important to separate fact from fiction and not simply vote based on emotion."

Highlights from other mining bills

ing operations that damaged the environment in the United States and elsewhere. Mining applicants would be required to develop plans showing how similar harm would be avoided or mitigated in their projects.

Requires individuals who install the liner for a tailings disposal area be trained and certified by the manufacturer of the materials used for the liner.

■ AB-236: Introduced by Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, at the request of Gov. Tommy Thompson. Calls on mining companies to prove they are using the most up-to-date, proven technology.

Codifies current DNR practice of denying a permit for a mine if it cannot be proved that the technology won't harm ground or surface water.

■ AB-498: Introduced by Rep.

Thomas Ourada, R-Antigo. Closes loophole in state mining permit review process. Forces mining companies to pay the DNR's costs for reviewing a company's permit application in the event the company pulls out during the process.

Requires mining companies to pay the DNR for application services every year, rather than at the end of the process.

2B
3B
4B

LOCAL

1B
• Thursday, February 5, 1988

Mining moratorium bill approved

Assembly sends amended bill to Thompson

By Ron Seely
Environment reporter
Something happened Wednesday that few thought possible a year ago.

A mining moratorium bill cleared its final legislative hurdle when the state Assembly approved the amended bill, 90-6, and sent it to Gov. Tommy Thompson for his review. Thompson has not said he will approve the bill, however.

The measure would require a mining company seeking Wisconsin permits to cite a similar mine that has been operated for 10 years and closed for 10 years without causing "significant environmental pollution."

The Senate voted 27-5 Tuesday in favor of a final amendment to the bill that patched what supporters said was a loophole in the proposal.

Last year at this time, when the state Senate was considering the original bill, few legislative onlookers gave it much of a chance to pass both houses and reach Thompson's desk.

The bill's supporters credit a strong grassroots campaign for the bill and against the zinc and cop-

per mine proposed by the Canadian company. Rio Algom, for northwestern Wisconsin near Cran-

don.
State Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, who sponsored the legislation in the Assembly, called this week's action on the bill by both houses a victory "for the environment and for grassroots democracy." He said pressure for the bill came from a broad coalition made up of hunters, anglers, environmentalists, Native Americans,

local governments and senior citizens.

"This is the largest grassroots campaign for a legislative bill that I have seen in my time in the Legislature," Black said.

Republicans, however, warned that the bill will do little to settle the dispute over hard rock mining in Wisconsin and may even backfire and make people more angry as pressure mounts to mine the state's minerals.

"This bill will not stop Nicolet

Mining from pursuing permits," state Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, said after Wednesday's vote.

"But there is false hope out there that it will. We have an obligation in this body not to fan the flames of emotion... We ain't seen nothing yet. I warn you."

State Rep. Tom Ourada, R-Anfego, agreed.
"Certain people continue to leave the impression that this bill accomplishes more than it does," Ourada said. "This bill doesn't

Please see MINING, Page 4B

Michigan's concerns 4B

Mining

Continued from Page 1B

stop anything."
Ourada also said the Assembly, contrary to criticism from some Democrats and other bill proponents, actually strengthened the moratorium bill by fixing flaws in it that were left by the Senate after its initial action last March. The Assembly, he said, narrowed the number of mines that can be cited by a mining company as environmentally safe. It eliminated, for example, old and abandoned mines.

Rio Algom, the Canadian company that hopes to build a zinc and copper mine near Cranston, spent \$1 million last year lobbying on measures including the pro-

posed legislation. Wednesday, officials with the company said the law would add little to Wisconsin's mining regulations.

Dale Alberts, a spokesman for Nicolet Minerals, the Rio Algom subsidiary that hopes to build the mine, said the bill would not change the company's plans to mine near Cranston.

Black said the bill could reach Thompson's desk in a few days. He said he is unsure what Thompson might do.

"I would say that the governor in the past has spoken out against this bill," Black said. "I am not taking the governor's signature for granted... It's a clear decision between lobbyists and powerful interest groups and the strongest grassroots campaign I've ever seen for a piece of legislation."

WISCONSIN
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Madison, WI 53705

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GREEN BAY

Green Bay Press-Gazette

JUL 11 1997

32
Exxon mine is 'bad news'

WEBSTER—I am writing to expose some inaccuracies in Rep. Marc Duff's response to my earlier letter. I find it rather curious that a legislator would find it necessary to take on a pharmacist. I can only conclude that I must have hit a raw nerve with him, exposing an attitude he would rather hide from the public. He agreed that he made the remark, "Fine by me," when presented with the scenario of locating Exxon's toxic mine tailings dump in Madison. He went on to say, however, that his remark was "merely a good-natured attempt at humor." I find nothing humorous in a remark like that, and neither do the thousands of people who stand to lose their supply of clean water. It's not that I lack a sense of humor. It's just that Duff isn't funny.

His "Fine by me" remark was made during some very heated testimony. It was not said in a light-hearted manner, as he would have you think. I believe that one's true colors come out during the heat of discussion, and Duff is embarrassed to have exposed his own callousness towards the environmental impact of mining in Wisconsin. While he may not want to admit it, he knows the proposed Exxon mine is bad news. Why else would he say that he "found humor in the thought" of putting the associated dump in the backyard of his opponent, Rep. Spencer Black?

He says he believes "we should do all that is possible to ensure that our mining laws remain the toughest in the country, and that our environment remains protected." But this statement is inconsistent with his voting record. In fact, he was given a grade of "D" by the Wisconsin Environmental Decade for his 1995-96 voting record. For example, he voted against considering legislation on the floor that would eliminate the exemption for mines from groundwater enforcement standards (AB 386). And in the last legislative session, he refused to allow any discussion or vote on the mining moratorium bill in committee.

If you do not want a dump like the one proposed for Crandon to be put next to your home, please contact your state representative to voice your support for AB 70, the mining moratorium bill. And contact the speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible instead of letting it die in committee. Both can be reached at (800) 362-9472.

Laura Furman, Webster

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GREEN BAY

The News-Chronicle

JUN 04 1997

published—Sandra Groat, owner,
The **Rogze** Salon Tanning Center.

A lack of sensitivity

I am writing because I believe the people of Brown County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman **Marc Duff** at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12, 1997 and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our north woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well, good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the [waste] water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Brown County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "no," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

— Laura Furman, 27426 County Road H, Webster, WI 54893.

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P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705
Clipping Service Division

EAU CLAIRE
The Country Today

JUN - 4 1997

Lack of sensitivity

To the Editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of Eau Claire County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee chairman, Mark Duff, at a recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the mining moratorium bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12 and lasted over 7 hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and groundwater with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our Northwoods.

It is common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the wastewater from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony, he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Mr. Ward went on to say, "Well, good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Gov. Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

Fine by me. Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry.

It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Rep. Duff's statement, even Eau Claire County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is "no," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

LAURA FURTMAN
Webster

P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705
Clipping Service Division

WEST BEND
West Bend Daily News

JUL 1 1997

Lacks sensitivity

I am writing because I grew up in West Bend and believe the people of Washington County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

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"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Washington County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is "No," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Branchel, to request that the Bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-862-9472.

Laura Furman
Webster, Wisconsin

P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705
Clipping Service Division

AMERY
Amery Free Press

JUN 17 1997

Rep. Duff

I am writing because I believe the people of Polk county need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12 and lasted over 7 hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

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"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire.

Based on Duff's statement, even Polk county is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is "No," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Branchel, to request that the Bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furman
Webster

Another response to mining issue

Dear Editor,

I am writing to disagree with statements in Rep. Marc Duff's response to my earlier letter to the editor. I find it rather curious that a state legislator

would find it necessary to take on a pharmacist from Webster. I can only conclude that I must have hit a raw

See More letters, next page

Hudson Star Observer 6-26-97

Continued from opinion page

nerve with him, exposing an attitude he would rather hide from the public. He agreed that he made the remark "Fine by me" when presented with the scenario of locating Exxon's toxic mine tailings dump in Madison. He went on to say, however, that his remark was "merely a good-natured attempt at humor." I find nothing humorous in a remark like that and neither do the thousands of people who stand to lose their supply of clean water. It's not that I lack a sense of humor. It's just that Rep. Duff isn't funny!

His "Fine by me" remark was made during some very heated testimony. It was not said in a lighthearted manner as he would have you think. I believe that one's true colors come out during the heat of discussion, and Rep. Duff is embarrassed to have exposed his own callousness toward the environmental impact of mining in Wisconsin. While he may not want to admit it, he knows the proposed Exxon mine is bad news. Why else would he say that he "found humor in the thought" of putting the associated dump in the back yard of his opponent, Rep. Spencer Black?

He says he believes "we should do all that is possible to ensure that our mining laws remain the toughest in the country, and that our environment remains protected." But

this statement is inconsistent with his voting record. In fact, he was given a final grade of "D" by the Wisconsin Environmental Decade for his 1995-96 voting record. For example, he voted against considering legislation on the floor that would eliminate the exemption for mines from groundwater enforcement standards (AB 336). And in the last legislative session, he refused to allow any discussion or vote on the Mining Moratorium Bill in committee.

This brings me back to my

original conclusion. If you do not want a dump like the one proposed for Crandon to be put next to your home, please contact your state representative to voice your support for AB 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible instead of letting it die in committee. Both legislators can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtman
Webster

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BALSAM LAKE
The County Ledger Press

JUN - 5 1997

Wisconsin doesn't need mining

Editor:

32

I am writing because I believe the people of Polk County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith, WI on May 12, 1997 and lasted over 7 hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon, WI is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North Woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump into the Wisconsin River instead.

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"Fine by me" Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of

the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Polk County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "No," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

Laura Furtman
Webster, WI

Muscoda Progressive

JUN 19 1997

LETTER
TO THE EDITOR
"Shocked" At
Legislative
Comment

I am writing because I believe the people of Grant and Iowa Counties need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environmental Committee Chairman, Marc

Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill.

The meeting was held in Ladysmith May 12 and lasted more than seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting to the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because

Thursday, June 19, 1997 - Page 13

I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North Woods.

It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area of more than 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

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"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the chairman of the Assembly Environmental Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to LaCrosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Grant and Iowa Counties are not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is "no", please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtan
Webster, WI

Do you want toxic waste dump near your home?

Dear Editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of Burnett County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith, WI on May 12, 1997 and lasted over 7 hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper

mine near Crandon, WI is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our Northwoods.

It's common knowledge the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and would be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward a member of the

Wisconsin River Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in

Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's get to work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the [waste] water from Madison to Middletown when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environment

Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry.

It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire.

Based on Duff's statement, even Burnett County is not sacred.

Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "No," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the Bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

Laura Furtman
Webster, WI

WISCONSIN
Newspaper Association

P.O. Box 5580

Madison, WI 53705

Clipping Service Division

WAUPACA

Waupaca County Post

JUN - 5 1997

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fine by me' comment has her worried

To The Editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of Waupaca County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith, on May 12, and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and groundwater with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our Northwoods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the wastewater from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and

leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Waupaca County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "No," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor soon.

LAURA FURTMAN
Webster

legislators

She takes issue with Duff's response to her mining letter

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to expose some inaccuracies in Rep. Marc Duff's response to my earlier letter to the editor.

I find it rather curious that a state legislator would find it necessary to "take on" a pharmacist from Webster.

I can only conclude that I must have hit a raw nerve with him, exposing an attitude he would rather hide from the public.

He agreed that he made the remark, "Fine by me," when presented with the scenario of locating Exxon's toxic mine tailings dump in Madison. He went on to say, however, that his remark was "merely a good-natured attempt at humor."

I find nothing humorous in a remark like that, and neither do the 1,000s of people who stand to lose their supply of clean water. It's not

that I lack a sense of humor. It's just that Rep. Duff isn't funny.

His "fine by me" remark was made during some very heated testimony. It was not said in a light-hearted manner, as he would have you think.

I believe that one's true colors come out during the heat of discussion, and Rep. Duff is embarrassed to have exposed his own callousness towards the environmental impact of mining in Wisconsin.

While he may not want to admit it, he knows the proposed Exxon mine is "bad news." Else why would he say that he "found humor in the thought" of putting the associated dump in the backyard of his opponent, Rep. Spencer Black?

He says he believes "we should do all that is possible to ensure that our mining laws remain the toughest in the country, and that our environment remains protected." But this statement is inconsistent with his voting record. In fact, he was given a final grade of "D" by the Wisconsin Envi-

ronmental Decade for his 1995-96 voting record.

For example, he voted against considering legislation on the floor that would eliminate the exemption for mines from groundwater enforcement standards (AB 336). And in the last legislative session, he refused to allow any discussion or vote on the Mining Moratorium Bill in Committee.

This brings me back to my original conclusion. If you do not want a dump like the one proposed for Crandon to be put next to your home, please contact your state representative to voice your support for AB 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the Bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible instead of letting it die in committee. Both legislators can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtman
Webster

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Madison, WI 53705

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ELLSWORTH

Pierce County Herald

JUN 25 1997

She takes issue with Duff's response to her mining letter

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to expose some inaccuracies in Rep. Marc Duff's response to my earlier letter to the editor.

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I can only conclude that I must have hit a raw nerve with him, exposing an attitude he would rather hide from

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that I lack a sense of humor. It's just that Rep. Duff isn't funny.

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ELLSWORTH
Pierce County Herald

JUN 11 1997

my age, Donald Trump was finding

Ellsworth

38

Duff's mining remark meant to be humor

TO THE EDITOR:

After reading a recent letter from Ms. Linda Furtman which appeared in the Herald on June 4, it is apparent to me that some of the people involved in the emotional mining debate lack a sense of humor.

In her letter, Ms. Furtman wrote that she was shocked by my response to testimony at a recent Assembly Environment Committee hearing on the so-called "Mining Moratorium Bill." My remark that it would be "fine by me" to locate the mine tailings dump for the proposed Crandon Mine in Madison was merely a good-natured attempt at humor. Since the chief opponent of the proposed Crandon Mine, Spencer Black, represents the Madison area, many of us found humor in the thought of a mine

tailings dump located near Rep. Black's district.

While some may have misunderstood that attempt at humor, I do take the issue of mining in Wisconsin very seriously. I continue to believe that we should do all that is possible to ensure that our mining laws remain the toughest in the country, and that our environment remains protected. I am working on several initiatives to further improve our mining laws, which I expect will be considered by the full Assembly later this year.

Marc C. Duff
State Representative
98th Assembly District
Chair, Assembly Committee
on Environment
Madison

Letters

Mining Moratorium Bill is crucial safeguard

6/4/92
Dunn County News
to the editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of Dunn County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman Marc Duff at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill.

The meeting was held in Adamsmith on May 12 and lasted more than seven hours. It was attended by more than 30 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade.

I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and groundwater with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our Northwoods.

It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a tailings dump that

would cover an area more than 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building.

Since the wastewater from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump more than 1 million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony, he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison."

I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me."

Ward went on to say, "Well, good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Gov. Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any

MRT
sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee?

It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry.

It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Dunn County is not sacred.

Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "No," please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative.

And contact Speaker of the Assembly Rep. Ben Brancel to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

715-235-0936

Laura Furtman
Webster

WISCONSIN
Newspaper Association

P.O. Box 5580

Madison, WI 53705

Clipping Service Division

PRESCOTT

Prescott Journal

JUN 19 1997

32
Fine by who?

Dear Editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of Pierce County need to know about a statement made by Assembly Environment Committee Chairman Marc Duff at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith, Wis., on May 12, 1997, and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon, Wis., is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North Woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated

testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified as close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Pierce County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If you answer is, "No," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the Bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.

JUN 19 1997

32 The Blade Atlas - Thursday, June 19, 1997 - Page 2

YOUR OPINION

To The Editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of Lafayette and Iowa counties need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Restoration Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12, 1997 and lasted over 7 hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our north woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak

at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Lafayette and Iowa counties not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is "no," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the speaker of the assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtman, Webster

JUN 14 1997

Citizen Correspondence

32 To the Editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of Dodge County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith, Wis. on May 12, 1997 and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon, Wis. is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander, Wis. and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead. Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one

point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the [waste] water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Dodge County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "No," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the Bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.

WISCONSIN
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P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705
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TOMAH
The Tomah Journal

JUN 19 1997

32

Mining foes lack sense of humor

After reading a recent letter from Ms. Linda Furtman which appeared on this page, it is apparent to me that some of the people involved in the emotional mining debate lack a sense of humor.

In her letter, Ms. Furtman wrote that she was shocked by my response to testimony at a recent Assembly Environment Committee hearing on the so-called "Mining Moratorium Bill." My remark that it would be "fine by me" to locate the mine tailings dump for the proposed Crandon Mine in Madison was merely a good-natured attempt at humor. Since the chief opponent of the proposed Crandon Mine, Spencer Black, represents the Madison area, many of us found humor

in the thought of a mine tailings dump located near Rep. Black's district.

While some have misunderstood that attempt at humor, I do take the issue of mining in Wisconsin very seriously. I continue to believe that we should do all that is possible to ensure that our mining laws remain the toughest in the country and that our environment remains protected. I am working on several initiatives to further improve our mining laws, which I expect will be considered by the full Assembly later this year.

Marc C. Duff
State Rep. 98th Assembly Dist.
Chair, Assembly Comm. on Environment

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P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705
Clipping Service Division

SPARTA
The Sparta Herald

JUN 30 1997

32

MINE DUMP QUIP ATTEMPT AT HUMOR

Dear Editor:

After reading a recent letter from Ms. Linda Furtman which appeared on this page, it is apparent to me that some of the people involved in the emotional mining debate lack a sense of humor.

In her letter, Ms. Furtman wrote that she was shocked by my response to testimony at a recent Assembly Environment Committee hearing on the so-called "Mining Moratorium Bill". My remark that it would be "fine by me" to locate the mine tailings dump for the proposed Crandon mine in Madison was merely a good-natured attempt at humor. Since the chief opponent of the proposed Crandon mine, Spencer Black, represents the Madison area, many of us found humor in the thought of a mine tailings dump located near Rep. Black's district.

While some may have misunderstood that attempt at humor, I do take the issue of mining in Wisconsin very seriously. I continue to believe that we should do all that is possible to ensure that our mining laws remain the toughest in the country, and that our environment remains protected. I am working on several initiatives to further improve our mining laws which I expect will be considered by the full Assembly later this year.

Sincerely,

Marc C. Duff, State Representative

Wisconsin
Newspaper Association

P.O. Box 5580

Madison, WI 53705

Clipping Service Division

MILTON

Milton Courier

JUN - 5 1997

32
MINING CONCERNS ALL

Dear Editor,

I am writing because I believe the people of Milton need to know about a statement made by Assembly Environmental Committee Chairman Marc Duff at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12 and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing about its impact on the scenic beauty of our north woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin

Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "well good. Let's work on that. Let's out the dump right down there with Governor Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota or Lake Monona and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Chairman of the Assembly Environmental Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of Northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to LaCrosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even Milton is not sacred. Would you want such a dump put next to your home? If your answer is "no" please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

Laura Furtman
Webster

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Madison, Wis. 53705
Clipping Service Division

CUBA CITY
Tri-County Press

JUN 19 1997

Resident angered by Rep. Duff's 'Fine by me' attitude

To the Editor:

I am writing because I believe the people of the tri-county area need to know about a statement made by Assembly Environment Committee Chairman Marc Duff at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith on May 12, and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

Before getting into the specifics of Rep. Duff's statement, some background information is in order. I am just a regular citizen, a pharmacist by trade. I attended the meeting because I am concerned that Exxon's proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our north woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest

toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhinelander and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearing. At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well, good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Gov. Thompson. Let's look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump (the waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done with it."

"Fine by me." Is that any sort of statement to be coming from the lips of the Assembly Environment Committee? It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire. Based on Duff's statement, even the tri-county area you live in is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is "no," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

**Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.**

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P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705
Clipping Service Division

WAUKESHA
The Freeman

JUL 16 1997

32
**Pending bill vital to
groundwater protection**

To the editor:

The reported shortage of groundwater in the deep aquifer in much of Waukesha County is indicative that residents in this area are facing a water crisis that could lead to the diversion of water east of the subcontinental divide — at taxpayers' expense. The sandstone and dolomite aquifer, whose materials were deposited between 425 and 600 million years ago, is the principal bedrock aquifer for southern and western Wisconsin and is also tapped by eastern Wisconsin. Drawdowns of seven to 10 feet per year within the aquifer should ring the alarm and bring new light to Wisconsin's water issues following the Milwaukee cryptosporidium legacy, recent flooding, and Exxon's proposed Crandon mine.

Groundwater 101 teaches water is essential to life. Yet several Waukesha County Republican Assembly representatives have not yet pledged their support for the Mining Moratorium Bill (SB3/AB70) which passed the Senate on March 11, 1997 on a very strong bipartisan vote of 29 to 3. The bill is being stalled in committee by Marc Duff, R-New Berlin. Other Waukesha County Representatives not yet pledging their support for the bill are Scott Gunderson, 83rd district; Suzanne Leskewitz 24th district; Frank Urban, 19th district; and Daniel Vrakas, 33rd district.

X

The Mining Moratorium Bill is a common sense bill designed to protect Wisconsin from notorious polluters and preserve our state's northwoods beauty and water resources for future generations. I urge all Waukesha County citizens to call the legislative hotline at 800-302-9472 and leave a message for your representative to support this bill when it comes to a vote in the Assembly.

To learn more about the threat of metallic sulfide mining on Wisconsin's water resources and Exxon's proposed Crandon mine, please attend a free public meeting at 6 p.m. today at the Waukesha Public Library. The meeting is hosted by the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, Inc. in coordination with the Waukesha Environmental Action League. For more information please call MIC at 964-5758.

**Linda Sturnot, Co-Chair, Milwaukee
chapter
Mining Impact Coalition of
Wisconsin Inc.**