



## 2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 499

September 14, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives HUTTON, KULP, JARCHOW, RODRIGUEZ, HORLACHER, QUINN, MACCO, SANFELIPPO, EDMING, KREMER, GANNON, TAUCHEN, DUCHOW, KLEEFISCH, SKOWRONSKI, WICHGERS, KNODL, BERNIER, KOOYENGA, R. BROOKS, ZIMMERMAN and BRANDTJEN, cosponsored by Senators TIFFANY, FITZGERALD, DARLING, LEMAHIEU, MOULTON, FEYEN, STROEBEL, KAPENGA, WANGGAARD, CRAIG, LASEE, NASS and VUKMIR. Referred to Committee on Labor.

1     **AN ACT to repeal** 227.42 (4), 293.43 (2), 293.43 (3), 293.43 (4), 293.43 (5) and  
2           293.50; **to amend** 20.370 (2) (gh), 70.375 (4) (h), 281.35 (5) (e), 283.84 (3m),  
3           293.01 (9), 293.01 (18), 293.13 (2) (b) (intro.), 293.13 (2) (b) 4., 293.13 (2) (b) 7.,  
4           293.13 (2) (c) (intro.), 293.13 (2) (c) 7., 293.15 (8), 293.31 (title), 293.31 (1),  
5           293.31 (2), 293.31 (3), 293.31 (4), 293.43 (1), 293.43 (1m) (b), 293.49 (1) (a)  
6           (intro.), 293.51 (title), 293.51 (3), 293.55 (1) (c), 293.55 (1) (d), 293.65 (3) (b) and  
7           293.81; **to repeal and recreate** 293.95; and **to create** 293.01 (2m), 293.15  
8           (7m), 293.26, 293.31 (4m), 293.32 (4), 293.37 (5), 293.40, 293.43 (2m), 293.43  
9           (3m), 293.43 (4m), 293.495, 293.51 (2m), 293.51 (5) and 293.66 of the statutes;  
10          **relating to:** the regulation of nonferrous metallic mining, prospecting,  
11          exploration, and bulk sampling, repealing administrative rules relating to  
12          wetlands, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill makes changes in the laws relating to the regulation and permitting of nonferrous metallic mineral prospecting and mining. Nonferrous metallic

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minerals are metallic minerals other than iron, such as copper or zinc. Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources regulates exploration, prospecting, and mining for nonferrous metallic minerals.

**SULPHIDE ORE MORATORIUM**

This bill repeals the existing prohibition on issuing sulfide ore mining permits. Current law prohibits DNR from issuing any permits for the purpose of mining a sulfide ore body until DNR determines that 1) there is a mining operation in a potentially acid-generating sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada that has been in operation for at least ten years without resulting in the pollution of groundwater or surface water from acid drainage or from the release of heavy metals; and 2) there is a mining operation that operated in a potentially acid-generating sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada that has been closed for at least ten years without resulting in the pollution of groundwater or surface water from acid drainage or from the release of heavy metals.

**POINT OF APPLICATION FOR GROUNDWATER STANDARDS**

This bill also makes changes to the locations at which groundwater standards may apply at nonferrous metallic mining and prospecting sites. The bill does not make changes to numerical groundwater standards.

Under current law, DNR establishes enforcement standards for certain substances that contaminate groundwater. When determining whether a groundwater enforcement standard at certain facilities, including mining or prospecting operations, has been met or exceeded, the enforcement standard may apply at any point beyond a three-dimensional design management zone (DMZ) established by DNR by rule. Under DNR's current rules, for a nonferrous metallic mining site the DMZ extends vertically from the land surface through all saturated geological formations.

This bill requires DNR, for each mining or prospecting site, to determine the depth in the Precambrian bedrock below which the groundwater is not reasonably capable of being used for human consumption and is not hydrologically connected to other sources of groundwater that are suitable for human consumption. Under the bill, for a nonferrous metallic mining or prospecting site, DNR may not apply groundwater enforcement standards at any point deeper than that identified depth for the site.

**WETLANDS**

Pursuant to the laws of 1977, DNR promulgated rules designed to ensure that metallic mining activities would result in a minimization of disturbance to wetlands while taking into consideration the fact that, in siting some mining operations, it may be virtually impossible to avoid impacts to wetlands. To help weigh and evaluate these competing considerations when reviewing proposed sites for mining operations, DNR promulgated section NR 132.06 (4) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. This section was later modified to apply only to nonferrous metallic mining.

After section NR 132.06 (4) was promulgated, this state enacted section 281.36 of the statutes, which requires DNR to issue wetland permits, in a manner consistent with the federal Clean Water Act, for any activity that may affect wetlands, including nonferrous metallic mining operations. This bill repeals section NR 132.06 (4) of the

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administrative code. As a result, the only provisions that DNR may apply in evaluating a proposed site for a prospecting or mining operation are those contained in s. 281.36 and in rules promulgated under that section and under other provisions under current law.

**BULK SAMPLING**

This bill creates a separate process for engaging in bulk sampling for nonferrous metallic minerals. Current law regulates activities relating to nonferrous metallic minerals differently depending on whether the activity involves exploration, prospecting, or mining. Under current law, a person who wants to engage in exploration for nonferrous metallic minerals must first obtain a license from DNR. Exploration consists of drilling holes that are less than 18 inches in diameter into the surface of an area to search for nonferrous metallic minerals. Current law also provides that a person may not prospect for nonferrous metallic minerals without a prospecting permit from DNR. Prospecting means examining an area to determine the quality and quantity of nonferrous metallic minerals by means other than drilling, for example by excavating. Under current law, the process for obtaining a prospecting permit is similar to the process for obtaining a mining permit. When a person completes a prospecting operation, the person must conduct reclamation, which means rehabilitation of the site to either its original state or, if that is not feasible, to a state that provides long-term environmental stability.

The bill defines “bulk sampling” as excavating in a potential mining site by removing less than 10,000 tons of material to assess the quality and quantity of nonferrous metallic mineral deposits and to collect and analyze data to prepare an application for a mining permit or other approval. Under the bill, bulk sampling does not constitute prospecting, and prospecting activities do not include bulk sampling.

The bill allows a person who intends to engage in bulk sampling to file a bulk sampling plan with DNR. A person who files a bulk sampling plan must 1) describe the bulk sampling site and the methods to be used for bulk sampling; 2) submit a plan for controlling surface erosion that identifies how adverse impacts to plant and wildlife habitats will be avoided or minimized; 3) submit a plan for revegetation that describes how adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized; 4) provide the estimated time for completing bulk sampling and revegetation of the site; 5) describe any known adverse environmental impacts that are likely to be caused by bulk sampling and how those impacts will be avoided or minimized; and 6) describe any adverse effects that the bulk sampling might have on any historic property or on any scenic or recreational areas and plans to avoid or minimize those adverse effects. The bill also requires a person to submit, with the bulk sampling plan, a \$5,000 bond. DNR may require the amount of the bond to be increased if it is unlikely that the bond will be adequate to fund the state’s cost for completing the revegetation plan.

The bill requires DNR, within 14 days of receipt of a bulk sampling plan, to identify in writing any kind of approval that DNR issues that is needed to conduct the proposed bulk sampling, such as a wastewater discharge permit or a permit for a discharge into wetlands, and any waivers, exemptions, or exceptions to those approvals that may be available. The bill also requires a person who has submitted

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a bulk sampling plan to submit all applications for approvals and all applications for waivers, exemptions, or exceptions to approvals for the bulk sampling at one time.

The bill specifies deadlines for DNR to act on approvals needed to conduct bulk sampling. When a person who files a bulk sampling plan applies for an approval or a waiver, exemption, or exception to an approval, the application is considered to be complete on the 30th day after DNR receives the application, unless before that day DNR informs the person that the application is not complete. Once an application is complete, DNR must act within 30 days on an application for a waiver, exemption, or exception to an approval, for a determination that an activity is below the threshold that requires an approval, or for a determination of eligibility for coverage under a general permit or a registration permit. For other approvals, DNR must act within 60 days after the application is complete, except that DNR must act on an approval for an individual permit for which federal law requires an opportunity for public comment or a hearing, such as a wastewater discharge permit, within 180 days.

The bill provides that DNR is not required to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for an approval required for bulk sampling. Finally, the bill requires DNR to act on any required construction site erosion control or storm water management approval required for bulk sampling, even if DNR has authorized a local program to issue approvals for construction site erosion control or storm water management.

**APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND PERMITTING PROCESS**

Under current law, a person who proposes to prospect or mine for nonferrous metallic minerals must obtain a prospecting or mining permit and any other permit, license, certification, or other authorization (approval) that is required under the environmental and natural resources laws, for example wastewater discharge permits, high capacity well approvals, and permits for discharges into wetlands.

This bill makes changes to certain parts of the preapplication, application, review, and hearing process for these permits and approvals.

***Preapplication process***

Under current law, a person who intends to apply for a permit to prospect or mine for nonferrous metallic minerals must notify DNR of that intent, and may not collect data intended to be used to support the application before submitting the notice of intent to apply. DNR is required to provide public notice when it receives a notice of intent to apply for a prospecting or mining permit, and is required to receive and consider public comments within 45 days after giving the public notice. After considering public comments, DNR must tell the person who filed the notice of intent what data DNR believes is needed to support an application for a prospecting or mining permit and the methodologies that must be used to collect that data, along with certain other information relating to groundwater in the area and to other approvals that are required for the proposed prospecting or mining project.

This bill requires a person who intends to apply for a prospecting or mining permit to provide DNR with a notice of intent at least 12 months before filing an application for a prospecting or mining permit. The bill removes the prohibition on collecting data before filing the notice of intent to apply. The bill requires DNR, upon

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the request of a person who intends to file a notice of intent to apply, to review the person's proposed methodology for collecting data, and to either approve the proposed methodology or provide the methodology that DNR requires to be used. Under the bill, DNR may assess the person a fee to cover DNR's costs in reviewing or providing these methodologies. The bill also provides that, if DNR holds a public informational hearing to solicit the required public comments on a notice of intent to apply, the hearing must be held within the 45-day period for soliciting public comments. In addition, the bill requires DNR to inform the person within 90 days after the 45-day period for soliciting public comments of the required data and methodologies for the application, the information that should be included in the person's environmental impact report, and the information DNR will need to prepare an EIS. Under the bill, DNR must begin the process of entering into a memorandum of understanding with the applicant, the U.S. army corps of engineers, and other relevant federal agencies before informing the person of the required data and methodologies for the application and providing the other required information. The bill provides that such a memorandum of understanding may include an agreement between DNR and the applicant regarding timelines for the permitting process.

***Application process — predictive modeling***

Currently, under rules promulgated by DNR, a person who wishes to operate a solid waste disposal facility for a nonferrous metallic mineral mining operation must submit information based on predictive modeling to demonstrate that there is a reasonable certainty that the facility will not violate groundwater quality standards. This bill provides that, if DNR requires an applicant for a nonferrous metallic mining permit to conduct modeling to determine whether the proposed mining operation's waste site complies with groundwater or surface water quality standards, DNR may not require the applicant to examine a period longer than the proposed operating period of the waste site plus 250 years.

***Application process — financial assurance requirement***

Under current law, an operator of a nonferrous mining or prospecting operation must file a bond, cash, certificates of deposit, or government securities with DNR to ensure that the operator will be able to cover the cost of the reclamation plan for the mining or prospecting site. An operator must also submit a certificate of insurance certifying that the operator has a liability insurance policy in place that adequately covers personal injury and property damage and must maintain proof of financial responsibility for complying with the long-term care requirements of the mining or prospecting site after the site is closed. Under rules promulgated by DNR, an applicant for a nonferrous metallic mining permit must also create and maintain an irrevocable trust in perpetuity to ensure the availability of funds for preventative and remedial activities, such as responding to a spill of a hazardous substance at the mining site.

This bill limits the forms of proof of financial responsibility for long-term care that DNR may require to a bond, cash, certificates of deposit, government securities, or insurance. The bill provides that DNR may not require an operator to provide a form of financial assurance other than those listed in the statutes.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 499*****Review timeline***

This bill creates a timeline for DNR to review an application for a prospecting or mining permit, request additional information from the applicant, and prepare a draft environmental impact statement, a draft prospecting or mining permit, and other draft approvals.

Under the bill, DNR has 180 days after an applicant submits an application for a prospecting or mining permit, an environmental impact report, and any application for other related approvals, to provide comments and request additional information. If DNR requests additional information, it has 90 days after the applicant submits additional information to again provide comments and request additional information. If DNR requests this additional information, it has 180 days after the applicant submits additional information to prepare a draft environmental impact statement, a draft prospecting or mining permit, and any other related draft approvals. The applicant and DNR may agree to modify all or part of this timeline. DNR may request additional information after these time periods expire, but may not delay the application and review process based on a request for additional information.

If, during the 90-day period described above, the DNR secretary determines that the applicant has made a substantial modification to the mining or prospecting plan that significantly changes the information necessary to prepare the environmental impact statement or adequately review an application, DNR may request additional information from the applicant. When the applicant submits additional information, the timeline described above resets and begins again.

***Issuing a mining permit — effects on other waters***

Under current law, an applicant must obtain an approval for a high capacity well if the applicant will withdraw groundwater for prospecting or mining or dewater mines and if the capacity and rate of withdrawal or dewatering exceeds 100,000 gallons each day. Current law prohibits DNR from issuing an approval for a high capacity well if the withdrawal of groundwater or the dewatering of mines will result in the unreasonable detriment of public or private water supplies or the unreasonable detriment of public rights in the waters of the state.

Under this bill, if DNR determines that the withdrawal of groundwater or the dewatering of mines will result in the unreasonable detriment of public or private water supplies or the unreasonable detriment of public rights in the waters of the state, DNR must include conditions in the high capacity well approval or in the prospecting or mining permit to ensure that those detriments will not occur. These conditions may include a requirement that the applicant provide a replacement water supply or temporarily augment the quantity of water in, or flowing into or from, the affected body of water.

***Hearing and review process***

Under current law, DNR holds a public informational hearing on DNR's draft EIS, after which DNR prepares a final EIS. DNR then conducts a master hearing on the final EIS, the draft mining or prospecting permits that DNR has prepared, and all other approvals that are required for the prospecting or mining project, to the extent possible. Under current law, the provisions related to notice, hearing, and

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comment in the nonferrous metallic mining law apply to any other needed approval, unless the applicant fails to apply for an approval in time for it to be considered at the master hearing. The master hearing includes both a contested case hearing, with testimony under oath and the opportunity for cross-examination, and a public informational hearing. After the master hearing, DNR either denies the application for a prospecting or mining permit or approves the application and issues the permit and related approvals.

This bill requires DNR to hold a public informational hearing on the draft prospecting or mining permit, the draft EIS, and all other approvals that are related to the prospecting or mining project, unless the application for a related approval is filed too late to allow the approval to be considered at the hearing in which case another public informational hearing is held using the same procedure as for the mining or prospecting permit hearing. The hearing does not include a contested case hearing. Before the hearing, DNR must make the applications for the permit and any additional approvals, and the draft EIS, the draft permit, any other draft approvals, available for review in the city, town, or village in which the proposed prospecting or mining site is located. DNR must also publish a notice with the date, time, and location of the public informational hearing, and accept public comments within 45 days after the notice is published. DNR must publish the hearing notice within 30 days of completing the draft EIS and draft mining or prospecting permit under the timeline described above.

Under current law, any person who is aggrieved by a DNR decision relating to nonferrous metallic exploration, prospecting, or mining may request an administrative contested case hearing, unless the matter was heard at the master hearing.

Under the bill, a person may not request a contested case hearing on a DNR decision relating to exploration or bulk sampling. However, a person may request a contested case hearing on a DNR decision relating to a mining or prospecting permit, including a decision related to the EIS for the proposed prospecting or mining operation or a decision on any approval related to the prospecting or mining permit application. A person seeking such a contested case hearing must request the hearing within 30 days after DNR issues the decision to approve or deny the mining or prospecting permit. In addition, the bill requires the hearing examiner in such a contested case hearing to issue a decision within 270 days after DNR approves or denies the mining or prospecting permit. The hearing examiner may not issue an order prohibiting an activity that is authorized by the DNR decision being reviewed in the contested case hearing. Under the bill, a person seeking judicial review of a decision in such a contested case hearing must bring the action within 30 days of the decision. The bill also allows a person to request a contested case hearing on other DNR decisions relating to prospecting or mining that are issued after DNR's final decision to grant or deny a prospecting or mining permit. Under the bill, a person seeking judicial review of a decision in a contested case hearing or of any DNR decision relating to nonferrous metallic mining, prospecting, exploration, or bulk sampling must bring the action in the court for the county in which the majority of

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the mining or prospecting site is located or in which the majority of the exploration or bulk sampling will occur.

**FEEES**

This bill exempts nonferrous metallic mining from certain solid waste disposal fees that are required under current law. Under current law, a generator of solid or hazardous waste, including at a nonferrous metallic mining waste site, must generally pay license and review fees; tonnage fees; groundwater and well compensation fees; a solid waste facility siting board fee; a recycling fee; and an environmental repair fee and repair surcharge. This bill exempts nonferrous metallic mining waste sites from the review and license fees, tonnage fees, and recycling fee. Under the bill, the operator of a mining waste site must continue to pay the groundwater fee, the environmental repair fee and surcharge, and the solid waste facility siting board fee.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.370 (2) (gh) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           20.370 (2) (gh) *Nonferrous metallic mining regulation and administration.*

3           The amounts in the schedule for the administration, regulation, and enforcement of  
4           nonferrous metallic mining exploration, bulk sampling, prospecting, mining and  
5           mine reclamation activities under ch. 293. All moneys received under ch. 293 shall  
6           be credited to this appropriation.

7           **SECTION 2.** 70.375 (4) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

8           70.375 (4) (h) The cost of premiums for bonds required under s. 293.26 (9),  
9           293.51, 295.45 (5), or 295.59.

10          **SECTION 3.** 227.42 (4) of the statutes is repealed.

11          **SECTION 4.** 281.35 (5) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

12          281.35 (5) (e) *Right to hearing.* ~~Except as provided in s. 227.42 (4), any~~ Any  
13          person who receives notice of a denial or modification requirement under par. (c) is



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1 entitled to a contested case hearing under ch. 227 if the person requests the hearing  
2 within 30 days after receiving the notice.

3 **SECTION 5.** 283.84 (3m) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 283.84 **(3m)** A person engaged in mining, as defined in s. 293.01 (9) or 295.41  
5 (26), prospecting, as defined in s. 293.01 (18), bulk sampling, as defined in s. 293.01  
6 (2m) or 295.41 (7), or nonmetallic mining, as defined in s. 295.11 (3), may not enter  
7 into an agreement under sub. (1).

8 **SECTION 6.** 293.01 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

9 293.01 **(2m)** “Bulk sampling” means excavating in a potential mining site by  
10 removing less than 10,000 tons of material for the purposes of obtaining site-specific  
11 data to assess the quality and quantity of the nonferrous metallic mineral deposits  
12 and of collecting data from and analyzing the excavated materials in order to prepare  
13 the application for a mining permit or for any other approval. Bulk sampling does  
14 not constitute prospecting within the meaning of sub. (18).

15 **SECTION 7.** 293.01 (9) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 293.01 **(9)** “Mining” or “mining operation” means all or part of the process  
17 involved in the mining of nonferrous metallic minerals, other than for exploration,  
18 bulk sampling, or prospecting, including commercial extraction, agglomeration,  
19 beneficiation, construction of roads, removal of overburden and the production of  
20 refuse.

21 **SECTION 8.** 293.01 (18) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 293.01 **(18)** “Prospecting” means engaging in the examination of an area for the  
23 purpose of determining the quality and quantity of nonferrous metallic minerals,  
24 other than for exploration or bulk sampling but including the obtaining of a  
25 nonferrous metallic mineral sample, by such physical means as excavating,

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1 trenching, construction of shafts, ramps and tunnels and other means, other than for  
2 exploration or bulk sampling, which the department, by rule, identifies, and the  
3 production of prospecting refuse and other associated activities. "Prospecting" shall  
4 not include such activities when the activities are, by themselves, intended for and  
5 capable of commercial exploitation of the underlying nonferrous ore body. However,  
6 the fact that prospecting activities and construction may have use ultimately in  
7 mining, if approved, shall not mean that prospecting activities and construction  
8 constitute mining within the meaning of sub. (9), provided such activities and  
9 construction are reasonably related to prospecting requirements.

10 **SECTION 9.** 293.13 (2) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 293.13 (2) (b) (intro.) Minimum standards for exploration, bulk sampling,  
12 prospecting, and mining shall include the following:

13 **SECTION 10.** 293.13 (2) (b) 4. of the statutes is amended to read:

14 293.13 (2) (b) 4. Adequate diversion and drainage of water from the  
15 exploration, bulk sampling, prospecting, or mining site.

16 **SECTION 11.** 293.13 (2) (b) 7. of the statutes is amended to read:

17 293.13 (2) (b) 7. Removal and stockpiling, or other measures to protect topsoils  
18 prior to exploration, bulk sampling, prospecting, or mining.

19 **SECTION 12.** 293.13 (2) (c) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 293.13 (2) (c) (intro.) Minimum standards for reclamation of exploration and  
21 bulk sampling sites, where appropriate, and for prospecting and mining sites shall  
22 conform to s. 293.01 (23) and include provision for the following:

23 **SECTION 13.** 293.13 (2) (c) 7. of the statutes is amended to read:

24 293.13 (2) (c) 7. Revegetation to stabilize disturbed soils and prevent air and  
25 water pollution, with the objective of reestablishing a variety of populations of plants

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1 and animals indigenous to the area immediately prior to exploration, bulk sampling,  
2 prospecting, or mining.

3 **SECTION 14.** 293.15 (7m) of the statutes is created to read:

4 293.15 (7m) Issue approvals necessary for bulk sampling.

5 **SECTION 15.** 293.15 (8) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 293.15 (8) Promulgate rules regulating the production, storage and disposal  
7 of radioactive waste from exploration, bulk sampling, prospecting, or mining after  
8 seeking comments from the department of health services. At a minimum, rules  
9 promulgated under this subsection shall achieve the margin of safety provided in  
10 applicable federal statutes and regulations. If the department promulgates rules  
11 under this subsection, the department shall investigate the need for standards more  
12 restrictive than the applicable federal statutes and regulations.

13 **SECTION 16.** 293.26 of the statutes is created to read:

14 **293.26 Bulk sampling plan. (1)** A person who intends to engage in bulk  
15 sampling may file a bulk sampling plan with the department. The collection of data  
16 under a bulk sampling plan may include sampling and analysis related to  
17 geophysical, geochemical, groundwater, and surface water conditions, as well as any  
18 other data or studies necessary to prepare an application for a mining permit,  
19 including the mining plan, reclamation plan, mining waste site feasibility study and  
20 plan of operation, or any other approval required for the proposed mining.

21 **(2)** A person shall include all of the following in a bulk sampling plan:

22 (a) A description and map of the bulk sampling site, including the number of  
23 acres in the site, the number of acres of land that will be disturbed, if any, associated  
24 with each bulk sampling location, and the locations and types of sampling or studies  
25 to be conducted at each bulk sampling location.

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1 (b) A description of the methods to be used for the bulk sampling.

2 (c) A site-specific plan for controlling surface erosion that conforms to  
3 requirements under ss. 281.33 (3) and 283.33 and that identifies how impacts to  
4 plant and wildlife habitats will be avoided or minimized to the extent practicable.

5 (d) A revegetation plan for each area where bulk sampling will be performed  
6 that describes how adverse impacts to the environment will be avoided or minimized  
7 to the extent practicable and how the site will be revegetated and stabilized and that  
8 identifies how adverse impacts to plant and wildlife habitats will be avoided or  
9 minimized to the extent practicable.

10 (e) The estimated time for completing the bulk sampling and revegetation of  
11 the bulk sampling locations.

12 (f) A description of any known adverse environmental impacts that are likely  
13 to be caused by the bulk sampling and how those impacts will be avoided or  
14 minimized to the extent practicable.

15 (g) A description of any adverse effects, as defined in s. 44.31 (1), that the bulk  
16 sampling might have on any historic property, as defined in s. 44.31 (3), that is a  
17 listed property, as defined in s. 44.31 (4), that is on the Wisconsin inventory of historic  
18 places, as defined in s. 44.31 (12), or that is on the list of locally designated historic  
19 places under s. 44.45; or any scenic or recreational areas; and plans to avoid or  
20 minimize those adverse effects to the extent practicable.

21 **(3)** The department shall protect as confidential any information, other than  
22 effluent data, contained in a bulk sampling plan and in any application for an  
23 approval that is required before the bulk sampling may be implemented, upon a  
24 showing that the information is entitled to protection as a trade secret, as defined in  
25 s. 134.90 (1) (c), and any information relating to the location, quality, or quantity of

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1 a nonferrous metallic mineral deposit, to production or sales figures, or to processes  
2 or production unique to the applicant or that would tend to adversely affect the  
3 competitive position of the applicant if made public.

4 (4) Within 14 days of receipt of a bulk sampling plan, the department shall  
5 identify for the applicant, in writing, all approvals that are required before the bulk  
6 sampling may be implemented, any waivers, exemptions, or exceptions to those  
7 approvals that are potentially available, and any information that the department  
8 needs to issue the approvals or to issue a decision on any waiver, exemption, or  
9 exception. If no approvals are required, the department shall notify the applicant  
10 that no approvals are required and that the applicant may proceed with the bulk  
11 sampling.

12 (5) If a storm water discharge permit under s. 283.33 (1) (a) or a water quality  
13 certification under rules promulgated under subch. II of ch. 281 to implement 33  
14 USC 1341 (a) is required before bulk sampling may be implemented, the person filing  
15 the bulk sampling plan may apply for and be issued the permit or certification.

16 (6) The department shall act on any required construction site erosion control  
17 and storm water management approval, notwithstanding any authorization by the  
18 department of a local program to administer construction site erosion control and  
19 storm water management requirements.

20 (7) An applicant shall submit all of the following at the same time:

21 (a) Applications for individual approvals identified under sub. (4).

22 (b) Applications for coverage under general permits or registration permits  
23 identified under sub. (4).

24 (c) Applications for waivers, exemptions, or exceptions identified under sub.  
25 (4).

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1 (d) A bond, as provided in sub. (9).

2 (8) (a) Notwithstanding any provision in ch. 23, 29, 30, 31, 169, 281, 283, 285,  
3 289, or 291 or in a rule promulgated under those chapters that is applicable to an  
4 approval identified under sub. (4), the application for any approval, for a waiver,  
5 exemption, or exception to an approval, or for a determination that the proposed bulk  
6 sampling activity is below the threshold that requires an approval, is considered to  
7 be complete on the 30th day after the department receives the application, unless,  
8 before that day, the department provides the applicant with written notification that  
9 the application is not complete, stating the reason for the determination and  
10 describing the specific information necessary to make the application complete.

11 (b) If the department provides a notice under par. (a), the applicant shall  
12 supplement the application by providing the specified information. The application  
13 is complete when the applicant provides the information.

14 (c) If the department determines that the issuance of an approval is contingent  
15 upon the issuance of a permit under s. 29.604 (6m), and if the application for the  
16 permit under s. 29.604 (6m) is filed with the approval application, the department  
17 may not determine that the approval application is incomplete on the basis that the  
18 department has not yet issued the permit under s. 29.604 (6m).

19 (9) (a) A person who intends to engage in bulk sampling shall submit with the  
20 bulk sampling plan a bond in the amount of \$5,000 that is conditioned on faithful  
21 performance of the requirements of this section, that is issued by a surety company  
22 licensed to do business in this state, and that provides that the bond may not be  
23 canceled by the surety, except after not less than 90 days' notice to the department  
24 in writing by registered or certified mail.

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1           (b) If the surety for a bond submitted under par. (a) issues a cancellation notice,  
2           the person who filed the bulk sampling plan shall deliver a replacement bond at least  
3           30 days before the expiration of the 90-day notice period. If the person fails to submit  
4           a replacement bond, the person may not engage in bulk sampling until the person  
5           submits a replacement bond.

6           (c) If the license of the surety company for a bond submitted under par. (a) is  
7           revoked or suspended, the person who filed the bulk sampling plan, within 30 days  
8           after receiving written notice from the department, shall deliver a replacement bond.  
9           If the person fails to submit a replacement bond, the person may not engage in bulk  
10          sampling until the person submits a replacement bond.

11          (d) The department may require that the amount of the bond submitted under  
12          this subsection be increased at any time, if the department determines that it is  
13          unlikely that the bond would be adequate to fund the cost to this state of completing  
14          the revegetation plan.

15          (e) The department shall release a bond submitted under this subsection one  
16          year after the time for completing the bulk sampling and the revegetation set forth  
17          in the bulk sampling plan if the department determines that the person who engaged  
18          in bulk sampling has complied with this section.

19          **(10)** Notwithstanding any provision in ch. 23, 29, 30, 31, 169, 281, 283, 285,  
20          289, or 291 or a rule promulgated under those chapters applicable to an approval  
21          identified under sub. (4), the department shall require the bulk sampling activity for  
22          which the approval is issued to be conducted at locations that result in the fewest  
23          overall adverse environmental impacts.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 499****SECTION 16**

1           **(11)** (a) In determining whether to approve or deny an application for an  
2 approval identified under sub. (4), the department shall consider the site-specific  
3 erosion control plan, the revegetation plan, and any wetland mitigation program.

4           (b) The department may modify the application for an approval identified  
5 under sub. (4) in order to meet the requirements applicable to the approval, and, as  
6 modified, approve the application.

7           **(12)** Notwithstanding any inconsistent period in ch. 23, 29, 30, 31, 169, 281,  
8 283, 285, 289, or 291 or in a rule promulgated under those chapters that is applicable  
9 to an approval identified under sub. (4), the department shall approve or deny an  
10 application within 30 days after the day on which the application is considered to be  
11 complete under sub. (8) if any of the following applies:

12           (a) The application is for a waiver, exemption, or exception to an approval for  
13 a bulk sampling activity or for a determination that the proposed bulk sampling  
14 activity is below the threshold that requires an approval.

15           (b) The application is for a determination of eligibility for coverage or  
16 authorization to proceed under a general permit or a registration permit.

17           **(13)** (a) Notwithstanding any inconsistent period in ch. 23, 29, 30, 31, 169, 281,  
18 283, 285, 289, or 291 or in a rule promulgated under those chapters that is applicable  
19 to an approval identified under sub. (4), the department shall approve or deny any  
20 application for an approval identified under sub. (4) to which sub. (12) does not apply  
21 within 60 days after the date on which the application is considered to be complete  
22 under sub. (8), unless the application is for an individual permit for which federal law  
23 requires the opportunity for public comment or the ability to request a public hearing  
24 prior to issuance of the approval.



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1 (b) The department shall publish a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, and shall  
2 publish notice on the department's Internet site, that describes the availability of  
3 information concerning the activity for which an approval described in par. (a) is  
4 required, its proposed decision, its draft approval, information or summaries related  
5 to the approval, the department's analyses and preliminary determinations relating  
6 to the approval, any additional information that a law concerning the approval  
7 requires to be made available, and the opportunity to submit written comments  
8 within 30 days after the date of the publication of the notice. The date on which the  
9 department first publishes the notice on its Internet site shall be considered the date  
10 of the publication of the notice required to be published under this paragraph.

11 (c) In the notice under par. (b), the department shall also specify the date, time,  
12 and location of the public informational hearing under par. (e). The department shall  
13 send the notice to any person to whom the department is required to give notice of  
14 any proposed determination, application, or hearing concerning an approval  
15 described in par. (a) under the laws relating to the issuance of the approval and to  
16 any person who has requested notice. The department's notice to interested persons  
17 under this paragraph may be given through an electronic notification system  
18 established by the department.

19 (d) If there is more than one approval described in par. (a), the department shall  
20 issue one notice and coordinate the public comment period for all of the approvals.  
21 If possible, the department shall coordinate the notice and the public comment  
22 period for an approval that is an individual permit for which federal law requires the  
23 opportunity for public comment or the ability to request a public hearing prior to  
24 issuance of the approval with notice and the public comment period for the approvals  
25 described in par. (a).

**ASSEMBLY BILL 499****SECTION 16**

1           (e) The department shall hold a public informational hearing within 30 days  
2 after the date of the publication of the notice under par. (b). The department shall  
3 hold the public informational hearing in the county where the majority of the  
4 proposed bulk sampling site is located. If there is more than one approval described  
5 in par. (a), the department shall hold a single public informational hearing covering  
6 all of the approvals. If possible, the department shall include consideration of an  
7 approval that is an individual permit for which federal law requires the opportunity  
8 for public comment or the ability to request a public hearing prior to issuance of the  
9 approval in the public informational hearing under this paragraph. The public  
10 informational hearing under this paragraph is not a contested case hearing under  
11 ch. 227.

12           **(14)** (a) If it is not possible to coordinate the public comment period and public  
13 informational hearing for an approval that is an individual permit for which federal  
14 law requires the opportunity for public comment or the ability to request a public  
15 hearing prior to issuance of the approval with the public comment period and public  
16 informational hearing under sub. (13), the department shall issue a separate public  
17 notice and hold a separate public informational hearing for the approval in  
18 accordance with the law governing the approval.

19           (b) The department shall approve or deny the application for an approval that  
20 is an individual permit for which federal law requires the opportunity for public  
21 comment or the ability to request a public hearing prior to issuance of the approval  
22 within 180 days after the date on which the application is considered to be complete  
23 under sub. (8).

24           **(15)** An approval identified under sub. (4) is issued upon mailing and is final  
25 and effective upon issuance.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 499****SECTION 16**

1           **(16)** The department is not required to prepare an environmental impact  
2 statement or an environmental assessment for an approval required for bulk  
3 sampling.

4           **SECTION 17.** 293.31 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

5           **293.31 (title) Data Preapplication notification; data collection.**

6           **SECTION 18.** 293.31 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

7           293.31 (1) ~~Any~~ At least 12 months before filing an application for a prospecting  
8 permit under s. 293.35 or a mining permit under s. 293.37, a person proposing to  
9 engage in a prospecting or mining project shall notify the department in writing of  
10 the intention to apply for a prospecting or mining permit. A person who intends to  
11 give notice of intent to apply for a prospecting or mining permit may, prior to  
12 obtaining, collecting, or generating environmental data intended to be used to  
13 support the permit application, submit to the department the methodology that the  
14 person intends to use in obtaining, collecting, or generating the data. The  
15 department shall review the proposed methodology and shall either inform the  
16 person that the proposed methodology will be accepted by the department or provide  
17 the person with the methodology that the department requires to be used. The  
18 department may assess the person submitting the proposed methodology a fee equal  
19 to the department's costs for reviewing the proposed methodology. If a person  
20 intending to submit an application for a prospecting or mining permit shall notify the  
21 department prior to the collection of ~~obtains, collects, or generates~~ data or  
22 information intended to be used to support the a prospecting or mining permit  
23 application. Specific environmental data which would be pertinent to a specific  
24 prospecting or mining application, but which was obtained or collected or generated  
25 prior to the notice of intent to apply for a prospecting or mining permit, shall be

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1 ~~submitted in writing to the department together with any substantiating~~  
2 ~~background information which would assist the department in establishing the~~  
3 ~~validity of the data. The department shall review the data and, if it concludes that~~  
4 ~~the benefits of permitting the admission of the data outweigh the policy reasons for~~  
5 ~~excluding it, and if the data is otherwise admissible, inform the person giving the~~  
6 ~~notice of intent to prospect or mine that the data will be accepted by the department.~~  
7 ~~Such exclusion shall not relate to without obtaining department approval of the~~  
8 ~~person's methodology under sub. (4), the department may not exclude any of the data~~  
9 ~~or information that consists of general environmental information such as soil~~  
10 ~~characteristics, hydrologic conditions, and air and water data contained in~~  
11 ~~publications, maps, documents, studies, reports, and similar sources, whether public~~  
12 ~~or private, not prepared by or for the applicant. Such exclusion shall likewise not~~  
13 ~~relate to data which is otherwise admissible that is collected prior to notification~~  
14 ~~under this subsection for purposes of evaluating another site or sites and which is~~  
15 ~~not collected with intent to evade the provisions of this section.~~

16 **SECTION 19.** 293.31 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 293.31 (2) Upon receipt of notification under sub. (1), the department shall give  
18 public notice of the notification in the same manner as provided under s. 293.43 (3)  
19 (2m) (b).

20 **SECTION 20.** 293.31 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 293.31 (3) The department shall also receive and consider any comments from  
22 interested persons received within 45 days after public notice is given under sub. (2)  
23 as to the information which they believe should be requested from the person giving  
24 notice of intent to apply for a prospecting or mining permit and the information  
25 which they believe the department should seek through independent studies. If the

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1 department holds a public informational hearing to receive comments from  
2 interested persons under this section, the hearing shall be completed within 45 days  
3 after public notice is given under sub. (2).

4 **SECTION 21.** 293.31 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 293.31 (4) ~~After~~ No later than 90 days after the receipt period for receiving and  
6 ~~consideration of~~ considering comments from interested persons under sub. (3), the  
7 department shall inform the person giving notice of intent to apply for a prospecting  
8 or mining permit of the type and quantity of information that it then believes to be  
9 needed to support an application, and, where applicable, the methodology to be used  
10 in gathering information. The department shall specifically inform the person giving  
11 notice of intent to apply for a prospecting or mining permit of the type and quantity  
12 of information on the characteristics of groundwater resources in the area in which  
13 prospecting or mining is anticipated to occur which the department believes is  
14 needed to support an application, including the information that the department  
15 believes should be included in the applicant's environmental impact report and the  
16 information that the department will need to prepare an environmental impact  
17 statement. The department shall also ~~begin informing~~ inform the person giving  
18 notice of intent to apply for a prospecting or mining permit ~~as to~~ of the timely  
19 application date and other filing requirements for all other approvals, licenses, and  
20 permits, ~~so as to facilitate the consideration of all other matters at the hearing on the~~  
21 ~~prospecting or mining permit~~ relating to the proposed prospecting or mining project.

22 **SECTION 22.** 293.31 (4m) of the statutes is created to read:

23 293.31 (4m) Before providing the information required under sub. (4), the  
24 department shall seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the  
25 applicant, the U.S. army corps of engineers, and any other federal regulatory agency

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1 with responsibilities related to the potential prospecting or mining operation to  
2 address sampling methodology and any other issue of mutual concern related to  
3 processing an application for a prospecting or mining permit. The memorandum  
4 may include an agreement between the department and the applicant relating to  
5 timelines, including timelines for the parties to conduct environmental studies and  
6 for granting or denying the prospecting or mining permit. The U.S. army corps of  
7 engineers, and any other federal agency that is a party to the memorandum, is not  
8 required to be a party to any agreement relating to timelines between the  
9 department and the applicant.

10 **SECTION 23.** 293.32 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

11 293.32 (4) Subchapter VI of ch. 289 does not apply to mining waste disposed  
12 of in a mining waste site covered by a mining permit, except that an operator shall  
13 pay the fees specified in ss. 289.63 (4), 289.64 (3), and 289.67 (1) (d).

14 **SECTION 24.** 293.37 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

15 293.37 (5) If the department requires an applicant for a mining permit to  
16 conduct engineering and hydrologic modeling to assess a mining waste site's  
17 performance relative to compliance with applicable groundwater quality standards  
18 and surface water quality standards, the department may not require the applicant  
19 to examine a period longer than the period in which the mining waste site is proposed  
20 to operate plus 250 years after closure of the mining waste site.

21 **SECTION 25.** 293.40 of the statutes is created to read:

22 **293.40 Timeline for review.** (1) Subject to subs. (4) and (5), within 180 days  
23 after an applicant submits an application for a prospecting or mining permit, an  
24 environmental impact report, if required, and any applications for other approvals,  
25 licenses, or permits relating to the prospecting or mining operation the department

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1 shall review the information submitted and, if necessary, provide comments to the  
2 applicant and request additional information from the applicant relating to the  
3 proposed prospecting or mining project.

4 (2) Subject to subs. (4) and (5), if the department requests additional  
5 information from an applicant under sub. (1), within 90 days after the applicant  
6 provides additional information the department shall review the information  
7 submitted and, if necessary, provide comments to the applicant and request  
8 additional information from the applicant relating to the proposed prospecting or  
9 mining project.

10 (3) Subject to sub. (5), if the department requests additional information from  
11 an applicant under sub. (2), within 180 days after the applicant provides additional  
12 information the department shall prepare a draft environmental impact statement,  
13 a draft prospecting or mining permit, and draft approvals, licenses, or permits  
14 relating to the prospecting or mining operation. If the department requests  
15 additional information from an applicant under sub. (1) but not under sub. (2), the  
16 department shall prepare these draft documents within 180 days after the expiration  
17 of the 90-day period under sub. (2). If the department does not request additional  
18 information from an applicant under sub. (1) or sub. (2), the department shall  
19 prepare these draft documents within 180 days after the expiration of the 180-day  
20 period under sub. (1).

21 (4) Subject to sub. (5), if before the expiration of the 90-day period under sub.  
22 (2) the secretary of the department determines that the applicant has made a  
23 substantial modification to the mining or prospecting plan that significantly changes  
24 the information necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement or  
25 adequately review an application, the department shall notify the applicant of the

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1 secretary's determination and request additional information from the applicant.  
2 Upon the applicant's submission of additional information, the timeline under this  
3 section shall begin again, starting with the period described in sub. (1). A  
4 determination by the secretary under this subsection is not subject to administrative  
5 or judicial review and may be made only once during an applicant's permitting  
6 process.

7 (5) The department and the applicant may agree to modify all or part of the  
8 timeline under this section.

9 (6) The department may request additional information needed to process a  
10 prospecting or mining permit application or any other application for an approval,  
11 license, or permit related to the prospecting or mining operation after making  
12 requests for additional information under this section, but the department may not  
13 delay the application and review process based on another request for additional  
14 information.

15 **SECTION 26.** 293.43 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 293.43 (1) APPLICABILITY. This section, ~~and ch. 227 where it is not inconsistent,~~  
17 shall govern all hearings on applications for prospecting or mining permits.

18 **SECTION 27.** 293.43 (1m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 293.43 (1m) (b) Except as provided in this ~~paragraph~~ section, for all  
20 department issued approvals, licenses, and permits relating to prospecting or  
21 mining, including solid waste feasibility report approvals and permits related to air  
22 and water, to be issued after April 30, 1980, the notice, hearing, and comment  
23 ~~provisions, if any,~~ process and the time for issuance of decisions, shall be controlled  
24 by this section and ss. 293.45 and 293.49. ~~If an applicant fails to make application~~  
25 ~~for an approval, license or permit for an activity incidental to prospecting or mining~~



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1 ~~in time for notice under this section to be provided, the notice and comment~~  
2 ~~requirements, if any, shall be controlled by the specific statutory provisions with~~  
3 ~~respect to that application. If notice under those specific statutory notice~~  
4 ~~requirements can be given for consideration of the approval, license or permit at the~~  
5 ~~hearing under this section, the application shall be considered at that hearing;~~  
6 ~~otherwise, the specific statutory hearing provisions, if any, with respect to that~~  
7 ~~application shall control. The substantive requirements for the issuance of any~~  
8 ~~approval, permit, or license incidental to prospecting or mining are not affected by~~  
9 ~~the fact that a hearing on the approval, permit, or license is conducted as part of a~~  
10 ~~hearing under this section.~~

11 **SECTION 28.** 293.43 (2) of the statutes is repealed.

12 **SECTION 29.** 293.43 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

13 293.43 **(2m)** PUBLIC INFORMATION AND NOTICE. (a) The department shall make  
14 available for review in the city, village, or town in which the proposed prospecting or  
15 mining site is located, information concerning the proposed prospecting or mining  
16 site, including all of the following:

17 1. The application for the prospecting or mining permit, including the mining  
18 plan, reclamation plan, and mining waste site feasibility study and plan of operation.

19 2. All of the following relating to an approval other than the prospecting or  
20 mining permit:

21 a. The application.

22 b. A draft approval.

23 c. Information or summaries relating to the draft approval.

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1           3. The draft environmental impact statement, the environmental impact  
2 report, and any additional supporting information used in the department's  
3 evaluation of the proposed prospecting or mining.

4           4. The draft prospecting or mining permit.

5           5. The department's analyses and preliminary determinations relating to any  
6 approval.

7           (b) Within 30 days after the expiration of the applicable time period under s.  
8 293.40 (3), the department shall distribute a notice that describes the availability of  
9 the information under par. (a); the opportunity for written public comment, including  
10 an invitation for the submission of written comments by any person within 45 days  
11 after the date of the publication of the notice; and the date, time, and location of the  
12 public informational hearing and that includes any additional information that a law  
13 concerning any approval requires to be provided. The department shall publish the  
14 notice as a class 1 notice under ch. 985 and shall publish notice on the department's  
15 Internet site. The date on which the department first publishes the notice on its  
16 Internet site shall be considered the date of the publication of the notice required to  
17 be published under this paragraph. The department shall also send the notice to all  
18 of the following:

19           1. The clerk of any city, village, town, or county with zoning jurisdiction over  
20 the proposed prospecting or mining site.

21           2. The clerk of any city, village, town, or county within whose boundaries any  
22 portion of the proposed prospecting or mining site is located.

23           3. The clerk of any city, village, or town, contiguous to any city, village, or town  
24 within whose boundaries any portion of the proposed prospecting or mining site is  
25 located.

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1           4. The main public library of each city, village, town, or county with zoning  
2 jurisdiction over the proposed mining site or within whose boundaries any portion  
3 of the proposed prospecting or mining site is located.

4           5. Any regional planning commission for the area within which the proposed  
5 prospecting or mining site lies.

6           6. Any state agency that the department knows is required to grant a permit  
7 or other authorization necessary for the construction or operation of the proposed  
8 prospecting or mining project.

9           7. The federal environmental protection agency, U.S. army corps of engineers,  
10 and states potentially affected by the proposed discharge if a water discharge permit  
11 under ch. 283 or a wetland permit that constitutes a water quality certification as  
12 required by 33 USC 1341 (a) is to be considered at the public informational hearing.

13           8. The federal environmental protection agency and appropriate agencies in  
14 other states that may be affected if an air pollution control permit under ch. 285 is  
15 to be considered at the public informational hearing.

16           9. If a water withdrawal permit under s. 293.65 for a withdrawal of surface  
17 water is to be considered at the public informational hearing, the persons specified  
18 in s. 30.18 (4) (a).

19           10. If an individual permit under s. 30.12 for a structure through which water  
20 transferred from the Great Lakes basin would be returned to the source watershed  
21 through a stream tributary to one of the Great Lakes is to be considered at the public  
22 informational hearing, the governing body of each city, village, and town through  
23 which the stream flows or that is adjacent to the stream downstream from the point  
24 at which the water would enter the stream.

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1           11. Any person upon request. The department's notice under this subdivision  
2 may be given through an electronic notification system established by the  
3 department.

4           12. The applicant.

5           13. Any other person to whom the department is required to give notice of any  
6 proposed determination, application, or hearing concerning an approval under the  
7 laws relating to the issuance of any approval or under s. 1.11.

8           (c) The department shall coordinate the public comment period for the  
9 prospecting or mining permit with the public comment period for any other approval  
10 for the prospecting or mining operation, except that if an application for an approval  
11 is filed too late to allow public comment within the public comment period for the  
12 prospecting or mining permit, the department shall issue separate notice, as  
13 described in par. (b), for the approval after the application is filed.

14           **SECTION 30.** 293.43 (3) of the statutes is repealed.

15           **SECTION 31.** 293.43 (3m) of the statutes is created to read:

16           293.43 **(3m)** INFORMATIONAL HEARING. The department shall hold a public  
17 informational hearing before it approves or denies an application for a prospecting  
18 or mining permit and not less than 30 days after the date of the publication of the  
19 notice under sub. (2m) (b). The department shall hold the public informational  
20 hearing in the county where the majority of the proposed prospecting or mining site  
21 is located. The department shall hold a single public informational hearing covering  
22 the draft prospecting or mining permit, all other draft approvals, and the draft  
23 environmental impact statement, except that if an application for an approval is filed  
24 too late to allow the application to be considered at the public informational hearing  
25 for the prospecting or mining permit, the department shall hold a separate public

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1 informational hearing on the draft approval in the county where the majority of the  
2 proposed prospecting or mining site is located not less than 30 days after the date of  
3 the publication of a separate notice under sub. (2m) (b) for the approval. The  
4 department shall publish the separate notice for the approval on its Internet site not  
5 more than 10 days after the application is considered to be complete, which is the  
6 30th day after the department receives the application unless, before that day, the  
7 department requests additional information, in which case the application is  
8 considered to be complete when the applicant provides the information. A public  
9 informational hearing under this subsection is not a contested case hearing under  
10 ch. 227.

11 **SECTION 32.** 293.43 (4) of the statutes is repealed.

12 **SECTION 33.** 293.43 (4m) of the statutes is created to read:

13 293.43 (4m) SUMMARY. After considering the comments received under subs.  
14 (2m) and (3m) and before acting on the application for the mining permit, the  
15 department shall prepare a summary of the comments and the department's  
16 response to the comments.

17 **SECTION 34.** 293.43 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

18 **SECTION 35.** 293.49 (1) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 293.49 (1) (a) (intro.) Except as provided in sub. (2) ~~and s. 293.50~~ and except  
20 with respect to property specified in s. 41.41 (11), within 90 days of the completion  
21 of the public hearing record, the department shall issue the mining permit if it finds:

22 **SECTION 36.** 293.495 of the statutes is created to read:

23 **293.495 Subsequently filed applications for other approvals. (1) (a) 1.**

24 For purposes of this subsection, an application for an approval other than a mining  
25 or prospecting permit is considered to be complete on the 30th day after the

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1 department receives the application unless, before that day, the department  
2 requests additional information, in which case the application is considered to be  
3 complete when the applicant provides the information.

4 2. For purposes of this subsection, an application for a mining or prospecting  
5 permit is considered to be complete on the 30th day after the department receives the  
6 application unless the department requests additional information under s. 293.40  
7 (2) or (3), in which case the application is considered to be complete when the  
8 applicant provides the information.

9 (b) Except as provided in par. (d), if an applicant files an application for an  
10 approval other than a mining or prospecting permit no later than 60 days after the  
11 day on which the application for the mining or prospecting permit is complete under  
12 par. (a) 2., or more than 60 days after that day but in time to allow the application  
13 to be considered at the public informational hearing for the mining or prospecting  
14 permit under s. 293.43 (3m), the department shall approve the application and issue  
15 the approval, or deny the application, no later than the deadline under s. 293.45 (1)  
16 or (2) or 293.49 (1) or (2).

17 (c) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., if an applicant files an application for an  
18 approval other than a mining or prospecting permit too late to allow the application  
19 to be considered at the public informational hearing for the mining or prospecting  
20 permit under s. 293.43 (3m) but before the department issues the decision to grant  
21 or deny the application for the mining or prospecting permit, the department shall  
22 approve the application and issue the approval, or deny the application, after the  
23 separate public informational hearing for the approval required under s. 293.43 (3m)  
24 and no later than 75 days after the application for the approval is complete under par.

25 (a) 1.

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1           2. Except as provided in par. (d), the department shall approve or deny the  
2 application for an approval described in subd. 1. that is an individual permit for  
3 which federal law requires the opportunity for public comment or the ability to  
4 request a public hearing prior to issuance of the approval after the separate public  
5 informational hearing required for the approval under s. 293.43 (3m) and no later  
6 than 180 days after the application is complete under par. (a) 1.

7           (d) The deadlines in pars. (b) and (c) do not apply to an application for an air  
8 pollution control permit under s. 285.62 for which the department receives an  
9 objection from the federal environmental protection agency under s. 285.62 (6).

10          (e) The department shall incorporate any approval other than a mining or  
11 prospecting permit into a single document with the mining or prospecting permit,  
12 unless the application for the approval was filed more than 60 days after the day on  
13 which the application for the mining or prospecting permit is complete under par. (a)  
14 2.

15          **(2)** The provisions of this chapter concerning public notice, comment, and  
16 hearing; issuance of department decisions; effective date of department decisions;  
17 review of department decisions; and the duration of approvals apply to any approval,  
18 regardless of whether the application is filed before or after the department issues  
19 the decision to grant or deny the application for the mining or prospecting permit,  
20 notwithstanding any provisions related to those matters in s. 44.40 or 169.25, subch.  
21 I or VI of ch. 77, ch. 23, 29, 30, 31, 169, 281, 283, 285, 289, or 291, or rules promulgated  
22 under those provisions, except as provided in s. 281.343 (7r) and except that if a  
23 withdrawal of surface water or groundwater is subject to regional review or council  
24 approval under s. 281.346, the applicable provisions related to regional review or  
25 council approval apply.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 499****SECTION 37**

1           **SECTION 37.** 293.50 of the statutes is repealed.

2           **SECTION 38.** 293.51 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

3           **293.51** (title) **Bonds and other security.**

4           **SECTION 39.** 293.51 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

5           293.51 **(2m)** An operator shall maintain proof of financial responsibility  
6 ensuring the availability of funds for compliance with the long-term care  
7 requirements specified in the waste site feasibility study and plan of operation  
8 consistent with the requirements under s. 289.41 except that, notwithstanding s.  
9 289.41 (3), the operator shall furnish the proof of financial responsibility in the form  
10 of a bond, cash, certificates of deposit, government securities, or insurance.

11           **SECTION 40.** 293.51 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

12           293.51 **(3)** Upon approval of the operator's bond or other security under subs.  
13 (1) and (2m), mining application, and certificate of insurance, the department shall  
14 issue written authorization to commence mining at the permitted mining site in  
15 accordance with the approved mining and reclamation plans.

16           **SECTION 41.** 293.51 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

17           293.51 **(5)** The department may not require an operator to provide a type or  
18 form of financial assurance other than those specified in this section.

19           **SECTION 42.** 293.55 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

20           293.55 **(1)** (c) *Substantial changes.* The department shall determine if any  
21 change in the mining or reclamation plans is substantial and provide notice of its  
22 determination in the same manner as specified under s. 293.43 (3) (2m) (b) ~~1. to 3.~~

23           **SECTION 43.** 293.55 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

24           293.55 **(1)** (d) *Notice.* The department shall provide notice of any modification  
25 which involves an increase or decrease in the area of a mining site or a substantial



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1 change in the mining or reclamation plan in the same manner as an original  
2 application for a mining permit under s. 293.43 ~~(3)~~ (2m). If 5 or more interested  
3 persons do not request a hearing in writing within 30 days of notice, no hearing is  
4 required on the modification. The notice shall include a statement to this effect.

5 **SECTION 44.** 293.65 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 293.65 **(3)** (b) The department may not issue an approval under s. 281.34 if the  
7 withdrawal of groundwater for prospecting or mining purposes or the dewatering of  
8 mines will result in the unreasonable detriment of public or private water supplies  
9 or the unreasonable detriment of public rights in the waters of the state. No  
10 withdrawal of groundwater for prospecting or mining purposes or the dewatering of  
11 mines may be made to the unreasonable detriment of public or private water supplies  
12 or the unreasonable detriment of public rights in the waters of the state.  
13 Notwithstanding any limitation on approval conditions in s. 281.34, if the  
14 department determines that a proposed withdrawal of groundwater or dewatering  
15 of mines will result in the unreasonable detriment of public or private water supplies  
16 or the unreasonable detriment of public rights in the waters of the state the  
17 department shall include conditions in the mining or prospecting permit or in an  
18 approval issued under s. 281.34 to ensure that the withdrawal or dewatering will not  
19 result in the unreasonable detriment of public or private water supplies or the  
20 unreasonable detriment of public rights in the waters of the state. These conditions  
21 may include a requirement that the applicant for the mining or prospecting permit  
22 or approval under s. 281.34 provide a replacement water supply of similar quality,  
23 provide an increased amount of water to the water supply, or temporarily augment  
24 the quantity of water in, or flowing into or from, the affected waters of the state that  
25 is of substantially similar quality and that has substantially similar characteristics

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1 to the water that was in the affected waters of the state before any proposed mining  
2 or prospecting activity began.

3 **SECTION 45.** 293.66 of the statutes is created to read:

4 **293.66 Groundwater quality.** (1) For the site of any activity that will take  
5 place under a mining or prospecting permit or under another approval related to a  
6 mining or prospecting operation, the department shall determine the depth in the  
7 Precambrian bedrock below which the groundwater is not reasonably capable of  
8 being used or made suitable for human consumption and is not hydrologically  
9 connected to other sources of groundwater that are suitable for human consumption.  
10 The department shall notify the applicant of its determination before the  
11 department issues a draft environmental impact statement.

12 (2) For an activity regulated under a mining or prospecting permit or another  
13 approval related to the mining or prospecting operation, the department may not  
14 apply a groundwater enforcement standard at any point that is deeper than the  
15 depth identified under sub. (1).

16 **SECTION 46.** 293.81 of the statutes is amended to read:

17 **293.81 Exploring, bulk sampling, prospecting, and mining without**  
18 **authorization.** Any person who engages in exploration without a license or bulk  
19 sampling without the necessary approvals shall forfeit not less than \$100 nor more  
20 than \$1,000 for each parcel as defined under s. 293.21 (1) (b) on which unlicensed  
21 exploration or bulk sampling without the necessary approvals took place. Any  
22 person who authorizes or engages in prospecting without a prospecting permit or any  
23 operator who authorizes or engages in mining without a mining permit and written  
24 authorization to mine under s. 293.51 (3) shall forfeit all profits obtained from such  
25 illegal activities and not more than \$10,000 for each day during which the mine was

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1 in operation. The operator shall be liable to the department for the full cost of  
2 reclaiming the affected area of land and any damages caused by the mining  
3 operation. Each day's violation of this section shall be deemed a separate offense.  
4 If the violator is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership or association,  
5 any officer, director, member, manager or partner who knowingly authorizes,  
6 supervises or contracts for exploration, bulk sampling, prospecting, or mining shall  
7 also be subject to the penalties of this section.

8 **SECTION 47.** 293.95 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

9 **293.95 Review. (1) LIMITS ON CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS.** No person is entitled  
10 to a contested case hearing on a decision by the department on an exploration license  
11 or relating to bulk sampling. No person is entitled to a contested case hearing on a  
12 decision by the department on a mining or prospecting permit application or any  
13 other approval, except as provided in subs. (2) and (3).

14 **(2) CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS; AFTER INITIAL MINING OR PROSPECTING PERMIT**  
15 **DECISION OR DECISION ON AMENDED PLAN. (a) Entitlement. 1.** A person is entitled to  
16 a contested case hearing on a decision by the department related to a mining or  
17 prospecting permit for a proposed mining operation, including a decision related to  
18 the environmental impact statement for the proposed mining or prospecting  
19 operation, or on any decision that is related to an approval associated with the  
20 proposed mining or prospecting operation and that is issued no later than the day  
21 on which the department issues its decision on the application for the mining or  
22 prospecting permit, only if the person is entitled to a contested case hearing on the  
23 decision under s. 227.42 and the person requests the hearing within 30 days after the  
24 department issues the decision to approve or deny the application for the mining or  
25 prospecting permit.

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1           2. A person is entitled to a contested case hearing on a decision by the  
2 department related to an amended mining plan, reclamation plan, or mining waste  
3 site feasibility study and plan of operation or to any amendment to an approval  
4 associated with the amended mining plan, reclamation plan, or mining waste site  
5 feasibility study and plan of operation only if the person is entitled to a contested case  
6 hearing on the decision under s. 227.42 and the person requests the hearing within  
7 30 days after the department issues the decision to approve or deny the amended  
8 mining plan, reclamation plan, or mining waste site feasibility study and plan of  
9 operation.

10           3. All issues raised by all persons requesting a contested case hearing in  
11 accordance with subd. 1. or 2. in connection with the same mining or prospecting  
12 operation shall be considered in one contested case hearing.

13           (b) *Deadline for decision.* The hearing examiner presiding over a contested case  
14 hearing under this subsection shall issue a final decision on the case no more than  
15 270 days after the department issues the decision to grant or deny the mining or  
16 prospecting permit or to approve or deny the amended mining plan, reclamation  
17 plan, or mining waste site feasibility study and plan of operation.

18           (c) *Restriction on orders.* The hearing examiner presiding over a contested case  
19 hearing under this subsection may not issue an order prohibiting activity authorized  
20 under a decision of the department that is being reviewed in the contested case  
21 hearing.

22           (d) *Judicial review.* A person seeking judicial review of the decision in a  
23 contested case hearing under this subsection shall comply with the requirements for  
24 service and filing in s. 227.53 (1) (a) and shall commence the action, in the circuit  
25 court for the county in which the majority of the proposed mining or prospecting site

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1 is located, no more than 30 days after service of the decision or, if the hearing  
2 examiner does not issue a final decision by the deadline under par. (b), no more than  
3 30 days after that deadline.

4 **(3) CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS ON OTHER DECISIONS.** A person is entitled to a  
5 contested case hearing on a decision by the department related to a mining or  
6 prospecting operation that is issued after the department issues the decision to  
7 approve the application for the mining or prospecting permit for the mining or  
8 prospecting operation, other than a decision described in sub. (2) (a) 2., if the person  
9 is entitled to a contested case hearing under s. 227.42 and complies with the  
10 requirements for service and filing in s. 227.53 (1) (a).

11 **(4) VENUE.** Notwithstanding s. 227.53 (1) (a) 3., any person seeking judicial  
12 review of the decision on a contested case under sub. (2) or (3) or of any decision of  
13 the department under this subchapter shall bring the action in the circuit court for  
14 the county in which the majority of the mining or prospecting site is located or in  
15 which the majority of the exploration or bulk sampling will occur.

16 **SECTION 48.** NR 132.06 (4) of the administrative code is repealed.

17 **SECTION 49.** NR 132.17 (13) of the administrative code is amended to read:

18 NR 132.17 **(13)** Tailings transport systems, if not buried, should be designed  
19 to provide for emergency tailings conveyance or storage should a pipeline break,  
20 plug, freeze or require repairs and be made accessible for inspection, emergency  
21 repair and maintenance. Location of emergency spill areas must be consistent with  
22 the prevention of environmental pollution of surface waters and with the standards  
23 of ss. ~~NR 182.07 (2), 132.06 (4)~~ and s. 132.19. In the event of a power failure, tailing  
24 pipelines should be self draining to the tailings area or to an emergency spill area or

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1 standby pumps and pipelines or standby power should be provided. In some cases  
2 (e.g., a long pipeline over rough country), several spill areas may have to be provided.

3 **SECTION 50.** NR 132.18 (1) (f) of the administrative code is amended to read:

4 NR 132.18 (1) (f) Within wetlands, except pursuant to the ~~criteria established~~  
5 ~~in s. NR 132.06 (4) provisions under s. 281.36.~~

6 **SECTION 51.** NR 182.07 (1) of the administrative code is renumbered NR  
7 182.07.

8 **SECTION 52.** NR 182.07 (2) of the administrative code is repealed.

9 **SECTION 53.** NR 182.08 (2) (d) 8. e. of the administrative code is amended to  
10 read:

11 NR 182.08 (2) (d) 8. e. A table shall be provided showing existing water quality  
12 of all potentially affected surface waters. The table shall include those surface  
13 waters identified under s. NR 182.07 (1). Important aquatic habitat, such as class  
14 II trout stream or state scenic river, shall be indicated.

15 **SECTION 54. Effective date.**

16 (1) Notwithstanding section 227.265 of the statutes, this act takes effect on the  
17 day after publication.

18 (END)