

ourselves: Do modern regulations include comprehensive, stringent requirements, and do mines built and operated since enactment of these regulations protect the environment? The answer to both of these questions is yes — modern mines are carefully regulated and mines built under this comprehensive regulatory regime are doing an excellent job of protecting the environment.

Wisconsinites have every right to demand that the only mines that get built in this state are Environmentally Responsible Mines that use the highest standards of environmental protection — like the Flambeau Mine. And indeed, Wisconsin's mining environmental regulations require just that by placing a very high burden of proof on mine applicants to demonstrate that a proposed mine can be built, operated, and reclaimed in a manner to protect the environment and benefit local communities.

If the question you want to ask with Senate Bill 3 is "Are there examples of Environmentally Responsible Mining?" The answer is a resounding yes, and you have the Flambeau, a stellar example right here in your own backyard. But Senate Bill 3 will not improve environmental protection at Wisconsin mines, nor will it provide Wisconsin citizens or the DNR with any additional, meaningful information about the environmental suitability of a proposed mine. It will merely tell you about the environmental performance of some other mine, in some other place, at some other time.

By setting flawed, arbitrary, and meaningless criteria, Senate Bill 3 will create significant barriers to future mining in Wisconsin. If the Wisconsin Legislature passes this mining ban, Ladysmith will likely be the only Wisconsin community to have had the opportunity to enjoy the economic benefits of an Environmentally Responsible Mine.

Testimony of:

◆ TOM MYATT ◆
FORMER MANAGER OF FLAMBEAU MINING COMPANY
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, KENNECOTT ENERGY CORPORATION
GILLETTE, WYOMING

Submitted to:

THE WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
PUBLIC HEARING

Ladysmith, Wisconsin
May 12, 1997

My name is Tom Myatt. For three years I served as the Manager of the Flambeau Mining Company here in Ladysmith and I appreciate this opportunity to address the committee on the merits of Senate Bill 3.

I want to distinguish between those things that I know to be true and things I believe to be true.

I know, for example, that proven technology exists to treat water at the mine site to levels that are safe for humans and that will protect the environment. I know this to be true because for five years that technology worked at the Flambeau Mine - let me emphasize that point - twenty-four hours a day for more than 1800 days the water treatment plant at the Flambeau Mine treated water that contacted mine ore and waste - more than 500 million gallons of water was treated without a problem.

I also know that proven technology exists to prevent waste rock and tailings from affecting groundwater for time periods well beyond the ten year "proofs" called for in Senate Bill 3. I know this to be true because the landfills your cities and constituents rely on to separate waste far more toxic than tailings from your groundwater use the same technology.....and because that same technology has worked reliably at the Flambeau Mine for more than five years.

I know two other relevant things to be true. First, I know that an active mining operation has a significantly positive economic impact on both the local and the state economy. In the case of the Flambeau Mine, for example, we provided jobs for an average of 60 local people for more than five years, purchased more than a million dollars worth of goods and services from local and regional vendors, contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to local charities and causes, and paid more than \$20 million in state and local taxes - more than \$10 million of that will benefit the local economy.

Second, I know that current Wisconsin law requires the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, A) to deny permits to any proposed mining enterprise that cannot demonstrate that it will comply with a comprehensive battery of regulations designed to protect human beings and the environment, and B) to monitor all aspects of the environment and, if exceedances occur, to immediately shut down the operation.

The facts lead me to believe that the combination of proven technology and tough regulatory requirements insure that any mine permitted in Wisconsin will achieve the degree of environmental protection the proponents of a ban on mining claim they want — that is, a mine that can operate safely for ten years and be closed for ten years without harm to the environment.

I also believe that there is no current, contemporary evidence that would justify the sort of blanket ban on mining the proponents of Senate Bill 3 are advocating. Surely, they would not suggest for example that environmental damage done by a paper mill or a logging operation in some other state or at another time — when neither the technology nor the regulatory framework were the same — would justify banning paper mills or lumber operations from Wisconsin.

In closing I would suggest to the Committee that the debate about mining in Wisconsin has been adversely affected by the unwillingness of some engaged in the discussion to

distinguish between their beliefs or fears and the facts. That is why I have made the distinction in my testimony and why I hope that you will make the distinction in your deliberations about Senate Bill 3.

Those of you who hold elective office would, I think, be particularly sensitive to the inherent unfairness of "guilty by association with the past" arguments being used to justify a mining ban. It is a fact, for example, that most elected officials prior to the mid-1970's did not reveal the source of campaign funds, they were not required to, if one accepts the logic of the Senate Bill 3 proponents, one should assume therefore that all politicians today are hiding the source of campaign funds and are therefore not trustworthy. I for one do not believe that all politicians are only a conduit for those who secretly contribute campaign money, and I would hope that the Legislature would in its wisdom agree that the members of the mining community should be judged, as you would wish to be, individually and on the merits.

On that note allow me to conclude by suggesting that Senate Bill 3 does not have merit. Existing technology and current regulations make it unnecessary. Punitive impact and intent make it unfair...and the unnecessary restricting of Wisconsin's economic development options make it unwise.

May 19, 1997

Representative Marc Duff
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Environment
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Duff:

Enclosed are copies of a letter that was to be delivered to your public hearing on May 12 in Ladysmith. The copies you may have received were FAXED and the clarity may be questionable. These new copies are for your reading convenience.

Please distribute them to the members of your committee and if any of you have any questions about the details of this matter please contact me. Failure on your part to ask me any questions would imply that you are either too busy or have already made up your mind on this very important subject.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Hostetter, CPG.

608-781-5879

May 8, 1997

To: State Assembly Committee on Environment
Marc Duff, Chairman
Spencer Black Peter Brock
Eugene Hahn Timothy Hoven
DuWayne Johnsrud Neal Kedzie
John LaFave Judy Robson
Lorraine Seratti

Re: 1997 Senate Bill 3, May 12, 1997 Public Hearing
Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to provide some insight into the issues regarding the above referenced Senate Bill from the perspective of one who has spent his entire life in and around the mining industry and is proud of the overall legacy of mining history, technology and innovation in the United States. Mining is not some villain to be feared but is a means to an end whereby entrepreneurs create wealth both personally and for the Nation through the recovery of those valuable minerals from the Earth that must be produced in order to maintain and sustain our standard of living in this country.

I am an exploration geologist, born in the heart of the Zinc mining district of Tennessee in 1951. I am a professional geologist certified by the American Institute of Professional Geologists, a member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, The Geological Society of America, and The American Association of Petroleum Geologists. I have also been on the regulatory side of the fence working in the Department of Mines and Minerals in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Kentucky Public Service Commission.. I give considerable time and effort to speaking in the public schools and other interested groups.

Let me say from the very beginning that I am very much opposed to the language and intent of Senate Bill 3 and would urge its defeat or withdrawal from the Legislative agenda. It is unnecessary as a vehicle to protect the citizens and the environment of the great state of Wisconsin from the perceived evils of the mining industry.

I am one of approximately 10,000 men and women who derive their livelihood directly from the mining industry in this state. My employer has approximately 1,500 men and women who directly depend upon mining for their wages. There are also over 200 individuals who are either

professional geologists or affiliated with mining engineering who live and work in the state who support and depend on the mining industry for their livelihood. You probably have not heard much from any of these people whom I consider to be highly trained and educated professionals who expect rational decision making from those highly trained and educated elected representatives that are charged with making decisions that protect and serve the greater good of the great state of Wisconsin. These people are busy making a living and generally do not have the time to attend public meetings such as the one in Ladysmith. They are concerned however. They expect you to be fully informed and deal with facts and not hysteria.

Sulfide Mineral Deposits

It must be understood that our 200 years of civilization and progress have used up practically all of the native elements (native copper, native gold, native platinum, native silver that is found in pure form) and we have used up nearly all of the oxide minerals which leaves the sulfide minerals for the present and the future. Nearly all of the Gold, Silver, Platinum, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Nickel, Arsenic, Mercury, Bismuth, Molybdenum, Cobalt and Antimony consumed in the United States is produced from sulfide mineral deposits.

You must also understand that no two mineral deposits are alike simply due to the complexities of the mineral bearing fluids that produced these mineral bodies in the first place. To compare one mine or mineral deposit or even the companies engaged in the mining and their level of expertise with some other mine, mineral deposit or company is not rational or even useful. However, you can draw certain conclusions about the nature of minerals, mineral deposits and the ways in which they can and have been mined both for the good and for the bad.

For example: my home town in Tennessee derives its sole source of drinking water from a closed, underground zinc sulfide mine and the water meets or exceeds safe drinking water standards. The same can be said of Viburnum, Missouri, where the sole source of drinking water for the town is from a closed, underground lead sulfide mine and the water meets or exceeds safe drinking water standards. The people in both of these Sulfide mining districts have no problem with the mining industry around which they live and breathe and prosper. Why then are we so concerned?

Crandon, Wisconsin vs Summitville, Colorado

It is not at all rational or proper to compare the nightmare that the Summitville mine has become with the

proposed Crandon mine. Summittville is an old gold mining district started over 100 years ago and significant environmental damage was done before Galactic Resources began mining a few years ago. The elevation of the mine is around 11,000 feet above sea level and was mined into the mountain by way of adits or portals (horizontal tunnels into the mountain to gain access to the gold ore body). These adits are also drainage points for groundwater exiting the mountain and containing significant metal content. Galactic Resources also constructed heap leach pads for the extraction of gold from the ore by way of cyanide solutions.

Crandon on the other hand is at an elevation of around 1,600 feet above sea level. It will be underground mining where access to the ore body will be by vertical shaft. Groundwater cannot accidentally exit the mine, it must be pumped out and treated before discharge into any stream. The waste rock will be in the form of finely ground rock called tailings which will be stored on a surface site. One simply needs to protect this material from rainwater and snow by appropriate liners or seals both above and below the material. This waste (tailings) will have significant future value as technology is developed wherein the trace metal values within the tailings will one day be mined and metals recovered. Do not look at this material as a future liability but instead as a future resource.

Furthermore, if you want to provide the best longterm protection to the environment, the local socio-economic impact and the benefits to the state and the nation, then work on ways to keep mining operations open and on going for as many years as possible in order to recover more of the valuable minerals within the ore body. Instead of pushing to close them as soon as possible as in the case of the Flambeau mine where valuable metal values are being dumped back into the ground simply because of over zealous environmental requirements. If you do not prolong these ventures the mining companies will take the heart out of the mineral deposit as determined by cut-off grade points that are strictly based upon economic criteria. The environmental, regulatory, and labor costs have a direct impact upon those cut-off grade determinations. Do not shorten the life of these valuable resources.

What to Do?

The Crandon zinc-copper sulfide deposit is one of the largest unmined ore bodies left in the United States. It has an estimated 70,000,000 tons of metallic ore with an estimated value based upon today's metal prices of over 3 billion dollars (personal estimate). What a treasure for the state of Wisconsin and its citizens and the nation.

Withdraw Senate Bill 3!

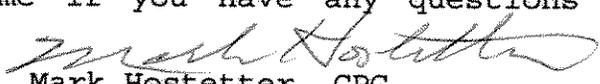
Increase existing statutes dealing with metallic mining in the state by increasing waste water standards and increasing financial responsibility for the care and maintenance of closed mine sites but do not treat the mining industry more severely than you would any other major manufacturing concern!

Drop all talk of a 10 year moratorium based upon the deceptive notion that we want to wait for irrefutable proof that a sulfide mine can operate and ultimately be closed and reclaimed and never cause any environmental harm or damage. What an unrealistic demand. It is instead a clear attempt to stop any metallic sulfide mining in this state based upon limited facts and hysteria!

I was appalled at the negative attitude toward mining that exists in Wisconsin when we moved here three years ago. This state has a long and proud history of lead-zinc mining in the southwestern part of the state, iron mining in the central and northern regions and industrial minerals (quarries, sand & gravel pits, dimension stone, granite quarries) mine sites throughout the state. Lets push forward and not fall backwards. The nation and the mining companies are watching Wisconsin very closely to see if the door is open to mining or is about to swing shut.

I have worked in or visited over 100 open pit and underground metallic, non-metallic, sulfide, oxide and various other mineral mines as deep as 8,000 feet below the surface across the United States and I do not have a problem with the mining industry in this nation. If you have not visited modern mines then you do not have the facts to make your decisions.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this matter.

Respectfully submitted: 
Mark Hostetter, CPG.
1972 Esther Drive
Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650

The Summitville Gold Mine And Heap Leach Part One: The Problems

James A. Pendleton, Ph.D., CPG-3768

Introduction

On December 4, 1992, Summitville Consolidated Mining Company, Inc., a subsidiary of Galactic Resources, Ltd. of Vancouver, Canada, informed the State of Colorado of its intention to declare bankruptcy and to abandon its Summitville mine and heap leach after December 15, 1992. The heap leach was within five feet of overtopping the containment dike, and copper-acid water was discharging untreated from an adit drain. Having no emergency response capability, Colorado requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Summitville mine site was placed on the National Priorities List on May 31, 1994. The lessons and legacy of the Summitville mine will probably influence the future operation, regulation and cleanup of mine sites in the U.S. for the foreseeable future.

The Summitville Mine Site Problems

In 1984, Galactic leased the Summitville property and obtained a permit for a limited impact pit and test heap leach. The test was pronounced a success in the fall of 1984. Galactic obtained a mine permit for the full-scale open pit and heap leach in October of 1984. Construction commenced in the summer of 1985, continued through the winter, and concluded during the summer of 1986. Considerable difficulty was encountered due to the extreme winter conditions at 11,500-foot elevation, which resulted in damage to the heap leach liner. With the liner presumably repaired, the operation began heap leaching in early summer, 1986.

The Heap Leach Problems

Cyanide processing solution was first applied to crushed ore on the heap leach in June of 1986. Within a month cyanide was detected in the leak detection layer beneath the primary fabric liner. The following month cyanide was detected in the underdrain beneath the secondary compacted clay liner. Galactic was allowed to construct a sump to capture and pump back contaminated fluids to the heap for containment.

The original permit application included a water balance calculation for the heap leach. This water balance projected an excess of evaporation over precipitation. However, this water balance was in error. Due to an excess of precipitation over evaporation, and the pump back of contaminated fluids to the heap leach, the heap accumulated water.

From mid-1987 through the late fall of 1990 the Summitville mine experienced a series of broken pump-back pipelines, broken pumps and erupting springs, resulting in releases of cyanide-contaminated fluids. The original design of the mine as a "zero-discharge" facility having proven incorrect, Galactic was required to install a treatment plant to treat and release the accumulating cyanide-contaminated heap solution. This water treatment plant was installed in 1989. The operator's prolonged attempts to perfect its water treatment plant failed. During 1989 and 1990 Galactic attempted land application to dispose of treated effluent. The land application project resulted in overland flow into Wightman Fork and Galactic was

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again cited for water quality violations. The inefficient and hazardous heap leach apparently bankrupted the operator and led to an emergency response by the EPA. Between December 16, 1992 and June, 1994, the EPA expended approximately \$30 million treating water at the Summitville site. The majority of the treated water came from the heap.

The Acid Waste Rock Drainage Problem

Much of the regulatory attention has focused on the heap leach pad. However, significant additional environmental issues developed from acid and metals contamination from the site's waste rock piles. The waste rock was inadequately characterized during the permitting process. The original limited impact permit application stated that, because the ore and waste rock would come from the "oxide" zone they would have no acid-generating potential. This observation was grossly in error. Base metal sulfide minerals in the waste rock are now being weathered and acid and metals are being released to the ground and surface waters. Further, without permit approval, Galactic carelessly placed this waste material in a boggy area of the Cropsy Creek valley. The Cropsy waste pile subsequently became saturated with groundwater which drains down slope beneath the heap leach into the underdrain. In the underdrain, the approximately 2.5 pH waste pile effluent is contaminated by leaking heap solution and must be returned to the heap to contain contamination.

Based upon the 1993 water quality monitoring data, approximately 50% of the mine site's copper metal contaminant loading, as high as 9,000 pounds per day, comes from the various waste piles. These sources include the heap underdrain, the Cropsy waste pile and several other waste disposal areas, the Beaver mud dump, and the North waste rock dump. As of August, 1994, contracts had been issued to return two-thirds of the Cropsy waste pile to the mine pit at a cost of \$17.7 million.

The Adit Drainage Problem

At some point in the development of many historical mining districts in Colorado, some enterprising individual dug a dewatering tunnel to lower the water table and facilitate deeper mining. At Summitville the dewatering tunnel is the Reynolds Adit. The Reynolds Adit, which is located near the base of South Mountain and beneath the pit excavated by Galactic, was completed in 1897. The Adit flows continuously, varying from approximately 100 gallons per minute in the winter to an average annual high of approximately 800 gallons per minute during spring melt.

Because the Reynolds Adit drains both the ore body and the adjacent mineralized alteration zone, it historically contained relatively high metal contents. Prior to 1988, copper content typically reached approximately 30 milligrams per liter. Beginning in 1988, however, the metals concentration of the Reynolds Adit effluent began to

increase. By mid-1992 the effluent had reached about 130 milligrams of copper per liter. In 1993 the Reynolds adit effluent copper content peaked at 650 milligrams per liter.

While the mechanism is not completely known, it appears that excavation of the undrained open pit above the Reynolds Adit and associated underground workings stimulated increased infiltration, oxidation and flushing of the ore body and adjacent alteration zone. In turn, this resulted in the increased release of acid and metals from the pit and old underground workings to the Reynolds Adit. To compound the problem, the highest contaminant concentrations occur in conjunction with the highest seasonal flows. Based upon 1993 water quality monitoring data, it appears that approximately 50% of the site's copper contaminant loading, as high as 9,000 pounds per day, issued from South Mountain via the Reynolds Adit. During the winter of 1993/1994, in an attempt to stem this contaminant flow, EPA placed plugs in the Reynolds and associated Chandler adit at a cost of approximately \$1 million. It is too early to evaluate the success of this emergency response action.

Cleanup Cost Projections

Numerous individuals interested in the Summitville mine site controversy have volunteered projections of the possible cost of cleanup of the site. Estimates have ranged from an unrealistic high of \$1 billion by the Mineral Policy Institute to an overly conservative \$23.6 million by Galactic prior to its bankruptcy. As of June, 1994, \$40 million had been expended, of which \$30 million had been dedicated to water treatment. EPA has publicly projected the cleanup cost at \$120 million. None of these estimates have considered the costs of post-cleanup operation and maintenance, which would be borne by the State.

Conclusion

The Summitville Mine has been, and will be, unsatisfying for the State of Colorado, the mining industry, the EPA, the environment, and the public, unsatisfying in terms of impact to the natural environment, public expense, industry morale, and the conduct of business. It is unfortunate that any lesson must be learned at so extreme an expense. The Summitville Mine situation, portrayed as typical of the undesirable consequences of mining, has received intense scrutiny. This anomalous example of mining at its worst has become the environmental advocates "poster child" for mining-law reform. In Part Two I will summarize the lessons and legacy of the Summitville mine for mine operators, mine regulators, and the public.

*James A. Pendleton, Ph.D., CPG-3768, is the Technical and Scientific Coordinator for the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology and represents the Division on the EPA Summitville Superfund Technical Advisory Team.**

The Summitville Gold Mine And Heap Leach Part Two: The Lessons & Legacy

James A. Pendleton, PhD., CPG-3768

Introduction

Many of these lessons were evolving prior to the Summitville bankruptcy. While I often disagree with the host of rapidly emerging Summitville "experts", many of whom imply these lessons evolved instantaneously from the Summitville situation, I believe it of value to summarize the lessons so graphically exemplified by the Summitville mine site. Further, I believe many of these lessons portend a legacy for the mining industry, regulatory agencies, and the public. Many of these legacies have already been manifested in Colorado through regulations adopted since the bankruptcy of Galactic Resources Limited. And many will be repeatedly cited during the on-going debates concerning the 1872 Mining Law and the CERCLA reauthorization.

Comprehensive Baseline Data Collection

In the absence of baseline data, particularly water quality contaminant loading data, it is difficult to assess a mine's potential impacts to the environment. It is impossible to recreate pre-disturbance water quality for determination of cleanup targets. Lacking data with which to defend themselves, most potentially responsible parties (PRPs) may be hard pressed to limit their liability. Summitville baseline data was also inadequate to characterize the acid- and toxic-forming character of the waste rock. At the time Summitville was permitted, operators were not required to collect baseline data. As of July, 1994, Colorado regulations require that operators collect a minimum of five-quarters of surface water and ground water baseline data, and that they characterize the ore, waste and country rock that may be disturbed by the proposed mining. All operators will have to withstand the time and expense of baseline data collection, analysis and interpretation.

Reliance on "Zero-Discharge" Classification

Operators are not statutorily required to obtain an NPDES for a "zero discharge" facility. Health Departments routinely recommend baseline data collection but most

cannot require it for "zero-discharge" facilities. If the Division of Minerals and Geology did not require collection of baseline data, little would be collected. The EPA also has no authority to deny a zero-discharge permit for lack of baseline data. EPA includes a warning in its permits. Realistically, if a violation occurs, the mine operator will be "enforced" into bankruptcy. Even though we continue to accept "zero discharge" design assumptions, five-quarters of baseline hydrologic data is now required to verify nil impact. Operators will be responsible for the baseline data collection.

Increased Scrutiny of Environmentally Sensitive Mines

The Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board adopted a new model for issuing permits for "Chemical Processing and Designated Mining Operations" (DMOs). These permits now include requirements for environmental protection plans, including detailed emergency response plans. Operators are subject to the expense of plan preparation and the risk of mounting an emergency response.

Phased Building-Permit-Type Inspections

Operators of DMOs are subject to phased inspections during construction of the facility. The facility can be operated only after construction has been completed in

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compliance with the approved plan and regulatory standards. All DMOs will suffer this additional uncertainty and scrutiny.

Strict Third-Party Certification

Summitville's liner was the subject of an engineer's certification which exempted portions of the facility. All environmentally sensitive facilities, such as liners, will require a detailed certification by a third party professional. No exemptions for lapse in observation will be tolerated. All operators will have to accept the expense and delay of certification.

Increased Monitoring and Self Reporting

The Division requires that critical operational and environmental monitoring data be evaluated periodically and reported promptly. Colorado statutes now require an operator to immediately self-report potential threats to the environment or the public health.

The Maintenance of Adequate Surety

Until July, 1994, Colorado operators enjoyed the protection of a grandfather clause which exempted them from compliance with regulations adopted subsequent to approval of their permits. The Mined Land Reclamation Board now has the authority to increase the bond for any mine site if it is determined that the site is insufficiently bonded. An inflation indexing factor is also included in all existing and new permit bond determinations. Bonds are periodically re-evaluated. Previously bonds could be increased only in the event of a violation. Operators are now subject to the prospect of escalating surety requirements.

Restriction of Surety Forms

Prior to July, 1994, Colorado statute and regulations allowed surety to be submitted in a selection of forms, including cash, certificates of deposit, treasury certificates, insurance bonds, equipment salvage credit, corporate self surety, and real estate deeds of trust. Recent experiences at mines such as Summitville and Mid-Continent Resources have caused a significant restriction of acceptable surety forms and increasingly stringent methods for surety evaluation. Many operators will suffer increasing cost in providing acceptable surety.

Compliance with Evolving Regulations

By statute, the Board used to issue permits for the "life-of-mine". The Board now has the authority to apply new permitting requirements to existing permits, if demonstrated necessary to prevent environmental impact.

Comprehensive Review of Permit Applications

As of July, 1994, the Mined Land Reclamation Board received authority to extend the current automatic permitting provision requirement from 120 days to 180 days, when necessary to allow a thorough review of a complex

application. The Board also granted the Division authority to hire outside contractors, paid by the applicant, to assist in evaluating complex permitting issues for which the Division had inadequate manpower. The operator must accept the delay and additional cost represented by extended and comprehensive permit scrutiny.

Extended Reclamation Success / Liability Period

To prevent unforeseen environmental complications, Colorado statute now allows an extended five-year reclamation liability period after the completion of all reclamation requirements. A portion of the bond is retained until all reasonable concerns have been satisfied. Operators will risk the increased uncertainty and carrying expense of lengthened surety liability periods.

More Deliberate Enforcement

Summitville Consolidated Mining Company, Inc. was cited for loss of containment within one month following application of processing solution. However, the operator's impressive selection of professional consultants postured innumerable scenarios to explain the problems. The Board elected not to shutdown the operation, rather SCMCI was directed to institute remedial measures, all of which failed. The Board has directed the Division to be much more deliberate in pursuing enforcement of potential violations at DMOs. Future enforcement actions will err in the interest of preventing environmental impact. Operators will experience more stringent and deliberate enforcement with its attendant risk of increased cost and operational delays.

Creation of State Emergency Response Fund

Finally, the Colorado Legislature authorized creation of a State emergency response fund to allow the State to react in situations where operators are unwilling or incapable of correcting hazardous environmental conditions.

Conclusion

The Summitville Mine has been, and will be, unsatisfying for the State of Colorado, the mining industry, the EPA, the environment, and the public. Unsatisfying in terms of impact to the natural environment, public expense, morale, and the conduct of business. It is unfortunate that any lesson must be learned at so extreme an expense. The lessons learned from the Summitville experience portend a significant legacy for mining operators and regulatory agencies. Realistically, that legacy involves increased risk, expense, and prolonged project startup and operation.

James A. Pendleton, PhD., CPG-3768, is the Technical and Scientific Coordinator for the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology and represents the Division on the EPA Summitville Technical Advisory Team.

DISTRIBUTE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS - RE: AB 70

Assembly Environment Committee,

I wish to speak today for a constituency which cannot speak for itself here; that is the amphibians of Wisconsin. These vertebrates are also residents of Wisconsin, valuable wildlife resources, very important; unique indicator species because they inhabit both aquatic; terrestrial habitats. Because they occupy small ponds, wetlands; the shallow margins of lakes, they are likely to be the first vertebrates to come in contact with contaminated run-off or acidified snow melt. Research in the Rocky Mountains has shown that acid drainage from mining tailings causes significant decline in amphibian populations. I have worked with Gary Cusper from the Milwaukee Public Museum who is compiling a comprehensive database on amphibians; reptiles of Wisconsin. We already are seeing declining amphibian populations from habitat loss; various forms of pollution. We would be very unwise to grossly accelerate that loss ~~from~~ ^{by} allowing the potential to create a source of acid drainage that is proven to harm amphibian reproduction. I, and the amphibians of Wisconsin urge you to use common sense; responsible discretion. Support this bill - require any company proposing sulfide mining to prove its safety before (i.e. mine) is allowed in.

↳ Robert Gully, Mary Reser, Mary Reser (MARY RESER) 1563 COUNTY ROAD 33, AMHERST JCT. WI 54407

MITCHELL BENT
#39 in FAVOR

May 12, 1997

* DISTRIBUTE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TO: Rep. Marc Duff + members of
Assembly Environment Comm.

RE: Written testimony in lieu of
oral testimony

As the elected Vice-President of the
N.E. Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited,
I support SB3/AB 70, the sulfide mining
moratorium bill. Our organization supports
the bill, because of the following:

- Ⓐ weakening of Wisconsin's mining laws over
the last 15 years;
- Ⓑ the specter of a giant tailings pond
by Crandon Mining Company near the
headwaters of the Wolf River;
- Ⓒ loss of the Public Intervenor to
represent the public in water resources
of the state;
- Ⓓ the politicizing of the DNR via
"cabinet government," which prevents
impartial decisions on mining permit
issuance.

The mineral ore bodies in the state
won't disappear with enactment of SB3/AB 70
Until such time as it can be shown that
sulfide ore mining can be done in a responsible
manner, we believe SB3/AB 70 provide
necessary safeguards against environmental damage
by sulfide ore mining.

Signed,

Mitchell M. Bent, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
N.E. Region Vice-President COVEN

935 South Union St.
Shawano, WI 54166

Prentiss, Mike

From: Ted Miner[SMTP:miner@spacestar.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 1997 1:29 PM
To: Rep.Duff; Rep.Hoven; Rep.Johnsrud; Rep.Hahn; Rep.Seratti; Rep.Kedzie; Rep.Black; Rep.Robson;
Rep.Baumgart; Rep.LaFave; 'Peter Block'
Cc: Rep.Plouff; Rep.Harsdorf; Sen.Clausing
Subject: AB70 - SB3

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of AB70 at Ladysmith on May 12, 1997.

In my testimony I referred to a lengthy list of Counties, Cities, Villages, Towns and Organizations that have passed resolutions or gone on record in opposition to some form of mining in the State of Wisconsin. I did not read this list for the record, as to allow time for more people to speak. You will find the list below.

**Resolutions Opposing the Crandon Mine or Pipeline
As of 03/12/97****

41 counties, cities, villages and towns on the Wisconsin River have passed resolutions or have gone on record in opposition to the Crandon Mine and/or pipeline**:

1. Opposes mine. 2. Opposes pipeline.

Dane County 2
Richland County 1,2
Sauk County 1,2
City of Lodi Columbia County 2
City of Portage Columbia County 2
City of Wisconsin Rapids 2
Village of Arena Iowa County 1,2
Village of Biron Wood County 1,2
Village of Brokaw Marathon County 2
Village of Lake Delton Sauk County 1,2
Village of Merrimac Sauk County 1,2
Village of Muscodah Grant County 1,2
Village of Necedah Juneau County 1,2
Village of Plover Portage County 2
Village of Prairie du Sac Sauk County 2
Village of Sauk City Sauk County 1,2
Village of Spring Green Sauk County 2
Village of Whiting Portage County 1,2
Town of Birch Lincoln County 2
Town of Boscobel Grant County 1,2
Town of Caledonia Columbia County 2
Town of Dekorra Columbia County 1,2
Town of Delton Sauk County 2
Town of Eau Pleine Portage County 2
Town of Fairfield Sauk County 1,2
Town of Grand Rapids*
Wood County 2
Town of Honey Creek Sauk County 1,2
Town of Knowlton Marathon County 2
Town of Lodi Columbia County 1,2
Town of Mazomanie Dane County 1,2
Town of Merrimac Sauk County 1,2

Town of Millville Grant County 1,2
Town of Newport Columbia County 1,2
Town of Prairie du Sac Sauk County 2
Town of Quincy Adams County 1,2
Town of Roxbury Dane County 2
Town of Sumpter Sauk County 2
Town of Troy Sauk County 2
Town of Watterstown Grant County 1,2
Town of Wyoming Iowa County 2

*opposes dumping untreated wastewater from any source into Wisconsin River

27 other counties, villages, towns and organizations have passed resolutions
or have gone
on record in opposition to the Crandon Mine and/or pipeline**:

Menominee County 1
Outagamie County 1
Shawano County 1
Waupaca County 1
Menominee Nation Menominee County 1
City of Appleton, Outagamie County
City of New London, Outagamie County 1, 2
City of Shawano, Shawano County
City of Wisconsin Rapids, Wood County 1
Town of Bartelme Shawano County 1
Town of Fort Winnebago Columbia County 1,2
Town of Lessor, Shawano County 1
Town of Narvarino Shawano County 1
Town of Richmond Shawano County 1
Town of St. Lawrence, Waupaca County 1
Town of Waukechon Shawano County 1
Town of Wescott Shawano County 1
Town of Wolf River 1
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. Vilas County 1
Pettenwell-Castle Rock Property Owners Assoc. Adams County 1,2
Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Forest County 1
Portage Canal Society Columbia County 2
Stockbridge Munsee Community Shawano County 1
Trout Unlimited Iowa County 1,2
Walleyes for Tomorrow Fond du Lac County 1
Wisconsin Dells - Lake Delton Chamber of Commerce Columbia County 1,2
American federation of State, county and Municipal Employees
(AFSCME)/Wisconsin State Employees Union (WSEU) - AFL-CIO Local 82
Teaching Assistants Association/ American Federation of Teachers local 3220 AFL-CIO Madison
United Steel Workers of America Local 1527 Milwaukee

10 counties, towns and organizations that have passed resolutions or
legislation opposing mining in general:

Clark County
Eau Claire County
Jackson County
Langlade County
Oneida County
Trempealeau County
Town of Ainsworth Langlade County
Town of Bradley Lincoln County
Rolling Stone Lake Protection Rehabilitation Langlade County
Brown County Conservation Alliance Wisconsin

At least 67 Wisconsin Organizations Support the Mining Moratorium:

A Job is a Right Campaign
American Association of Retired People (AARP)
American Vets Mentoring Alliance
Audubon Society - Chappee Rapids Chapter
Audubon Society - Fond du Lac
Chapter Brown County Conservation Alliance
Chippewa Valley Earth First!
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger
Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin
Door County Environmental Council, Inc.
EarthWINS
E.C.C.O.L.A.
Gray Panthers
Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
Ho-Chunk Nation
Izaak Walton League - Brown County Chapter
Izaak Walton League - Wisconsin Division
Kids for Clean Water
Ledge Preservation
Menominee Nation
Midwest Headwaters Earth First!
Milwaukee Area Greens
Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin Inc.
Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community
Musky Club Alliance of Wisconsin
Muskies Incorporated
National People's Campaign - Milwaukee & Madison
Native Forest Network
Navarino Nature Center
North Forests Earth First!
North Woods Alliance
Northern Thunder
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Eau Claire, Madison
Progressive Students Network
Protect Our Wisconsin River
Protect Our Wolf River -- Shawano, WI
Purple Earth
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
River Alliance of Wisconsin
Servite Center for Life
Shoreline Parks Preservation, Inc.
Sierra Club - Coulee Region Chapter
Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
Sierra Club-Midwest Office
Student Environmental Action Coalition - UW - Milwaukee
Student Environmental Action Coalition - Oshkosh, Eau Claire, Madison
Sturgeon For Tomorrow
Superior Wilderness Action Network
Trout Unlimited - Northwoods Chapter
University of Wisconsin Greens
UW-Oshkosh Grassroots Collective
Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife
Commission
Walleyes for Tomorrow - Fond du Lac
W.A.T.E.R.
Watershed Information News Service (WINS)
Waukesha Environmental Action League

Wisconsin Audubon Council
Wisconsin B.A.S.S. Federation
Wisconsin Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church
Wisconsin Citizen Action
Wisconsin Environmental Decade - Oshkosh, Milwaukee, Madison
Wisconsin Green Party
Wisconsin Family Farm Defense Fund, Inc.
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Wolf River Watershed Alliance

** Information provided by Mining Moratorium Campaign, Wolf Watershed
Educational Project, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, Shopper Stopper
in Merrimac WI, and Menominee Nation

Ted Miner
Route 1
Elmwood, WI 54740

715-639-5375
e-mail: miner@spacestar.com

N13108 Hill Rd.
Fairchild, Wis. 54741
May 12, 1997

Assembly Environment Resources Com.
Attn.: Spencer Black
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, Wi. 53707-8953

Dear Members of the Assembly Environment Resources Committee:

I appreciate your commitment of your personal time and energy to this process of receiving public input on the issue of a metallic mining moratorium. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.

There is so much I want to tell you. It's truly been difficult knowing what to include, what to leave left unsaid. My reason for being here today is to urge you, as strongly as I know how, to support the moratorium and to bring it to the floor for a vote.

Many of my reasons for supporting a state-wide moratorium are probably quite similar to those that other people here today have spoken of. Yet we each of us come with a unique perspective, with an understanding that has grown out of our own personal insight into this issue. It is a sharing of those unique insights that I believe can be of most value to you in this decision-making process, and ultimately of most value to the State of Wisconsin and its citizens, present and future. My perspective, my insights, have been gleaned from a year of service on the Mining Impact Committee of the Town of Cleveland in northern Jackson County in west-central Wisconsin. I believe you each received a copy of the recently completed Metallic Sulfide Mining Impact Report our committee published. That 130 page report represents literally thousands of hours of study and review of numerous documents, articles and reports. It is that extensive study and the experience of this past year that has shaped my perspective.

When I volunteered for this committee a year ago I would tell the people I talked to that I had three reasons for doing so:

- #1. I've had a life-long concern for the environment;
- #2. The leased acreage is just across our fenceline; and
- #3. I believe that the people of a community should have a voice in any land-use decisions of this magnitude.

Over the course of this past year an interesting thing has happened. I still have the same three concerns (plus a few others), but their order of priority has re-arranged itself. Now, "environment" has slipped down to the No. 2 spot, not because the environment has become any less important to me (in fact, I cherish it even more), but because **I've become so acutely aware of the threats to a community's right to set its own land use policies.** I have continued to be utterly amazed that it is possible for a multinational corporation to come quietly into a community, sign up a handful of leaseholders, and start setting land-use policies that will have immense ramifications for generations, ramifications for the immediate community and, indeed, for the entire state. And the people have no vote on the matter! It's happened in the Town of Nashville near Crandon. It's happened in the Towns of Mentor and Butler in Clark County. I

believe it's happening in the Town of Farmington in northern LaCrosse County. And it almost happened in my township. Some people will try to tell you that people do have a vote--if they don't like what the Town Board or the Legislature or the Governor does they can vote them out of office next time around, and that's how democracy works. But, where mining is concerned, that vote is a non-vote, because it's too late. The irrevocable damage has already been done. Changing elected officials won't un-do local mining agreements once they've been signed. It won't give control back to the people. Changing Town Boards won't un-do the vested-interest leverage that mining companies wield the minute they sink an exploration drill hole in the ground. The reality is that most townships have absolutely nothing in place to protect their citizens from corporate leverage of this sort. Our township is the exception, not the rule. We were extremely fortunate to have citizens who recognized what was happening and were willing to get involved, and a Town Board that responded by adopting a regulatory ordinance. But I can tell you from personal experience that it's been a very demanding task, one that many townships will not or simply cannot attempt. The township to our east had a chairman who has signed a lease with the mining company--the board would not respond to the citizens who urged adoption of a regulatory ordinance. The Board was re-elected, and maintains a pro-mining stance. Because that township was unable to get a regulatory ordinance in place, they now have three exploratory drill holes. That constitutes a legal vested interest. So now the citizens have two hurdles in their way of trying to achieve any measure of local control over their future--an antagonistic town board and an international mining giant. It makes a small, rural community feel helpless and hopeless. In our township, the former chairman was offered a mining lease, and, though he hadn't signed the lease, Flambeau Mining Co. did exploratory work on his property while he was town chairman, and while the property was still in his name (before he put it in his wife's name). This practice of seeking to influence our elected officials disturbs me greatly. It is a part of the pattern of loss of local control to corporate control attendant to doing business with mining companies.

Just west of us a Trempealeau County Committee has labored for months to structure a metallic mining amendment to the county zoning ordinance that will provide some measure of protection to the people of Trempealeau County. Yet there is reason to fear that the ordinance won't succeed in protecting the best interests of the people of that county. I quote from an opinion by attorney Michael Orgeman:

"I believe there is a fundamental flaw to this ordinance which will make it rather ineffective against a mining company....Under the current Trempealeau ordinance, mining is a permitted use on every single piece of agricultural land in the county....For all practical purposes, the County has no authority to deny a well drafted conditional use permit....[this] provides absolutely no protection to the citizens of Trempealeau County. Even if every single citizen in the county, the entire zoning staff and zoning committee and the entire county board were opposed to mining in Trempealeau County, a mining company which submits a proper conditional use application must be allowed to mine in Trempealeau County, subject to a few conditions....If the county is truly interested in trying to protect the local townships, making mining a conditional use does very little in furtherance of that goal....The County ordinance...denies the townships their right to due process over the most intensive industry the town will ever see, [mining]."

So, after months of hard work, it's back to the drawing board with fingers crossed that this ordinance, in spite of the above legal opinion, will provide at least some measure of protection

until something better can be drafted. The sentiment I heard expressed was, "It's better than nothing". Hopefully.

Jackson County is also at work on a metallic mining ordinance and certainly will benefit from Trempealeau's experience and work. But TIME is the key to the success of these efforts.

That is why a statewide moratorium is so important now. It is desperately needed to give citizens and local units of government time to do this right. We'll get only one chance to do it right. The people of this state need time to come to a thorough understanding of all the impacts of developing a metallic sulfide mining district in Wisconsin. We need the protection that our state government can provide to give the decision makers at the local, county and state levels adequate time to address these concerns. We desperately need a state-wide moratorium on all mining activity, including leasing of public and private lands and including exploration, until we have enough understanding to make an informed and wise choice for the future. There is so much at stake here. To leave it up to the crap shoot of hastily forged ordinances, inadequate legal council, and ill-begotten alliances between town officials (and/or county or state officials) and mining companies is extremely unwise.

The people of this state need time to decide whether or not mining is truly in the best interests of all of us, those of us living here now and those who will come after us. Decisions of this importance should not be made in a pressure cooker environment---the propensity for error is too great. The deliberative bodies of government need time to deliberate. There is absolutely no need to rush into this. We need time to get it right, and we should take all the time we need and not be pressured by the mining interests into a hasty decision that will have state-wide ramifications for generations to come. I have experienced the pressure they put on local units of government (nothing yet as heavy handed as the lawsuit over in the Town of Nashville, but pressure non-the-less.) They move in on an area, quietly and quickly sign up a handful of residents as leaseholders, and then demand that the Town do business with them. They don't ask. They demand the "right" to proceed with their plans for our township, and the signatures on those leases give them enough leverage to start setting the agendas for Town Boards and citizens for years to come. The pressure is on to stay one step ahead of them. The only other option is to just move over and let them muscle their way in. Yes, I know about the pressure. And I know about the time it takes to deal with it, the thousands of hours of personal volunteer time required to get up-to-speed on the issues involved. I am speaking with an understanding of the scope of this task that comes from a year of service on the Town of Cleveland Mining Impact Committee. You are in a position to help see that we make the right decision. Please, for the people of Wisconsin and the future of Wisconsin, support a moratorium on mining in this state until we know what we are doing. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Marie Anderson,
Town of Cleveland
Mining Impact Committee

5-12-97

TO: COMMITTEE CLERK

FROM: Lisanne Nelson Brandon, Wisconsin Citizen Action

I was unable to stay at hearing past 6:15 pm. Please change my registration from "speaking in favor" to "registered in favor."

Attached is a written copy of my testimony for distribution to committee.

Thank you!

ROCK DAM LAKE ASSOCIATION
N8486 Hay Creek Road
Willard, Wis, 54493
715-267-7893

May 12, 1997

Re: State Assembly Public Hearing on the Mining Moratorium
Bill.

To the Committee:

The Rock Dam Lake Association is a qualified lake association formed and incorporated under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. The Association has 85 members who live on and around Rock Dam Lake. Rock Dam lake is a small lake formed by a dam on Hay Creek which is a tributary to the Eau Claire River. Rock Dam lake is in the midst of the Clark County forest. There is a County Campground, a picnic area, and a fine beach. The surrounding county forest is well known by hunters from all over Wisconsin for its great hunting and has many miles of snowmobile and ATV trails. It should be preserved!

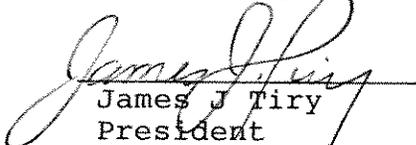
The proposal of the Flambeau Mining Company to explore, prospect, and mine in the county forest, and indeed, in Clark County was viewed with alarm by members of the Rock Dam Lake Association. The prospect of mining in this area was discussed at one of our meetings and the members voted unanimously to oppose mining in the Clark County Forest. Subsequently, the Clark County Board adopted a resolution declaring a ten year moratorium on mining.

The potential damage to the forest, the ground water, and the surface water is too great to risk. The damage that can result will be irreversible and no amount of money will suffice.

Do not be fooled by the Ladysmith mine. It is a very impressive operation, but it is not a typical metallic sulfide mine. A typical mine will not return all waste material into the mine, but will leave a vast pile of dangerous tailings to pollute the environment.

At a time when one arm of the state government is acquiring land to preserve certain natural resources, it is unbelievable that another part of the same government is considering allowing an existing area to be ruined by permitting mining.

As President, and at the direction of the membership, I request that you recommend the adoption of the Mining Moratorium Bill.


James J. Tiry
President

Joe Egloff
N13301 Townhall Road
Fairchild, WI 54741

May 11, 1997

Committee Chair, Mark Duff
State Assembly Environment Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 54741

re: Public Hearing on Mining Moratorium, Ladysmith, Wisconsin, May 12, 1997.

Mr. Chairman,

I urge the Committee to support the Wisconsin State Senate, citizens and biosphere and vote "yes" on the Mining Moratorium for the following reasons:

- Successful reclamation of copper sulfide mine sites remains an unproven technology.
- Billions of tourism dollars are endangered by environmental degradation. Outstanding Resource Waters are a distant memory in many of these United States. Strip malls and ozone alerts abound. Indeed, why not place a more active value on clean air, water, and attitude as economic development? ("*...Come To Wisconsin .*") Calculate the cost of resource depletion more broadly.
- Both within the state and nationally there has been significant failure to maximize mineral resource recovery technology. The problem is not that we have a shortage of non-renewable energy resources, coal, oil, gas, copper; the problem is that we have a shortage of balanced environmental conditions. Scientists assure us, every oxygen and water molecule on the planet has been recycled endless times.... in and out of plants, oceans, clouds, people... Mine the landfills first.
- The change in land values in rural Wisconsin already threatens older generations and those of meager income. Mining typically produces an economic boom-bust cycle that is the antithesis of what benefits most communities.

Stick your collective courage to the soil in which we are all rooted and rise above greed and pressure and **Support a statewide Moratorium on Metallic Mineral Mining.**

Since I can't be there in person, I would like a transcript of the proceedings. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Who set
this up in the
mine-funded
library?

Carole Crisler
1799 25 St.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

I would like to speak for the Mining Moratorium Bill
AB 70

A famous American said:

A politician thinks of the next election.

A statesman thinks of the next generation.

When thinking about mining it becomes clear that the benefits to the present generation are jobs in a specific area and a temporary increase in the tax base.

However, the next generation & those into the future will only loose.

The future generations will loose in 3 ways

- 1) Pollution and lose of jobs from tourism.
- 2) The door may be opened to remove water from the Great Lakes to transport it to other parts of the U.S thus disturbing the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- 3) One of the main reasons the United States won W.WII was because of the available iron ~~ore~~ in northern Minnesota. Foreign owned mining companies are mining our minerals which will then be gone when future generations need them.
- 4) Draw down of wetlands due to large volumes of water needed. Native Americans plan and make decisions based on what's good for the next seven generations.

I ask you to be politicians and think of the next election but also be statesmen and think of future generations by supporting the Mining Moratorium Bill AB 70

May 11, 1997

To: Committee Chair, Mark Duff
State Assembly Environment Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 54703

From: Rana Belshe
P.O. Box 234
Fairchild, WI 54741

Re: Submission to Public Hearing on Mining Moratorium, Ladysmith, Wisconsin, May 12, 1997.

Mr. Chairman,

I urge the Committee to support the Wisconsin State Senate, citizens and biosphere and vote "yes" on the Mining Moratorium for the following reasons:

- Successful reclamation of copper sulfide mine sites remains an unproven technology.
- Billions of tourism dollars are endangered by environmental degradation. Outstanding Resource Waters are a distant memory in many of these United States. Strip malls and ozone alerts abound. Indeed, why not place a more active value on clean air, water, and attitude as economic development? ("*...Come To Wisconsin.*") Calculate the cost of resource depletion more broadly.
- There has been a significant failure to maximize mineral resource recovery technology. The problem is less a shortage of non-renewable resources--coal, oil, gas, copper, etc.-- than a shortage of balanced, life-sustaining environmental conditions. Metallic mineral mining plays a prominent role in social, environmental and economic degradation of the worst kinds-- Bougainville, Papua New Guinea; Butte, Montana; and Bre-Ex gold mining stock market swindle to name three. Globally the frogs are dying at a frightening rate. As an indicator species they portend a warning we ignore at our peril. We are a small bunch of life forms sharing an essentially "closed box" planetary environment. Scientists assure us, every oxygen and water molecule on the planet has been recycled endless times.... in and out of plants, oceans, clouds, people, animals, industrial processes... Mine the landfills first.
- The change in land values in rural Wisconsin already threatens older generations and those of meager income. Mining typically produces an economic boom-bust cycle that is the antithesis of what benefits most communities.

Stick your collective courage to the soil in which we are all rooted and rise above greed and pressure and ***Support a statewide Moratorium on Metallic Mineral Mining.***

Thank you for reading and reflecting on the above points. If I can provide clarification or expansion, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



My Report

I am Viola Klein, legislative Chairperson of AARP, chapter 4155 of the Ladysmith area and represent

the Senior citizens of this same area.

We are especially concerned about our Natural environment and we want to leave it in the best condition possible to our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Good Lord has blessed us with a beautiful state full of fresh water streams, lakes, fish, wildlife, beautiful wildflowers and plenty of good healthy air.

It's just ideal for our tourist industry, one of our chief industries. Our tourist industry brings in millions of dollars every year. People just love our natural, healthy, unpolluted environment especially the big rivers, lakes, streams and fish.

The kind of mining they want in Grandon has not been successful in the past, and unless they can show us that that kind of mining was 100% successful without pollution in this great big wide world, then let's not open the door for mining in Wisconsin. Once they set their foot in our state there's no stopping at what they'll do next.

Right now there's no beauty but a lifeless spot where they mined in Ladysmith.

We want a beautiful healthy unpolluted environment for our future generations. Let's not pollute our beautiful state with open pit mining.

Remember don't let greed and money buy and replace our healthy and beautiful environment.

Please ban mining in Wisconsin. Vote for Senate bill SB3 and assembly bill AB70. They are in the best interests of our state and a very good public policy.

In closing my motto is: "Give Mining a boot,

Let's not pollute,
Let's be wise.

With the Good Lord's Prize."

Thank you.

Hearing on Mining Moratorium Bill, AB 70, Ladysmith, WI 5/12/97
Betty Wolcott, OSF, N47475 Woodland Lane, Osseo, WI 54758

My name is Betty Wolcott. I am a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi and speak for their Office of Justice and Peace. As a member of Church Women United of Eau Claire's Ecumenical Action Committee, I also speak for that group. Lastly, I am testifying on behalf of the Woodlands, a retreat-reflection center located near Osseo in Trempeleau County. Thank you for hearing us.

We are pleading for time so more of the people of Wisconsin can use their wisdom to come to private and public judgment regarding metallic sulfide mining in our state. We live in a democracy where private and public rights and interests should be honored. So we make decisions together especially where the good of the individual and the public intersect and conflict--and that takes time. In coming to wise public judgment much more is involved than a transaction between a representative from a mining corporation and a landowner. The judgment to mine or not moves into the public realm.

Daniel Yankelovich in his book, *Coming To Public Judgment*, explains the difference between public opinion and public judgment. To come to public judgment is far more involved--it moves beyond information and T.V. ads. In addition to awareness of an issue or problem we have to understand why it is a problem; that is, we need to do social analysis. We have to learn what the alternatives and solutions are and we need to be willing to consider the trade-offs. Are we willing, for example, to accept toxic wastes, possible pollution of our water systems and the destruction of a people's way of life for some imagined gain? Church Women United has just now started a study group to deal in more depth with mining and other issues. Many other people have hardly thought about mining because we tend to ignore issues unless they are in our own backyard--and so far many of us don't realize that mining activities in some way move into all of our backyards. At the heart of coming to public judgment are moral or ethical choices and values. And of course, at the heart of these values and ethical choices is our faith.

Most people in Wisconsin would probably agree that it is not right to threaten or destroy God's creation, but many have not struggled with what that means on a practical level. How does it affect my neighbor and future generations if I sign a mining lease? How do I balance my responsibility to preserve the earth's essential life support systems--soil, water, wildlife and the good of our children and future generations with a short term personal gain? Local and state governments have special obligations to protect the common good and I am not sure officials always take the time to study issues that includes

social analysis, dealing with trade-offs and making ethical choices. In fact, Worldwatch Institute, which publishes a State of the World Report annually, in its 1997 report states that: "Too often illogical and inequitable resource use continues in the face of evidence that it is ecologically, economically, and socially unsustainable because powerful interests are able to shape government policy by legal or illegal means, through corruption, favoritism, or discrimination."

Many of us white Americans of European descent have to deal with our superior ^{attitude} and exploitive relationship with nature--with the intricate interlocking water and food systems and cycles and acknowledge that we do not fully comprehend how they are put together and function interdependently. Earth's technology is far more advanced than any humans have invented, including mining companies. Even the world's most renowned scientists, the Union of Concerned Scientists--all 1670 of them--acknowledge that fact. To consider allowing any tampering with critical biological systems and cycles that have evolved over billions of years in such a massive way as mining requires, calls for wise, resolute, and morally responsible public judgments and only a moratorium on all mining activities will provide the time needed to arrive at those judgments.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 9:16-18 we read: "Wisdom is better than might; yet the poor man's {person's} wisdom is despised and his {their} words are not heeded. Wisdom is better than weapons of war {power} but one bungler destroys much good." May we hear the wisdom of ordinary folks and may not one of us be guilty of being the bungler in dealing with this critical issue of mining. Please schedule and pass the Mining Moratorium Bill, AB 70, as soon as possible. Thank you.

Betty Wolcott, OSF, The Woodlands, N47475 Woodland Lane, Osseo, WI 54758

Irene Senn, Office of Justice and Peace, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, 3221 South Lake Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53235
Margaret Gratz, President, Church Women United, Eau Claire, 1604 Skeels Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Betty Wolcott, OSF

Laura Barnett and
Michael Brown
Office of Justice and Peace, LaCrosse Catholic Diocese

As a resident of Stevens Point, former resident of Oneida County, teacher of environmental education, and citizen concerned with the health and safety of our state's waterways, I would like to add my voice to those in favor of the sulfide mining moratorium bill.

Due to the nature of the mine, the beauty and purity of the Wolf River, and the unproven technologies which will be used to protect these resources, it is imperative that the opening of this or any mine in a sulfide ore body be prohibited until the operation and site management of such a site has been fully tested. It is my opinion that the economic gains from this mine do not justify the potential long term hazards to the people and resources of Wisconsin.

As has been noted by many in this debate, the high percentage of sulfide minerals in the ore are of particular concern. An enormous amount of rock must be mined in order to obtain a relatively small amount of metals. The remaining compounds and heavy metals will create the largest toxic waste site in Wisconsin. To give you an idea of the magnitude of the problem, in a 1995 article in the *UNESCO Courier*, France Bequette describes how in a mine with a copper content of about 0.9 percent, "an estimated 990 million tons of ore must be mined to obtain 9 million tons of copper". In a 1993 article in the *American Metal Market*, the Crandon mine was described as having "recoverable ore reserves of about 30 million tons grading 9.4 percent zinc and 0.4 percent copper (that) will be mined during the first 15 years of operation". This will leave behind a tailings pile that has been described by sources as "90 feet tall and the size of 350 football fields". These tailings will need to be sealed against exposure to air and water to prevent future contamination of water resources through what has been called "acid rock drainage". While the Crandon Mining Company claims to have a system which will provide "long-term environmental protection", it is unlikely that any system installed today can protect these water resources for centuries to come.

While the issue of tailings is of major concern, it is not the only environmental issue involved. A mining project located at the headwaters of the Wolf River - designated by the state as an Outstanding Resource Water - makes this a particularly sensitive location. In a Crandon Mining study of environmental, social and economic issues it was noted that "57 acres of high quality wetlands will be restored to replace those affected by operation". It was also stated that while "the project will not threaten the continued survival of any endangered species...several endangered species have been found around the area of the mine". While the idea of restoration would seem to make the mine more palatable, the actual restoration of an area such as this is highly complex, if not unrealistic. In addition to the damage that will be the direct effect of the opening of the mine, the process of mining will lead to lowered water levels resulting in changes to the vegetation of the wetlands. Aldo Leopold noted that every part of a biotic community is necessary for the health of the system. In "The Land Ethic" he noted that "a system of conservation based solely on economic self-interest is hopelessly lopsided. It tends to ignore, and thus eventually to eliminate, many elements in the land community that lack commercial value, but that are (as far as we know) essential to its healthy functioning".

In an article entitled *Wisconsin's Mining Laws: How Tough They Aren't*, M. J. Dewley discusses the pipeline that would dump the mine wastewater in the Wisconsin River. He states that, "because the nearly pristine Wolf River is protected from pollution discharge, that option would

have required the Crandon Mining Co. to build what probably would have been the most effective waste water treatment plant in the country. Instead, the company... proposed building a waste water pipeline to the Wisconsin River, which has much lower standards for industrial discharge". The quality of Wisconsin River water, as well as the quality of life in towns located along the Wisconsin River is also at issue here. The public concern over this can be documented in the number of counties, towns and villages throughout the state that have passed resolutions opposing the building or operation of the 38 mile pipeline to the Wisconsin River.

I am not without compassion for those who look at the mine as an economic shot in the arm to the Northwoods. If indeed this were a long term solution to unemployment and other economic woes of the area, there might be some merit to the project. The 15 - 30 year life span of the mine, however, does not compensate for the environmental dangers inherent in the project. Add to this limited usefulness the potential funds that would be needed to clean up the hazardous waste site, and the economic advantages disappear.

The state of Wisconsin, with its history of environmental leadership, needs the minimum protection of our water resources provided by Senate Bill 3. For the health of our state, for the beauty of the area, and for the good of future generations it is important that we take our time and carefully consider the ramifications of our actions in the long term before forever changing this valuable state resource. " To respect the natural environment means to steward the potential which the Creator has infused into it and out of which human interaction proceeds. The natural environment is an ordered whole, and upon this order it is willed by God that man establish his civilization. It is essential that every type of activity and alteration of the environment becomes carefully evaluated, not only on the basis of economic considerations, but also with attention to the possible risks of destruction to the environment. Respect for the environment is a gratitude toward God , and activities concerned with preserving the beauty of the natural environment are not far from being a form of praise and worship." (*And God Saw That It Was Good*, from the essay " Ecology: The Bishops of Lombardy Address the Community", The Catholic Bishops of Northern Italy)

Laura Barnett
915 Minnesota Ave.
Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715) 344-3094

and
Michael Brown
Diocese of La Crosse
3710 East Ave. So.
P.O. Box 4004
La Crosse, WI 54602-4004

Platts District to
Committee Members

Committee Chair and Members

I am in Favor of AB-70

My name is Danny Fote and I now live in Trempealeau County with my wife Sylvia and my 2 children, Emily and Matthew. I was born in Pennsylvania and also lived in West Virginia and I have seen ACID MINE DRAINAGE. You can get a really good deal on land out there if you don't need a well. My Dad tells me stories of the great fishing trips he went on with my Grampa + Great Grampa. When I went out there I couldn't find these clean rivers full of fish. My wife and I decided on Western Wis to live and raise our family. Wisconsin has so much to offer. Clean abundant water, wildlife, good people. We taught my children to be environmentally conscious. We also taught them that people are important.

I don't think allowing the mine in Cranston makes any sense at all. They can't guarantee the liner in the holding pond will last for ever. Why should we gamble our water on this so called modern technology. They have shown they're not responsible by their actions in Alaska and their failure to pay anything to them.

Back home in our county things have been happening. Leases were signed and we realized

we had NO protection. The County ^{BOARD} assigned a committee of zoning and conservation persons to draft a Metallic Sulfide Mining Ordinance. After they did this we had a public hearing where everyone expressed their opinions and brought forth important information. They realize there were a lot of holes so they encouraged citizens to help by giving them anything they had. We put together packets, video taped interviews and put a lot of time and research to help. If you can't BAN them you have to regulate. We're still not done yet.

Last week we found out leases have been signed in Jackson County. They don't tell anyone they have done this. They're sneaky and Underhanded. We got a meeting together sat night May 10th and shared our experiences with them. At the meeting we found out the mining Co had already done exploration. Now I feel they tried to get in and out without anyone knowing they were there. That sulfide ore taken out of those holes was exposed to the air starting the sulfide acid process. Did they put it back in the holes contaminating the ground water. The point I'm trying to make is there are too many unanswered questions.

We can't count on the DNR or the Honesty of the Mining Company so we need the protection of AB-70. Please help to pass this.

Thank you
Danny Foote

W-14233 BEAR CREEK RD.
BAIR WI.
54616

Left

SB3 Public Hearing
5-12-97

(Statement by Jane Silberstein
Rt 3 Box 8583 Washburn, WI)

I am Jane Silberstein. I live in Washburn WI on the Chequamegon Basin of Lake Superior. I support SB 3 for many reasons, but here are two. 1) Lake Superior has been declared the site of a Zero Discharge Demonstration Project by the International Joint Commission-- that is, the zero discharge of nine persistent, toxic and bioaccumulative chemicals. Any mining activity occurring in northern Wisconsin in the Lake Superior Basin represents a potential threat to Lake Superior and the watershed, thus in conflict with the spirit and intent of this internationally-endorsed project; 2) with solution mining so clearly a potential environmental threat, controversy will most certainly follow any solution mining proposal. Controversy is expensive. This process is expensive. One can only ask, why are not the resources of the State being directed either toward alternative technology or alternatives to the substances being mined? One day these non-renewable resources will be exhausted. What then? Are we ready with other alternatives to the substances being mined or, better yet, alternative means for achieving an acceptable quality of life that precludes the need for mined substances?

I ask this Committee and other State decision makers to look to our future and take the lead ~~by putting us on a~~ by taking creative and progressive approaches in addressing potential threats to our environment ~~by~~ seeking alternatives to costly, controversial and potentially hazardous activities allegedly serving the common good.

#51 Deanna Brown
N30924 Trump Coulee Rd
Taylor, WI 54659

In Favor of The Sulfide Metallic Mining Monitorium Bill
My name is Deanna Brown. I live in Trempealeau County, where Flambeau Mining has signed leases for exploration and possible prospecting of metallic minerals, where they began exploration without notification of the County Board.

We have been told that Wisconsin has strong mining laws. Yet mining has been exempted from tax laws, ground-water laws, and tailings backfilled into an underground mine are exempt from the usual requirements for disposal of solid & hazardous wastes.

The DNR is allowed to make exemptions from even these weakened laws.

The Flambeau Mine in Rush County was to be 300' from the river.

The mine was allowed to be constructed within 140' of the Flambeau River.

The Sulfide Metallic Mining Monitorium Bill requires that ONE mine be shown to have operated and closed down for 10 years without causing significant water

pollution. Just ONE! Mining has stated that they have a list of mines that meet this requirement. Then how is this bill a ban? How is it anti-mining?

The Flambeau Mine in Rush County has been cited as exemplary in meeting water quality. For arguments sake let us say that this is so. Let's see if they still meet those standards 9 years from now when the "spotlight" is off of them; when these hearings etc. are finished. When only the DNR is watching them.

I am glad to hear that Flambeau Mining has shared some of their multi-million dollars of profit with Ladysmith. I hope that when clean up ~~is~~ ^{is} needed to be done that they will share the costs ~~with~~ taxpayers will be asked to pay.

If ~~the~~ mine is started it is PERMANENT. Now is the time to protect citizens and our environment, not after an accident has occurred and we are given bottled water.

Written Statement Since I Will Not
Have Time to Speak Tonight

Jan Schnell, D.V.M. Jan Schnell left
16244 S. Swedish Hwy Dairyland, WI 54830
715-244-3881

I am a veterinarian from
Douglas County. I would like to
speak on behalf of the citizens of
Dairyland and Blaine townships who
voted for a mining moratorium
many years ago.

Please honor the will of the
people. The present Mining Moratorium
Bill is excellent and very widely supported.

I urge the committee to move this
issue to the floor of the Assembly.
Only then will we see real democracy
work. Do this in the present session - now.

Good Day Ladies and Gentleman

I have come here today to ask you to take a message back to Madison with you. The message is, this mining moratorium bill is crucial for the state to have to protect the states valuable water resources as well as the health and well being of the states population of people, and the future economic viability of the state. I would like to express my personal beliefs as to why this bill is so extremely important.

The March, 1972 issue of the 'Engineering and Mining Journal' quoted the chief of the metal mining division of the U.S. Department of the Interior as saying that "Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota would be the largest copper and nickel producing area in the U.S. by the year 2000". For the last twenty five years and more this nations, and other nations, mining companies have been exploring for and planning for long term mining ventures in this state. One of the major obstacles to this venture has been the high sulfide concentrations found in the ore. A Canadian company has seemingly found a solution to the problems associated with the processing of high sulfide ores.

The Copper Range Company of Michigan, whose parent company is INMET a Canadian corporation, is currently seeking permits for a new state of the art smelter, to be built at their facilities four miles from Lake Superior in the UP of Michigan. This new smelter will generate the same highly toxic wastes associated with smelting high sulfur ores that other smelters generate, however this facility has found a unique way to deal this waste.

Copper Range Company is also seeking permits to solution mine its' old abandoned mine workings. The waste product of smelting high sulfide ores is sulfuric acid usually laced with high concentrations of assorted heavy metals that do not economically justify extraction. Copper Range plans on using the sulfuric acid wastes generated by the smelting process to solution mine its old workings. In the process of solution mining, the solutions used are considered wastes associated with mining and in so become 'exempt' from federal regulation as hazardous waste. This exemption is commonly referred to as the Bevill exemption. If a million gallons of this sulfuric acid waste are used to procure even one pound of copper, that million gallons is then considered exempt as hazardous waste and can be abandoned in the mine working without treatment. Copper Range is currently seeking permits to abandon seventeen billion gallons of this waste over a twenty year span.

If the smelter and the solution mining permits are granted then there will be a huge demand created for ores to be extracted in a close proximity. The reason for this is that transportation costs and the current unpredictable markets for copper make this venture unprofitable unless there is a nearby supplier of ore. It is by no means a coincidence that these permits, and the current permits being sought to mine sulfide deposits in Wisconsin are happening at the same time. For the last several decades now mining companies with offices around the world have been looking to develop a mining district in Northern Wisconsin. With a

processing facility for the ores and a dump site for the wastes nearby, the pieces are now all falling together.

I have looked long and hard at the issues associated with mining and the processing of ores and have found that current technology available to us as human beings leaves future generations once again the caretakers of our past mistakes. Today's technology does not meet the needs of future generations that are associated with mining sulfide deposits. In twenty years perhaps we will be able to say something different. This bill is crucial to protecting the state's interest in long term environmental health and also the health of those to come. I ask today that the people making decisions that will affect Wisconsin residents for thousands of years to come, please wait till it can be done safely.

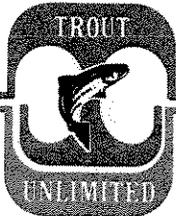
The Michigan DNR is planning on overseeing the treatment of inflow water to its White Pine Mine for perpetuity. That means forever. Is the Wisconsin DNR and associated government agencies willing to get into situations that need to be handled forever? More importantly, are the people of this state willing to enter into ventures that will need to be monitored and controlled forever? I do not come here today to ask for a moratorium on mining forever, just for a time span that allows technology to develop a safer approach. Let's not put the state of Wisconsin in the 'forever boat' with Michigan.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely

Jeff Fairchild left

Jeff Fairchild
Rt 1 box 5
Mellen, WI. 54546



Left

Remarks of John W. Welter, Vice-Chairman of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council
To Assembly Environment Committee
May 12, 1997
Ladysmith Public Library
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Chairman Duff, Members of the Committee:

Good Afternoon. I represent the State Council of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, a group of almost 3,000 dedicated trout anglers in 21 chapters around the state. The mission of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is to "Protect, enhance and restore the cold water resources of this state." To that end, our members work hard in their local areas in stream improvement projects, in educational programs and to help the public become aware of threats to our resources.

Our members have fished throughout the American west and have seen the tragic aftereffects of mining on trout streams--leaking tailings ponds, acid drainage--and don't want to see those things happen here. We are concerned about the effects on groundwater as well, and believe that present mining proposals must assure that **NO ADVERSE EFFECTS** will result to our streams and groundwater from any metallic sulfide mining operation. Right now, we have no such assurance.

We join with the conservationists across the state who voted overwhelmingly--by a vote of 851 to 13-- at the April Conservation Congress hearings to urge you to pass AB 70 and put this moratorium into place. There should be no rush to approve mining permits presently being considered. Those ore bodies will stay in place unless they are removed by mining. They can wait while the state and its citizens require full protection of our resources from any mining operation.

Our concerns about the environmental threat posed by metallic sulfide mining lead us to urge your support of Assembly Bill 70, as overwhelmingly passed by the State Senate, and to urge that the Assembly make a strong statement in supporting the bill as well.

Thank you.

John W. Welter, Vice-Chair, State Council
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
2211 Frona Place
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701
715-833-7028

71

WALLEYES FOR TOMORROW MEMORANDUM

TO: ASSEMBLY NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FROM: TOM SOLES, PRESIDENT
DATE: MAY 12, 1997
SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 70 TESTIMONY AT HEARINGS AT
LADYSMITH CHAIR: MARC DUFF

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING AND LETTING THE PEOPLE
SPEAK

THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRANDON MINE AND FLAMBEAU
MINE- THE TAILING PILE THAT WILL BE LEFT BEHIND AT CRANDON
100 FEET HIGH AND 1/2 SQUARE MILE- THE LARGEST HAZARDOUS
WASTE PILE IN WISCONSIN!

THIS TAILING PILE WILL BE A ECOLOGICAL DISASTER WAITING TO
HAPPEN FOR THE NEXT 10,000 YEARS. A FLOOD OF A 1000 YEARS
COULD CAUSE A DISASTER:

REMEMBER THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER FLOODS OF 1993,
REMEMBER THE WEST COAST MUD SLIDES IN THE FALL OF 1996

ANY NATURAL EVENT EVEN A ANIMAL DEN IN THE SIDE OF THIS WASTE
PILE COULD START THE DAMAGE OF MIXING THE CONTENTS OF THIS
PILE WITH WATER AND AIR AND PRODUCING SULFURIC ACID. THIS
ACID COULD THEN EASILY CONTAMINATE THE RIVER AND DESTROY THE
FISH AND WILDLIFE THAT DEPEND ON THIS WATER TO SAY NOTHING OF
THE PEOPLE LIVING DOWNSTREAM.

EARLY ON THIS MINE WAS OPPOSED BY TROUT UNLIMITED WHICH WAS
CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE WISCONSIN BASS FEDERATION. WALLEYES
FOR TOMORROW PASSED A RESOLUTION AGAINST THE MINE AFTER CO-
SPONSORING A MINING INFORMATION MEETING AND LISTENING TO THE
ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST FOR OVER A YEAR. MUSKIES INC,
STURGEON FOR TOMORROW AND THE MUSKY CLUBS ALLIANCE OF
WISCONSIN ALL HAVE PASSED SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS THAT SUPPORT
THE MINING MORATORIUM. THESE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENT THE
CONCERNS OF MANY THOUSANDS OF SPORTSMEN THROUGH OUT
WISCONSIN.

I AM A LIFELONG REPUBLICAN AND HAVE SUPPORTED AND DISCUSSED
MANY ISSUES WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OVER THE YEARS .
WHAT STRIKES ME AS STRANGE, IS THE SUPPORT THE LEGISLATIVE
MEMBERS GIVE WITHOUT ANY REASONS TO BACK UP THEIR SUPPORT OF
THIS MINE.

PHONE 414 924 7660 FAX 414 924 9330
P O BOX 1556 FOND DU LAC WI 54936-1556

IF THIS IS ABOUT 400 JOBS IN FOREST COUNTY FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS, WHAT ABOUT THE 600,000 CITIZENS WHO LIVE IN THE COUNTIES DOWNSTREAM? MANY OF WHOM DEPEND ON THE RIVER FOR THEIR DRINKING WATER, OSHKOSH AND APPLETON TO CITE A COUPLE. THE PAPER INDUSTRY DEPENDS ON THE RIVER TO PROVIDE QUALITY WATER TO MAINTAIN ALL THEIR EMPLOYEE'S JOBS

I KNOW THE LEGISLATURE HAD GOOD INTENTIONS WHEN THEY PASSED THE ENABLING LEGISLATION IN THE 1970'S AND 1980'S

I KNOW THE MINING ENGINEERS HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS WHEN THEY SAY THAT THEORETICALLY IT SHOULD WORK

I KNOW THE LATEST PROPOSAL THAT THEY USE "PROVEN TECHNOLOGY" IS INTENDED TO MAKE THE TAILING PILE SAFER.

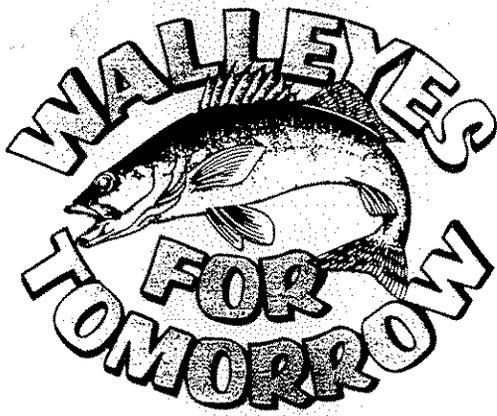
GEORGE MEYER SAYS THE DNR'S STATED GOAL TO CLOSELY FOLLOW THE LAW AND REGULATIONS OF THIS MINE AS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE

GENTLEMEN THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.

MINING COMPANY- TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE AND NOT DAMAGED THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE WE TURN OVER THE HEADWATERS OF ONE OF THE BEST RIVERS IN WISCONSIN TO YOUR STEWARDSHIP

GENTLEMEN, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE THEM SHOW YOU WHERE THEY HAVE OPERATED SAFELY. THESE RESOURCES CAN REMAIN IN THE GROUND FOR A FEW MORE GENERATIONS UNTIL THE MINING COMPANIES GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER AND SHOW US THAT THEY CAN ACT RESPONSIBLY.

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE DO IT!



Newsletter

Winter 1996-97

Walleyes for Tomorrow P.O. Box 1556 Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1556 (414) 924-7660

Crandon Mine poses future harm

Sulfide discharge, tailings could affect Wolf River

For the past year, Walleyes For Tomorrow has patiently listen to discussions about the Crandon Mine permit process.

WFT even co-hosted an Appleton meeting with the Shadows On the Wolf organization with the mine representatives and the public intervenor's office.

Sufficient answers, however, have not been given about the tailings and the possible resultant sulfide discharge of the mine, which could greatly affect the Wolf River and the area wildlife.

Thus, WFT has taken a position in opposition to the mine.

The DNR says that it will follow

WFT Editorial

the rules that the legislature created to determine whether to permit this mine.

A big problem, though, is that the mining interests helped write the law, which the legislature passed back in the 1980s and DNR Secretary George Meyer says that they will adhere closely to in the permitting process.

How can the permits not be issued if the mining interests were instrumental in writing their own permitting laws?

It is the consensus of our board of

directors that until it can be shown that a similar mine anywhere in the world has been successfully closed for a good many years, we do not want our Wolf River to be the testing grounds of their new technology.

This great mineral resource can remain in the ground for our future generations to exploit when the capping technology has been proven through real experiences elsewhere in the world.

Failure of the cap of the tailings pile will result in devastating impact to the communities and people and fishery and wildlife downstream.

It will also negatively impact our

Please see Crandon, Page 2

Crandon

Continued from Page 1

income and your taxes generated by the recreational water users and values associated with our great river.

The fishing community is lining up solidly against the mine. Trout Unlimited was the first to be on record against the mine. Also opposed to this potential disaster are B.A.S.S., the Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin and the Statewide Chapters of Muskies Incorporated.

WFT urges you to join the cause by writing or calling your legislative leaders.

State Senator Carol Buettner can be reached at (608) 266-5300 or through the legislative hotline at 1-800-362-9472.

Please see WFT Resolution

WFT RESOLUTION

Whereas the State of Wisconsin and the Department of Natural Resources has been charged with the responsibility of issuing a permit to allow mining in the Crandon vicinity, and

Whereas Walleyes For Tomorrow has an interest and the mission to protect the life cycle needs of walleyes and other fishery stocks, and

Whereas Walleyes For Tomorrow co-sponsored a discussion between the mining company and the state that included citizen input, and

Whereas Walleyes For Tomorrow has been unable to find any mind of this type anywhere in the world that has not caused extensive pollution downstream to the endangerment of the fisheries and wildlife for many decades.

Now therefore be it resolved that the board of directors and officers of Walleyes For Tomorrow, do hereby **register their opposition** to this mine

and

We urge the State of Wisconsin not to issue the necessary permits.

I was #53 and couldn't wait for my turn any longer.

Kathryn Wolf
4931 Hickory Trail
Middleton, WI 53562

I'm here today speaking on behalf of my parents who own property in Vilas County and who were unable to attend today's hearing due to my dad's recent surgery. My parents also speak for many other retirees who live in the Northwoods, residing there because of the beautiful natural environment with it's clean water for boating, fishing, hunting and wildlife observation. In fact, there is a large and growing population of retirees that now reside in northern Wisconsin and represent an important element of that economy. They also vote.

Nationwide, a growing cynicism exist towards both government and the large corporations who wield undo influence over the political process. This has created a climate of political mistrust and dissatisfaction that is also pervasive throughout Wisconsin. Given the polls and surveys that reflect approximately 80% of Wisconsin citizens oppose the EXXON-Crandon mine and unsafe sulfide mining in general, the issue of representative government becomes an issue in this vote, depending largely on how your committee handles this proposed bill. It basically boils down to whether or not our elected officials will represent the majority wishes of its constituency or will instead succumb to the pressure of large corporations like EXXON and RIO-ALGOM that have historically demonstrated a willingness to destroy the democratic process in order to enhance their bottom lines.

There is significant available documentation to this claim. We have already lost much of our democratic safeguards in Wisconsin with the elimination of the Public Intervenor's Office as a separate, nonpartisan protector of the environment and representative of the people. This, along with the politicizing of the DNR, which is now under the Governor's control, represents a substantial threat to public influence in policy determination. We've lost our crucial system of checks and balances in regards to environmental protection.

There is also a significant problem in placing unquestioned trust in the infallibility of science and especially in hired "expert" scientists. While numerous examples could be provided, let's recall not long ago when scientists placed our soldiers at ground zero during the nuclear tests in Arizona, New Mexico and other places throughout the United States. The soldiers were told by these "experts" that wearing dark glasses offered adequate protection against the blinding atomic explosion and that their proximity to the blast offered no radiation dangers.

In large numbers, Wisconsin citizens are asking for passage of the common-sense, Mining Moratorium Bill to give us a demonstration that this new, Star Wars mining technology can work safely - we can't risk our clean environment through trust in hypothetical computer modeling. We need an actual example versus an unproven, "so-called scientific" model.

Over 41 towns, cities and counties on the Wisconsin River have passed resolutions opposing the mine and/or pipeline; over 27 other counties, villages, towns, unions and organizations have followed suit; 10 additional counties, town and organizations have passed resolutions opposing mining in general; and over 67 other Wisconsin organizations support the Mining Moratorium. We are at a crossroads. With over 20 additional sulfide mining sites being explored throughout the State for mining, you have a role in helping to decide if Wisconsin's legislature will expose it's beautiful environment, clean drinking water to an experimental technology at the urging of corporate profit or will it represent the will of Wisconsin's people and opt for a more conservative approach? What will the legacy of this Assembly reflect?

Nationwide sulfide mining has polluted 12,000 miles of the nation's waterways and 180,000 acres of our lakes and reservoirs. (not doomday, it's fact)

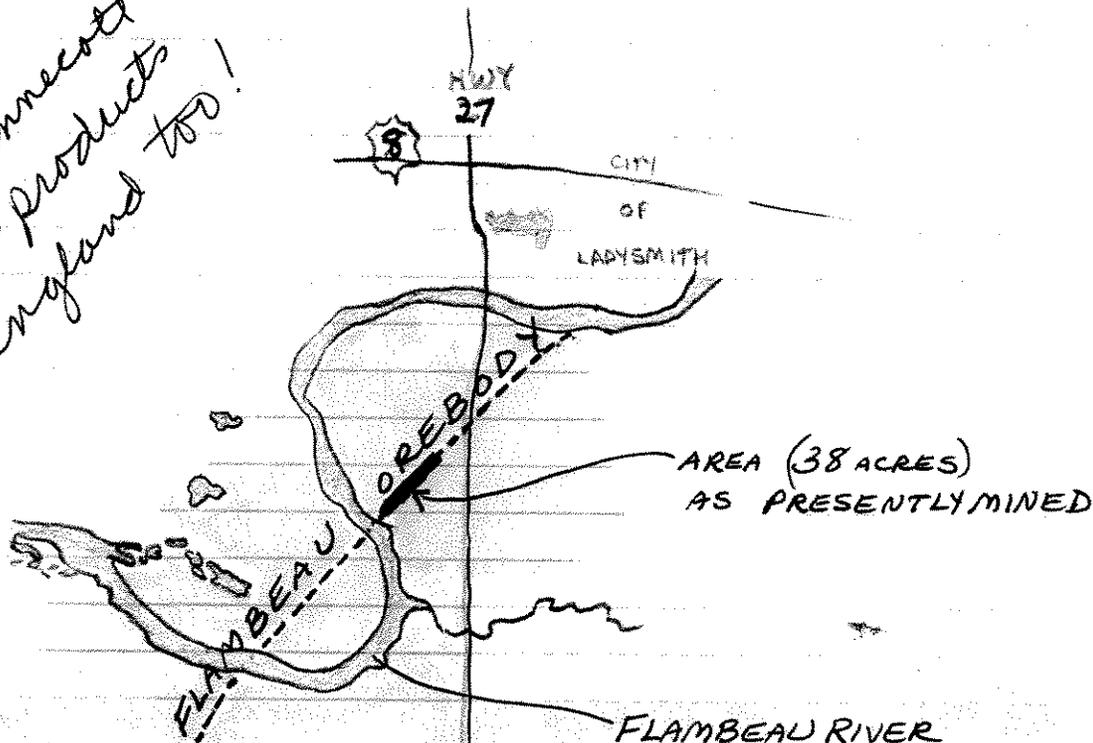
Kate Wolf and Jean Steg
PO. Box 416 Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

FLAMBEAU KENNECOTT GOLD - COPPER MINE

1st
Clare
Vanderlice

MAP & INFO FROM: SKILLINGS MINING REVIEW VOL. 84 NO. 4 (PUB. WEEKLY)
JANUARY 28, 1995 PP. 4-7

note:
The gold was
not typed
by-product. Set Kennecott
take the pyrite waste products
to Canada or England too!



(YELLOW)
AREA OWNED
OR CONTROLLED BY FLAMBEAU MINING CO., WHOLLY-OWNED OPERATING
SUBSIDIARY OF KENNECOTT COPPER
(SUBSIDIARY OF RIO TINTO ZINC - ENGLAND - WORLD'S LARGEST
MINING COMPANY)

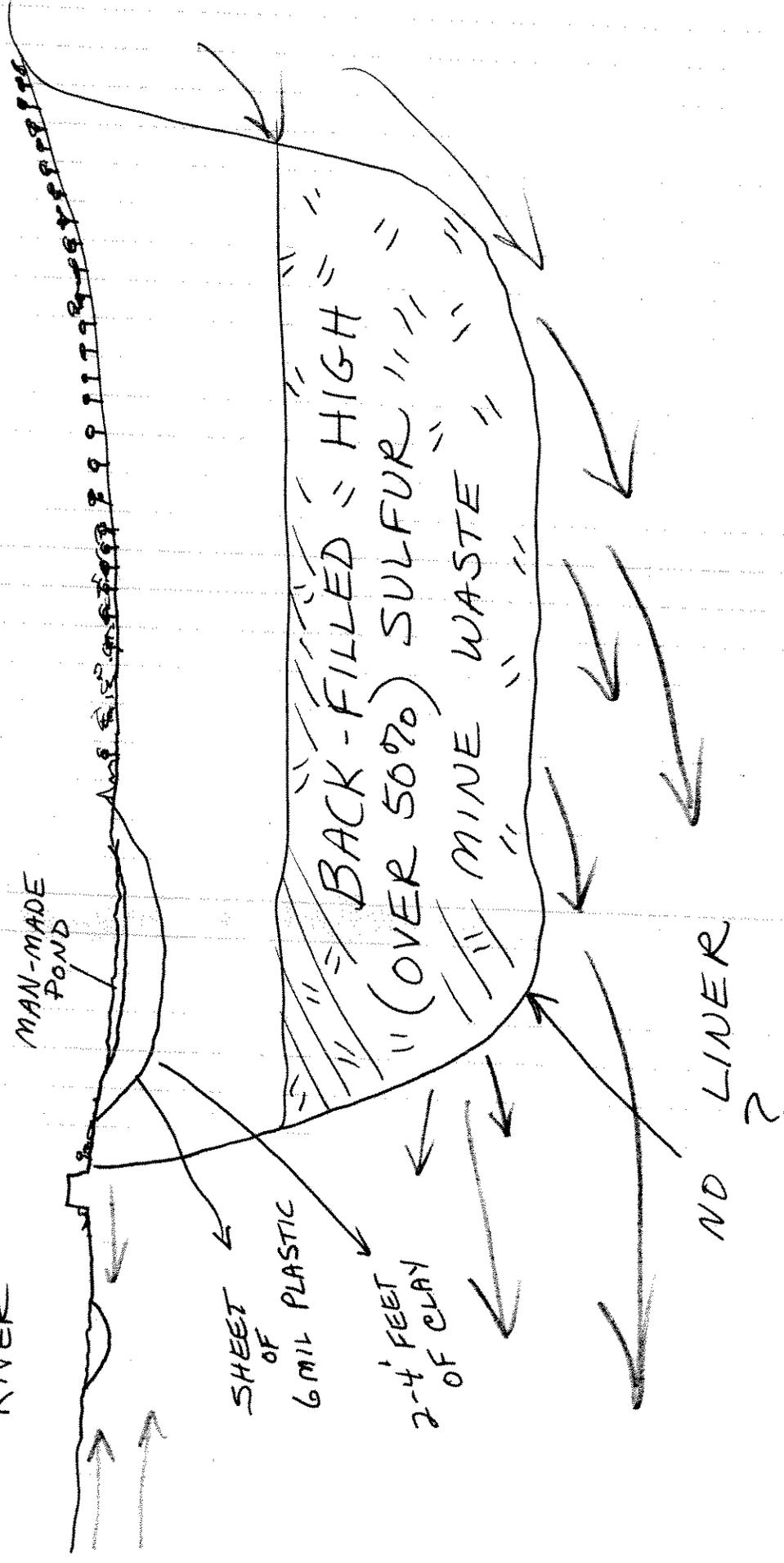
IN 1993 **FLAMBEAU RIVER** THIS 38 ACRES PRODUCED 88,000 OUNCES OF GOLD
(17% OF THE AMOUNT PRODUCED IN 1993 FROM BINGHAM CANYON
UTAH, RIO TINTO ZINC'S LARGEST SOURCE OF GOLD)
IN 1994 FLAMBEAU RIVER PRODUCED 60,000 OUNCES
(460,000 OZ AT BINGHAM CANYON)

THE KENNECOTT CO. HIGH-GRADED GOSSAN ORE FOR ITS
HIGH CONTENT OF GOLD AND COPPER. THE REST OF THE
DEPOSIT IS YET TO BE EXPLOITED AND LIES UNDER THE
FLAMBEAU RIVER.

SW ← NE

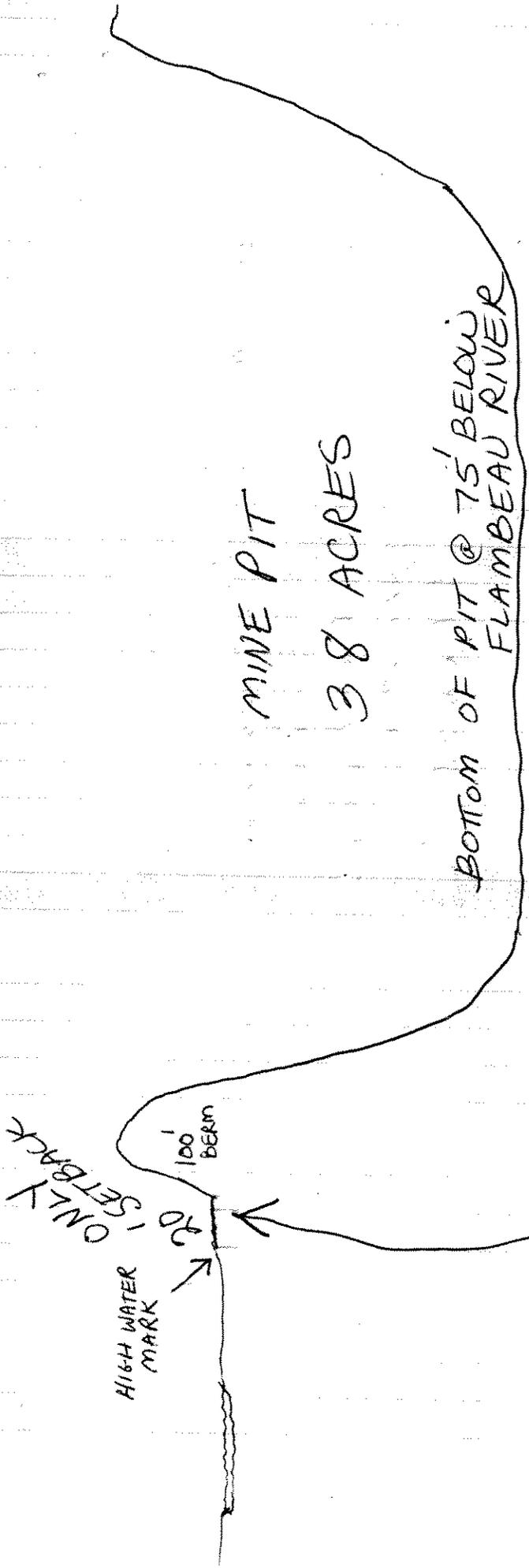
FLAMBEAU RIVER

MAN-MADE POND



INFO: FROM FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT FLAMBEAU
MINING CO. - COPPER MINE

CLAIRE
VANDERSHCE
MINING IMPACT COALITION



The zoning board of Ladysmith is responsible for Variance Violations like THIS!

Shoreland zoning for you and me — 300' from a river
 Variance given to Flambeau
 Mine by DNR — 140' from Flambeau R.

Barbara Frank N1965 Valley Rd. LaCrosse WI

5/12/97 Public Hearing on SB3/AB70
Metallic Sulfide Mining Moratorium
Ladysmith, WI

Chairman Duff and Members of the Committee:

My name is Barbara Frank and I reside in LaCrosse, WI. I am here today representing the Coulee Region Group of the Sierra Club and the LaCrosse Co. League of Women Voters.

Both of these organizations support SB3 and AB70, the Mining Moratorium legislation.

We believe the Exxon Mine at Crandon has the potential to do great harm to our ground and surface waters. We are particularly concerned about long term human health costs from unsafe drinking water and the impact of environmental degradation on our tourism industry. In fact many of our industries, including agriculture, need safe clean water. What safeguards, provisions and monitoring capability and funding mechanisms are in place. Human systems are fallible, even with good intentions. How could we clean our waters once contaminated?

We cannot afford to put the people and natural resources of this state at risk. Show

Cont'd.
Barbara Frank - 5/12/97 Mining Moratorium

as it can be done safely before you experiment
here.

For these reasons we support this Metallia
Sulfide Mining moratorium legislation.

Thank you.

Jim #50 + cannot stay, unfortunately.
Thank you for including this in the record.