

Dear Representative Duff-

Why do you hate the environment so much?

I understand the anti-environmental thrust of your remarks vis-à-vis the Exxon mine are typical of you.

We need to protect the environment as well as provide economic development.

Sincerely
Phil Erde.

NO reply

Duff's statement not fine by her

The people of Wisconsin need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, at a public hearing on the mining moratorium bill.

Let me give some background information. Exxon is proposing to dig a gigantic copper and zinc mine near Crandon. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover more than 200 football fields and be as high as a 10-story building.

During the hearing, Tom Ward of Crandon said to Duff: "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Gov. Thompson. Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona."

"Fine by me." This statement demonstrates the kind of callousness that could lead to putting toxic mine dumps in any number of Wisconsin counties.

- Laura Furtman, Webster

DNR may not act in our interest

Oh look, Milwaukee! We now have Gov. Tommy Thompson's appointed Natural resources secretary, George Meyer, acting as a cheerleader for Exxon in a half-page ad, seen in the Journal Sentinel Aug. 10.

And now we even get a personal written guarantee that our Wolf River will be protected — despite the fact that the Department of Natural Resources has not yet issued an environmental impact statement on the proposed Crandon mine.

I used to think the DNR was the citizens' voice for environmental protection, but it appears the governor has made his top DNR officials Exxon's public relations puppets.

People of Wisconsin, wake up and get yourself educated about this issue before the Crandon Mining Co. and the DNR turn our North Woods into a sulfide mining district.

Bonnie Carey
Menomonee Falls

M35 8-19

Duff's mining remark meant to be humor

TO THE EDITOR:

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

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

tailings dump located near Rep. Black's district.

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

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

Pierce County Herald
6-11-97

4-22-97

Duff undermining bill

It's been more than a month since the state Senate voted to approve the mining moratorium bill (Senate Bill 3), 29-3. The bill awaits action by the chairman of the Assembly Committee on Environment, Rep. Marc Duff (R-New Berlin).

It appears, however, that Duff and Gov. Tommy G. Thompson have made another attempt to defeat or delay S.B. 3 from coming to a vote on the floor. Thompson's mining proposal included in the state budget and Duff's Assembly Bill 70 appear identical.

Neither would significantly improve our mining laws, and the terminology "proven technology" is undefined in the governor's proposal.

The mining moratorium bill,

on the other hand, is a common-sense approach to protecting Wisconsin's special North Woods environment from mining companies that have a history of pollution in other parts of the United States or Canada.

The language in S.B. 3 is strong and meaningful. It is not a ban on mining, as some pro-mining lobbyists have attempted to make it out to be.

State Assembly representatives who refuse to support S.B. 3 offer their constituents a clear indicator that they will place special interest groups above the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the state of Wisconsin — and assume unnecessary risks to our environment.

Bonnie Mayer
Wauwatosa

Writer tries to tie mining controversy to Hudson

Dear Editor,

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

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

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

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

they get done with it."

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

Laura Furtman
Webster

Hudson State Observer 6-5-97

Fine by who?

Sept 6-29

Dear Editor:

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

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

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

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

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

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.

(715) - 262-5474
Proctor Journal 6-19-97

**Do you want a
dump next to you?**
I am writing because I believe

Sunday Standard Press W.B. 0E:6

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

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

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Let it look over Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get done

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

It shows a great lack of sensitivity to the concerns of the people of northern Wisconsin and leads me to wonder if any part of the state is immune to exploitation by the mining industry. It's no secret that other potential mining sites have been identified close to La Crosse and Eau Claire.

Based on Duff's statement, even Union Grove is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, no, please speak up and voice your opinion to your state representative. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible.

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.

Republican takes state Assembly seat

Republican Joan Spillner became the Assembly's newest member Tuesday. Spillner of Montello was sworn in by Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, R-Waukesha.

Spillner defeated Democrat Jim Murphy of Portage in a special election last week to win south-central Wisconsin's 42nd Assembly District seat.

Republican Ben Brancel resigned the seat in October to become secretary of the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Mining moratorium vote slated for today

Pro- and anti-mining forces made last-minute appeals to sway votes in today's scheduled mining

moratorium debate that could affect the future of the proposed Crandon zinc and copper mine in northern Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's Environmental Decade urged Assembly members to vote for the bill as is and to reject amendments sought by pro-mining forces.

And a group calling itself the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin gathered Tuesday night on the Capitol Square to rally for the mining moratorium legislation.

But state Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, who favors amendments, called upon the Sierra Club to reveal its financial involvement in the coalition, which has done mailings supporting the bill. Duff wrote the state Ethics Board asking for an investigation of the

CAPITOL REPORT

JEFF MAYERS and MIKE FLAHERTY

Sierra Club's role.

Taxpayer group says tax levy up 5.2 percent

The state Revenue Department maintains Wisconsin's property tax levy rose very little after all credits were taken into account.

But the non-partisan Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance said a more reliable analysis indicates that after state property tax credits, actual taxes were \$5.2 billion, an increase of 5.2 percent over 1996.

The total property tax bill for schools in 1997 was up 2.5 percent to \$2.6 billion. County property tax bills totaled \$1.1 billion, up 7.2 percent; technical colleges charged property taxpayers \$371 million, up 5.9 percent; and municipal governments collected \$1.4 billion, up 6.4 percent.

To mining outsiders: It's our debate

A paragraph of warning to Earth First!, People for the West and other outsiders who have inserted themselves in the controversy over whether Wisconsin should permit Exxon to build a mine near Crandon:

We welcome your interest. We recognize that our debate has national significance in the choices America must make about how to use our land and our resources. But please understand that it is *our* debate. It focuses on specific, local issues — how this proposed mine would operate at the Crandon location. Don't try to reduce it to simple pro-environment or pro-private rights terms to fit your bumper stickers. And, above all, don't make a mockery of us or our process.

The warning is in order since Earth First!, a nationwide radical environmental group, on Monday staged a stunt, disguised as a protest, to

promote its agenda at Wisconsin's expense. Not content with a peaceful demonstration, members of the group made a loud, disruptive scene in front of the Crandon Mining Co. office in Crandon. After complaints from nearby store owners, the local sheriff asked the protesters to leave. They refused. Twenty-nine were arrested.

Wisconsin can benefit from reasoned discussion about the proposed Crandon mine. But self-serving noise like that generated Monday by Earth First! is not welcome. Nor would be any similar disruption from People for the West, an organization promoting private property rights and supporting the Crandon mine.

The decision on the Crandon mine needs to be reached by evaluating the evidence, not by waging guerrilla politics.

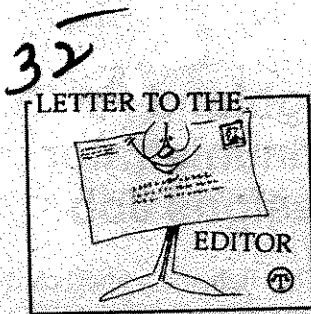
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Disputes Letter About Mine

I read with interest the letter written by Laura Furtman which recently appeared on this page. It appears that Ms. Furtman has once again chosen to lash out on the issue of metallic mining in Wisconsin without bothering to get her facts straight.

Under the guise of being a non-political Wisconsin resident, she has attacked me, Assembly Speaker and former Speaker Ben Brancel in a series of letters sent to newspapers throughout the state during the last months.

Although she claims she doesn't "know much about politics," Ms. Furtman is, in fact, quite an accomplished political operative. In addition to being a prolific letter writer, she is an active member of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, a group which vigorously lobbies members of the state legislature on environ-

Thursday, 1

mental issues.

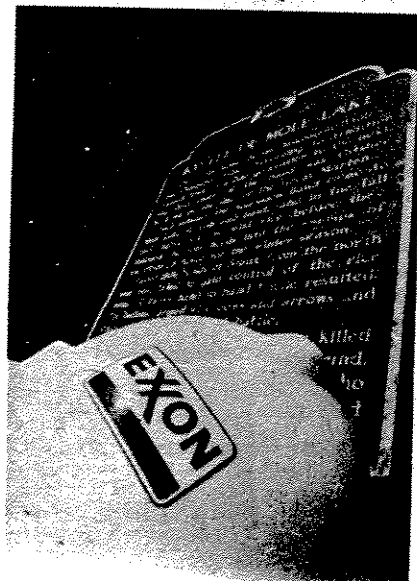
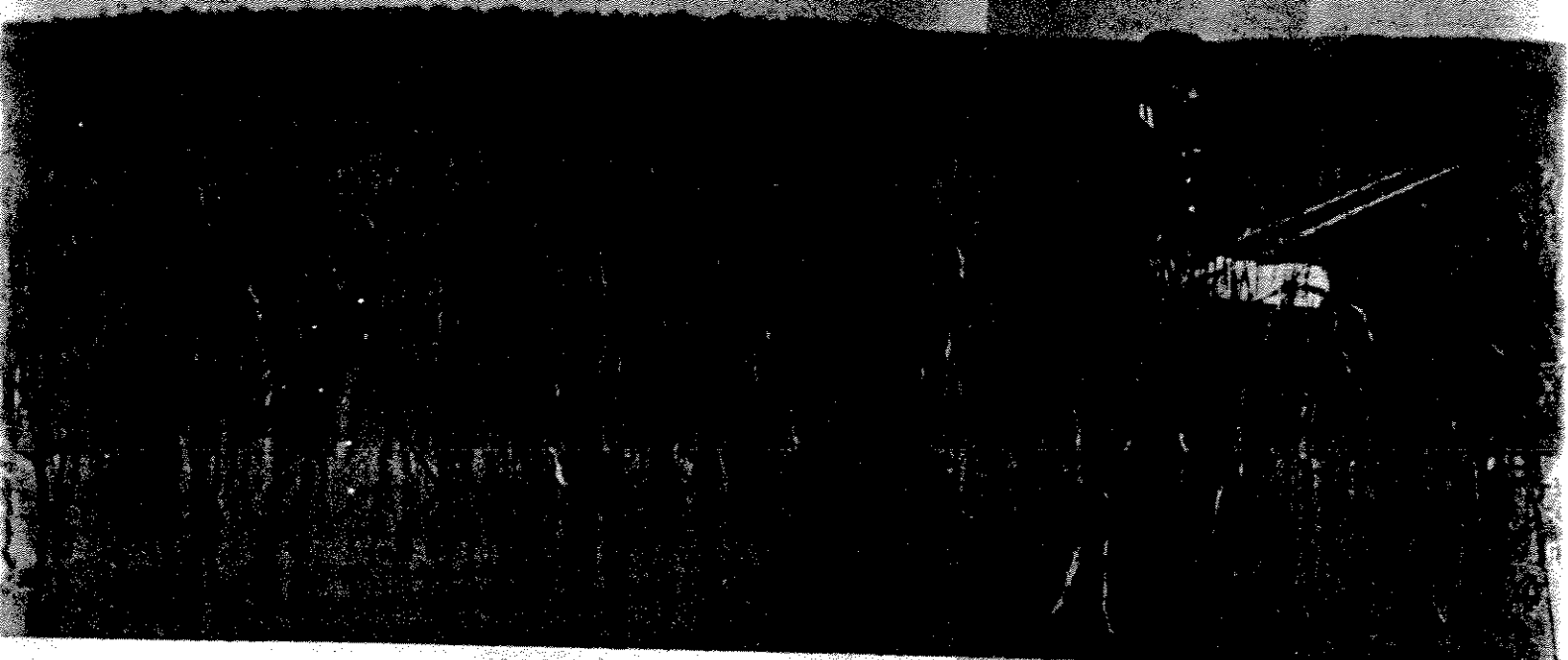
In the course of making her attacks, Ms. Furtman never once contacted any of our offices to ask about our plans for Senate Bill 3, the so-called Mining Moratorium Bill, which in its current form does nothing to strengthen Wisconsin's tough mining laws or to prevent the proposed copper-zinc mine in Crandon from moving forward.

Had Ms. Furtman bothered to contact us, she would realize that the Assembly Committee on Environment will be voting on SB3 November 11 and that Speaker Jensen will follow through on former Speaker Brancel's pledge to bring the bill to the Assembly floor for a vote if it passes committee.

It's too bad that Ms. Furtman is more interested in using editorial pages such as this one to fight her war of half-truths and unsubstantiated allegations than she is in entering into an open and honest debate on the issue of mining in Wisconsin.

Rep. Mark Duff,
Chair, Assembly Committee on Environment.

'HIS LAND IS



Will copper and zinc mining c

By Michael Bauman of Insight

HOWARD Cannon, a council member of the Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, was talking in a low, deliberate voice and people were listening to him as closely as they could because he was saying something that had the sound of history to it but at the same time was as new as today.

He was talking about mining, and he was talking about an ancient concept: "the Earth being our mother."

"It's very hard for Indian people," Cannon said, "to see the justification for digging up that mother in whose bosom all life is nurtured."

And there it is a classic conflict: a traditional concept of land preserved; on the one hand, putting the land to use for economic gain.

This conflict has been with a new generation. It will change the face of the land but also socially.

There are people who won't go away so easily. Some oppose

IS WISCONSIN LAND



zinc mining change the face of northern Wisconsin?

Photography by
Allan Y. Scott of The Journal

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And there it was, in one sentence really, the classic conflict: on one hand the spiritual, emotional concept of the land as home, a place to be preserved; on the other hand, the concept of putting the land and its resources to use for economic gain.

This conflict has come to northern Wisconsin with a new generation of mining that could change the face of the area, not only physically but also socially and economically. The conflict won't go away soon.

There are people who oppose mining vigorously. Some oppose it on environmental grounds,

worrying about forests, dairy farms and tourism. They say that northern Wisconsin is better off the way it is. Others oppose mining on what are essentially political grounds, worrying that the multinational corporations who would own the mines want to turn northern Wisconsin into a resource colony.

And there are people who support mining just as vigorously. They argue that the mines will be an economic boon to areas that traditionally have been depressed. They say — and in this day of recession and Reaganomics this has particular appeal — that not only will jobs be created in the

construction and operation of the mines but also that a secondary economy will grow up around them.

The mining companies contend they can mine without doing irreparable damage to the environment.

In between these positions is the vast middle ground of folks in northern Wisconsin who can see at once the potential for economic benefit and environmental detriment. They are not vigorously pro-mining or anti-mining; they are for mining if and only if the environment can be safeguarded.

Continued

and more northerners are beginning to understand the potential for development and to question its ramifications.

THIS Sunday and next, *Insight* examines mining and what it means for all of the state. This article looks at the Crandon project and its potential impact. Next Sunday's article will focus on the Kennecott copper find near Ladysmith and the continuing controversy over state regulation of mining.

These articles are written in part from the perspective that those people with concerns about mining have been underrepresented in news accounts of mining stories. The media have pounced on pronouncements of Exxon officials and state bureaucrats like so many household pets after table scraps, but too often the viewpoint of the communities that would be affected most by mining has been either underreported or simply untold.

One of the things that strikes people about the Crandon project is simply its size. Everything about it is big: big money, big minerals, big corporation, potentially big economic benefit or big environmental problem.

Even the State Department of Natural Resources, frequently considered by northern Wisconsinites as the epitome of truly big government, shrinks next to the vast resources of an Exxon. And the DNR is the lead agency regulating the Crandon project.

Add to that the fact that the state never has had to regulate a metal-mining venture of this magnitude and the fact that in the past most copper and zinc deposits have been found in isolated areas, and people began to realize that the more they knew about mining, the more they knew they didn't know.

IN THE Crandon area there has not been the vehement opposition to mining that has existed in Ladysmith, but people in Forest County are not exactly in a blissful daze about it, either.

In part, the relative level of acceptance has been due to a masterful public relations job by Exxon. Company officials have attended literally hundreds of meetings with citizens to talk about their plans and answer questions.

"Meetings, meetings, meetings — it seems to be a Wisconsin way of life," says Robert L. Russell, Exxon's manager for the Crandon project.

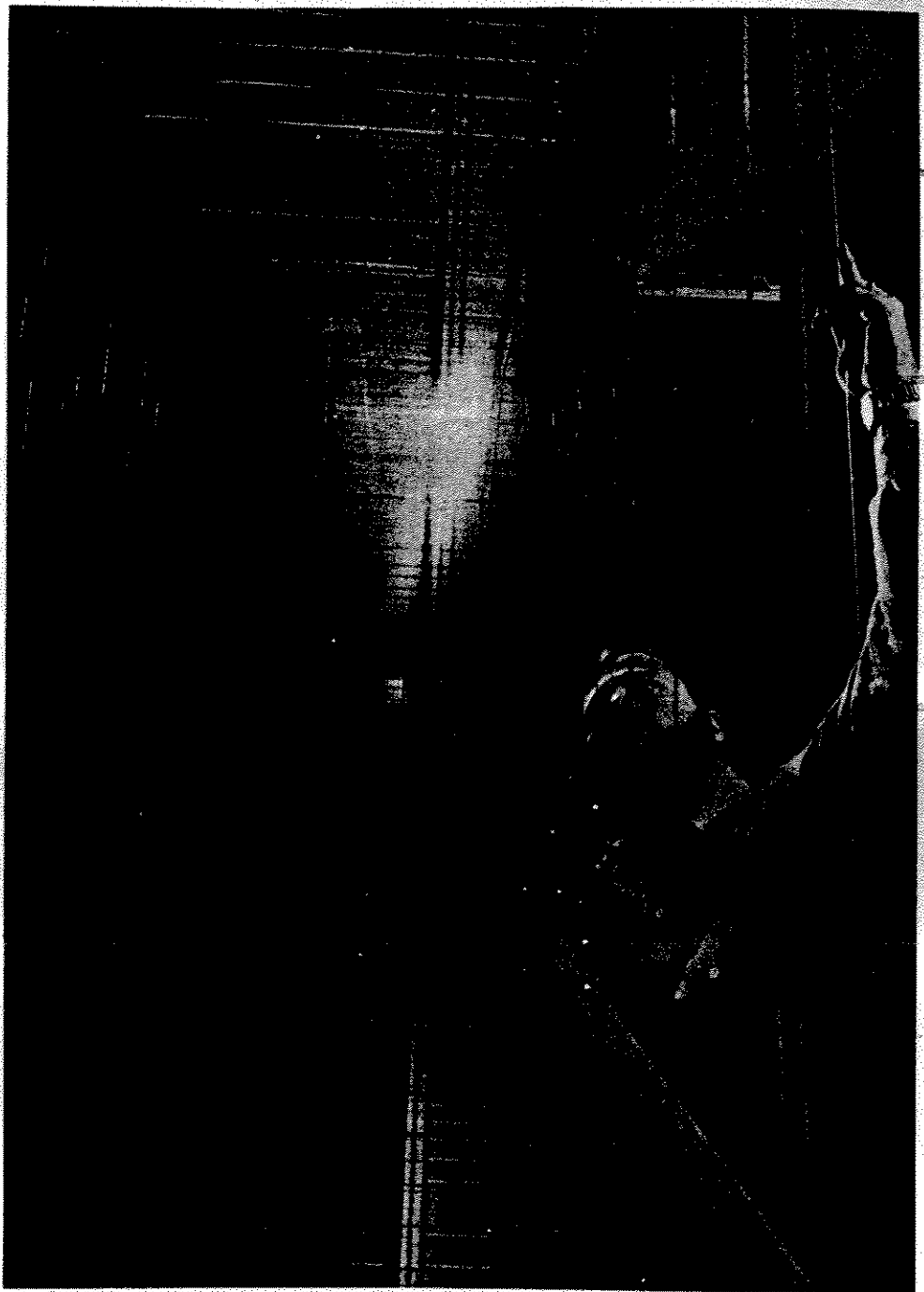
"Our approach has been one of being as communicative as we could relative to our plans. It's been a very open dialog, and we've tried to listen very closely."

Local officials appreciate the access.

"I can call them on the phone and ask any question I want and they'll answer me," says Crandon Mayor Gwinn Johnson. "They've been very cooperative, very cooperative."

Support for mining is more enthusiastic in the city of Crandon itself, where business stands to

Continued



John Pope, an Exxon laboratory technician working on the Crandon project, checks out his intricate, three-dimensional model of the ore deposit in Exxon's Rhinelander office.



gain from the mine, than in the two townships, Lincoln and Nashville, where the mine will be located.

"As far as the people here [in Crandon] are concerned, we have been a depressed area for many years, really, and now we could have a good economic change to benefit our area," Johnson says. "Plus, it could keep our younger people in the area."

Counters John Schallock, chairman of the Town of Nashville: "People from Antigo and Rhinelander talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. They would feel differently if they had a tailings pond in their back yard."

"When this mining thing first started, it sounded like a great big deal. Everyone thought they were gonna be millionaires. If you'd put it on the ballot now, 60% would say they wished they never had found it."

Adds Peter Davison, chairman of the Town of Lincoln's Mining Impact Committee and a member of the Forest County Board:

"Crandon welcomed Exxon with open arms, but people have just lately come around to the fact that there will be a lot of negatives about it. Those people who were treating the mine as a panacea are beginning to see that it might not be. They are becoming more concerned, both about environmental and economic impacts."

THE localities hope that they will not fall into the boom/bust syndrome of mining towns, yet they desire the benefits of increased employment opportunities. Exxon has pledged to hire preferentially in the area, although the specifics of that promise have not been pinned down yet.

Rob Kennedy, a lecturer in rural sociology at the University of Wisconsin —

Madison and president of the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), has worked on two major studies of the area and says the economic impact will be far different than the common perception.

Most of the high-paying jobs will require specialized skills and be difficult for locals to fill, Kennedy says. Prices will rise, in the boom-town setting, and so will taxes as demands for local services increase. So larger paychecks may not represent a real net gain.

And, Kennedy adds, "If you look at unemployment for the area and the size of the commuter zone, jobs are nowhere equal to unemployment; so competition for new jobs will be fierce."

Finally, there is the question of what happens when the mine closes (the life of the mine is estimated at 25 years).

"If they have a boom for 30 years," Kennedy says, "afterwards there's just no hope of filling the sort of economic space that's been created."

Some people in the area feel that the state is, as one resident put it, "hungry for that mining revenue." A selling point that Exxon officials use is that Milwaukee is a center for mining equipment manufacturing and that Wisconsin firms should be competitive for more than \$100 million of equipment purchases.

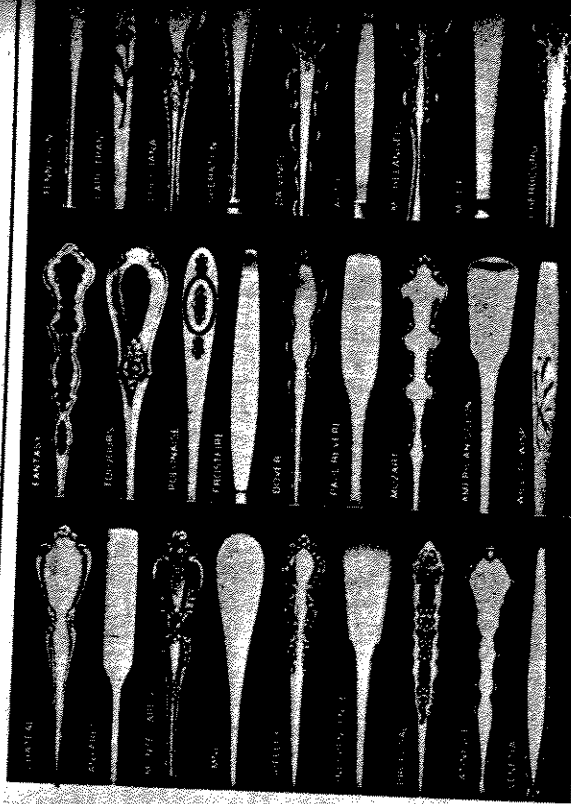
So local folks hope that their concerns don't get swept aside in a rush for mining money. Robert Netzel, Town of Lincoln chairman, says that the predominant attitude is "people will take mining when it comes, but they want to make sure it doesn't go wrong."

Residents want to make sure there is no damage to the tourist industry and to the North Woods environment, Netzel says.

"That's what we've lived on all these years. Mining will be a shot in the arm, but

Continued

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Forest County is one of the most studied pieces of real estate around. Curtis Fowler, Exxon's chief engineer for the Crandon project, points out the mine and tailings disposal sites, illustrated by geometric shapes on a huge wall overlay.

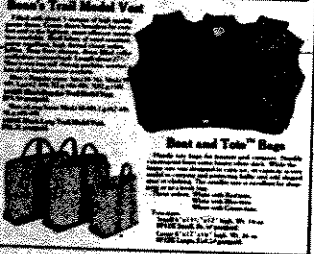


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when it's gone, are you better off or worse off?"

AND this brings up the central environmental issues. The main one is potential ground-water pollution, particularly from sulfuric acid generated by mine tailings.

Seepage from the tailings pond, an area where refuse mineral material from the mining operation is permanently stored, material that is high in sulfur content, can be a source of sulfuric acid.

Exxon has proposed a 600-acre, four-celled tailings pond. Exxon officials such as Russell and Barry Hansen, technical services manager for the Crandon project, speak at length and with no little pride about the fact that the technology involved is state-of-the-art quality and then some and that the environmental design aspects of the project have paralleled the engineering work.

They note that Exxon will spend \$150 million in capital costs alone for tailings disposal, waste-water treatment and reclamation.

But environmentalists note that with current technology, it's impossible to prevent seepage totally.

In the middle of this is the DNR. "There is bound to be some minimal degradation," says Robert Ramharter, an environmental specialist and DNR coordinator for the Exxon project.

The question then centers on the quality and quantity of whatever seepage there is and its effect on ground water — an issue that Ramharter says will be "critically important" in whether the state grants Exxon permits to mine.

(The DNR, by the way, has a wealth of mine-related material and encourages citizens with questions about mining to call its Madison office.)

SO THE question comes full circle: to the land and what it will be. And you come back to the people who lived here before Exxon or environmentalists and probably will live here after them.

Less than two miles west of the mine site is the Sokaogon Chippewa community at Mole Lake. Not much farther away to the north and east is the Potawatomi community of Forest County. Downstream from the mineral deposit — which is located in the headwaters area of the Wolf River — are the Menominee.

These three Indian tribes find their environments potentially threatened.

Officials of each tribe, however, realize that they cannot be too vocal publicly because at some point the mine may provide jobs to their people. Tribal estimates of

unemployment are 83% at Mole Lake, 92% among the Potawatomi and more than 60% among the Menominee.

The Sokaogon-Chippewa reservation is about 1,900 acres, a fraction of the land upon which these people used to live. The tribe contends that it was granted a much larger piece of land in an 1854 treaty, but the treaty, conveniently for the federal government, was lost. The larger piece of land contained what is now the site of the Exxon find.

"We like to say that if we had our original land, these things that have been beyond our circumstances would have been within our control," says Daniel Poler Jr., tribal secretary and chairman of the tribal mining-impact committee.

A primary concern is the well-being of the wild rice that grows on Rice Lake. Historically the rice has been a source of sustenance, a cash crop, and an integral part of the tribe's cultural heritage.

"It's a friend; it's a staple," Poler says. A historical marker at Mole Lake tells a small part of the story:

"Each summer, the Sokaogon Band came to Mole Lake to fish and hunt, and in the fall they harvested the wild rice . . . About 1806, bands of Sioux from the north and west tried to gain control of the rice beds. A fierce hand-to-hand battle resulted. The Indians, armed with bows and arrows and clubs, fought a long, hard battle. Over 500 Chippewa and Sioux were killed and buried in a common mound. The battle was expensive for the Sioux, who retreated and never again attempted to return."

Some Exxon environmental consultants who came to the reservation apparently did not take the time to understand the Indian values and ended up offending the tribe.

"They called our wild rice a weed," Poler recalls. "Even botanically, it's not a weed. Something like that sticks in my mind, that they would call our wild rice a weed in front of us."

Exxon in 1976 attempted to lease tribal land but eventually was turned down. Since then, seven other firms have approached the tribe. All have been turned away.

Federal agencies did exploratory work on tribal land for possible mineral deposits, with the agreement that the findings would remain secret. But federal officials later announced that it was likely there was a \$1 billion ore deposit on the reservation. Then they retracted the statement. Then they retracted the retraction.

They left the impression that the 280



From left, Michael Mapa, David Meisler and James Grimes of Exxon study a core sample from Crandon.

Sokaogon Chippewa were sitting on a lot of mineral wealth. While the tribe acknowledges nothing publicly, and while it is officially neither pro- nor anti-mining, it probably won't let its home be dug up.

"We are a small reservation," Poler says. "You don't like dirtying your own home, especially when it is a small one."

MAJOR mineral deposits also may be buried under the 12,000 acres of land owned by the 390 Forest County Potawatomi.

The Potawatomi have had problems with the federal government, too. Federal agencies explored their land, but "everything they told us was inconclusive; we finally told them to get the hell off our land," Jim Thunder, tribal chairman says.

Several firms have approached the tribe for leases and been rejected. In one case, one mining corporation attempted something of an end run when it made a deal with a railroad that apparently had retained mineral rights to tribal land.

"The BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) attorneys and everybody came in," Thunder recalls. "I told the bureau they'd be reading about us in the newspaper. Unless they want a mess of trouble, they're not gonna be on our land." Eventually, the Indian lands were deleted from the agreement with the railroad.

You cannot help but be struck by the tribal view of the future not as a few years from now but, literally, in terms of generations. It is particularly poignant considering that their economic plight, especially with the Reagan cutbacks in federal jobs programs, makes the surrounding depressed areas seem affluent.

"Indians historically are looking for survival," Thunder says. "You have to bal-

ance 30 to 40 years against the long-term effects.

"White people don't worry like that about what's going to happen in the future. Indians worry more about what's going to happen to their grandchildren.

"We don't want a big hole here for a reservation. When everything else is polluted, when the rest of the land is polished off, we're still hoping to be here."

LIKE the other tribes, the Menominee, with the help of governmental agencies, are in the process of gathering "baseline data," or information offering specific proof of what the environment is now against what it might be like later.

With 3,500 people on the reservation, the tribe is much larger than the other Indian groups, has more resources and has a larger and more skilled work force to draw from for mine-related jobs.

Yet, anyone who has spent time in this area knows what there is to lose: the beauty of the Wolf River and the wealth of undisturbed areas on reservation land, rich with animal and plant life.

The tribe increasingly is becoming involved in all aspects of mining issues. Menominee Tribal Planner Steven Dodge looks at this natural wealth and says that the tribe must progress but it must do so without endangering this setting.

"The tribe is not yet in a position to make a viable decision as to whether mining is good or bad," Dodge says.

"If there is going to be a mine up there, we would hope there would be an economic benefit. But we will do everything we can to see there is not an environmental detriment." □

Next week: Mining in Wisconsin, Part II



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The Shopper's Center



Landowners seek mining ban

By Bonnie Stowers
Special to The **SUN** **SIN**

Town of Nashville — Some property owners in the Forest County Town of Nashville have asked town officials to adopt a moratorium on metal mining. It was learned Sunday.

Exxon Minerals Co. applied in December 1982 to the State Department of Natural Resources for a permit to develop a 77-million-ton copper-zinc ore deposit near Crandon. Company officials estimated the cost of development at about \$1 billion.

Company officials have said the project would create 700 to 1,000 new jobs.

The moratorium was requested in letters from 291 residents and cottage owners to town officials and members of Concerned Nashville Taxpayers, organizers of the letter-writing drive, said George Rock of Green Bay, a spokesman for the taxpayer group.

"We do not feel that present state law protects local taxpayers from the costs of possible long-term environmental problems that could occur" because of mining, Rock said.

Rock, who owns a cottage in the Town of Nashville, said 119 letters had been sent to the town treasurer with property tax payments, and 172 had been sent to him.

"It is not clear whether a moratorium would be legally binding on the town, even if we were to pass one," said Supervisor Al Schafer of Picketal. The town has about 450 voters, Schafer said.

Schafer said he believed the moratorium is being sought "because of the many misunderstandings floating around about state mining laws and what their impact on the town would be."

The Town Mining Committee met Sunday to "clear up those misunderstandings," Schafer said.

Town taxpayers are especially concerned about a provision in state laws that Rock said "would allow mine firms to abandon tailing piles after a 10-year period, leaving the most of the long-term care to the taxpayers."

State waste cleanup funds "are probably inadequate," and Northern Wisconsin taxpayers "might not fare too well if we have to compete with more populous

areas for the money," Rock said.

Under present law, mine companies may apply to the DNR for permission to end their long-term responsibilities 10 years after a mine is closed if they can show that more care is not needed to protect human health or the environment, according to a report from Mark Patron-sky, staff attorney for the Wisconsin Legislative Council.

If early termination is approved by the DNR, the agency must assume responsibility for care and maintenance, Patron-sky said.

Cleanup costs arising from environmental incidents after a mine is gone would be paid from state funds under present law.

However, if early termination is not approved, a mining company is responsible for care and maintenance for 30 years after a mine is closed.

Rock said 85 town boards in the state have adopted moratoriums on uranium and metal mining.

A moratorium on uranium mining "has been in effect for some time," Schafer said.

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Not Ladysmith

To the Editor:
Ladysmith boom and bust. Critics of the mining industry often speak about this economic cycle to characterize how mining impoverishes a community once the ore is gone. I don't know what mines these people are talking about, but I do know they were not speaking of the Flambeau Mine in Ladysmith.

I wish those critics would come here and look for the poverty, unemployment and economic depression they attribute to mining communities. What they would find instead of living proof that mining can lift a community, not just while the mine is open but for many years after.

First and foremost, the Flambeau Mine was environmentally clean throughout its four years of operation. A sophisticated water treatment plant protected the Flambeau River and its excellent fishery. Now, Flambeau Mining Company is reclaiming the mine site in a careful and responsible manner.

The local economy? That story is even better. While the mine was open, it employed up to 70 people in family-supporting jobs, most filled by area residents. But that was just the beginning. The Net Proceeds Tax on mining brought an unprecedented level of funding for economic development. Through effective cooperation, local communities used this short-term boost to invest in a prosperous future. The fiscal results may not be in for several years, but here is a summary of the benefits today:

Total mining tax revenues to Ladysmith, the town of Grant and Rusk County: \$4 million through 1999; Total public and private investment as a result of mine-stimulated projects: More than \$25 million; New business space constructed or being planned: 427,700 square feet; Jobs saved or created so far: More than 300 - already in excess of four times the mine's employment.

How did we do it? In a word, planning. Even before the mine started, local governments began working to prevent the up and down cycles that can go with a brief mine project. Our goal was to produce long-term jobs, and we did that largely by investing mine tax revenue

to construct or renovate buildings for sale or lease to businesses. In many cases, matching grants helped us leverage mining dollars to pay for projects we never could have funded on our own. Our successes are too numerous to list here, but a few stand out:

Mine taxes paid for two 12,000 square foot industrial buildings in Glen Flora and Weyerhaeuser. The Glen Flora building is leased to a computer salvage and recycling firm; the Weyerhaeuser building houses Piccard Medical, which makes supplies to aid people with physical or medical disabilities. New jobs created totaled 40 and each firm plans to expand.

The Discretionary Payments Program administered by the state's Mining Impact Board paid more than 90 percent of the \$3 million cost of a new plant for Conwed, an office furniture manufacturer. This helped Ladysmith retain 100 jobs and the company has already added 30 more. The relocation of Conwed helped provide space for window manufacturer, Weather Shield, to expand and create 100 to 200 new jobs.

There is much more. A direct gift of \$500,000 from the mine, combined with \$250,000 in mine taxes from Rusk County and \$350,000 in mine taxes from the city, helped build the new Ladysmith library, which includes 9,000 square feet of lower-floor meeting space and activity rooms.

The mine provided matching funds to improve our airport. Mining revenues makes up much of the financing for a new building for Norse Building Systems, a maker of modular homes that chose to locate in the area, bringing 60 jobs.

The list continues. It may be years before Rusk County can calculate the full benefits of the Flambeau Mine. We do know that our economy is far stronger today than before we had the mine and that our future looks brighter than ever.

As Forest County residents look forward toward the prospect of mining in their community, they can expect the same benefits we have enjoyed - as long as they plan and cooperate as we did.

Al Christianson
City Administrator
City of Ladysmith

When you hold a conversation, don't forget to let go once in a while.

System doesn't work

To the Editor:
Anger, disgust, hatred, despair, anguish, frustration are just a few of the emotions that I continue to hear in the voices of the divorcing parents throughout the state of Wisconsin. They all ask the same question, "How did we get to this point?" The answer is quite simple. We, the general public were unaware and too trusting of our elected officials to do what we hired them to do. I am not blaming just the elected officials of the past or present because a lot of them have been misled by the "professionals" that are benefiting from the misfortunes of others.

In our current Family Law setup, the paid professionals are the only ones benefiting through the separation of the nuclear families. They hide behind the feel good term "Best Interest of the Children." The true "Best Interest of the Children" is served by an intact family consisting of both a mom and dad. In today's society, divorce is easy, common and destructive but that is the way it is.


Here are some startling statistics backed up by extensive research:

a: Girls from fatherless homes 111 percent (over 2X) more likely to have

unwed pregnancy; b: Fatherless children are twice as likely to become criminally involved; c: 72 percent of adolescent murderers, 60 percent of rapists and 70 percent of long-term prisoners grew up in father-absent homes; d: 87 percent of Wisconsin juvenile delinquents are a product of father-absent homes; e: 69 percent of victims of child sexual abuse came from homes where the biological father was absent; f: 75 percent of teens who commit suicide are from single parent homes.

These are just some of the facts of what this "system" is currently responsible for. There is current legislation in Madison that needs to be pushed along. There are bills before both the Senate and the Legislature that are in committees and going nowhere, SB202 and AB442. If you are concerned with the future of our kids please call your local representatives and voice your concerns. Your help is needed. Let the parents and not the "professionals" once again decide what is "best" for their own children.

Thank you.
Richard J. Frey
State President Families Action Assoc.
Trempealeau



When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost.

On this Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 1997, we remember all of our prisoners of war and those missing in action from all the wars. They gave us our freedom, we must never forget them.

*In the silence
Are the voices
Of our missing.*

*Pause and listen
We who hear
Walk for them
In places
They cannot go*

*Speak words
They can no longer say
And keep
Alive their memory
In the silence*

John G. Koller Jr.
Korea War Veteran
Millston

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Small Investor

To the Editor:
So, did you sit tight? I'll bet most of you did. Congratulate yourselves, for once again, Mr. and Mrs. Main Street have shown that when the chips are down, they own the table. I allude to a gambling metaphor because many people think of the stock market as a casino, a place where you place your bets and take your chances, and in a perverse sort of way, they are right.

Look at it this way. Let's say you walk into a casino and the owner walks up to you and says that if you want, you can run the place for the night. It sounds good until you realize that the house might have a bad night and you would be liable for the losses. No thanks, you say. A wise decision. Now, let's say that the owner offers you the place for a year. This, you think, is a totally different situation. You accept. Another wise decision. In the first scenario, you are a gambler, in the second, an investor. These are two completely different things. That is an obvious fact lost on a large number of people and institutions.

Take the evening news with Dan, Peter, Tom or if you prefer, Moe, Curly and Larry. When they report the day's action on Wall Street, they will talk of investors buying or selling. What they are really reporting on is the actions of traders. These people trade more in one day than most of us will trade in our entire lives. They trade on recent news, trends, rumors, rumors of rumors, whispers and astrology. They swap in the name of currency swings, interest rate quivers, and the intake of bromides by Alan Greenspan. They fling bonds and equities at one another like participants in a food fight. They do everything but the most important thing. They don't invest.

That brings us to the small investor. Years ago, this creature earned the disdain of Wall Street, and rightly so. He or she bought stocks because some broker told them it would make them rich in a week, week and a half at the most. The single in-

vestor would buy a company because it had a cute name or did something he couldn't even pronounce. Purchases were made on margin by people who wondered what that little pace on the edge of a sheet of paper had to do with buying stocks. Repeatedly, the small investor was fleeced, plucked and robbed. The little guy asked for it, and he got it. He wasn't investing. He was gambling.

Times have changed. The single investor is still asking for something, and it isn't the latest tip on what stock will be the next Wal-Mart; it's reliable information. Information, it's out there, and it's abundant and free. With it, a person can do the homework necessary to become a successful investor. More and more, people are taking it on themselves to provide for their futures with an expertise that the majority of those on Wall Street would find astounding. Whether it's mutual funds, solitary stocks and bonds, or a mixture, folks are asking questions, important questions, and they are getting answers. They are doing research, making comparisons, and getting advice from trustworthy sources. And they are doing just fine, thank you very much.

There are those who say that the small investor will panic, will become part of the herd that is trying to get out the door when the market takes its next tumble. Poppycock. The small investor has more mettle than Wall Street gives him credit. Investing isn't waving your fingers and sticking them in the wind, it's sticking them in your own when the herd does the door.

So let the traders of Wall Street bluster and babble. Let them speculate, theorize, and prognosticate. Let them smoke their cigars and express their concern for the poor unwashed who have interested themselves in savings on Wall Street. And then let them place their bets, for they will do, and we know who is holding the cards, don't we?

Gerry
Black River Falls

Outstanding service

To the Editor:
Karnar Blue Garden Club:

We are so impressed and appreciative of the fine work the Garden Club did this year and last year around our middle school. The flowers, shrubs and trees add so much to the appearance of the school. We feel that this project helps students grow in their appreciation of natural beauty, as well as

an appreciation of a dedicated group of volunteers who make a change. We are so impressed and appreciative of the fine work the Garden Club did this year and last year around our middle school. The flowers, shrubs and trees add so much to the appearance of the school. We feel that this project helps students grow in their appreciation of natural beauty, as well as

Sixth Grade
Allison
Brian Jensen
Nesje, Cass
Sara Toxson

(43rd Assembly District
Rep. Neal Kedzie)

Viewpoint

Times are heating up

by Representative Spencer Black



When we talk about the effect our actions have on our environment, we're usually talking about what happens to our local community or maybe our state as a whole. Sometimes, the discussion about our environment may even concern the entire country or continent. However, one environmental issue that has been in the news recently impacts not just our state or nation, but the entire planet.

Global climate change is a hard concept to grasp because it means that things we are doing to our environment could have a major and lasting impact on weather systems throughout the globe. A large majority of scientists (but certainly not all) have concluded that that burning of large amounts of fossil fuel (such as coal and oil) will dramatically change worldwide weather conditions.

Scientists have documented that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have increased by about 30% since the industrial age began. They believe that a higher level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will increase the "greenhouse" effect. The greenhouse effect is a natural phenomenon that traps the sun's heat and makes the earth habitable. However, enhancing the greenhouse effect by changing our atmosphere can warm the earth even more than natural.

Reports suggest that carbon emissions have already warmed the entire planet by one degree and will heat things up by several degrees over the next few decades. A few degrees warmer might actually appeal to Wisconsinites who find our winters too cold. However, even a small increase in average global temperatures can cause polar caps to melt which can cause the sea levels to rise. Since global warming will not occur evenly, scientists project climate changes will lead to new weather patterns with more frequent and more severe storm systems.

While some still dispute global climate change and global warming, the evidence is mounting. The decade of the 1980s was the warmest ever recorded by scientists and 1995 was the hottest year recorded in history.

Dealing with global warming can be an economic opportunity for Wisconsin. A recent study by the University of Wisconsin concludes that investing in energy efficiency (and thus reducing the emission of greenhouse gases) would be a good deal for the Badger state. The university study estimated that an investment of \$1.75 billion in energy conservation would reduce energy costs in Wisconsin by \$4.44 billion.

In December, world leaders meeting in Kyoto, Japan, reached agreement on taking action to stem global warming. Companies that sell fossil fuel (such as oil and coal interests) argue against taking action because they say it will hurt our economy and they say the problem of global climate change isn't real. Ignoring what the scientists say will not make the problem go away - it will only leave a mess for our kids. And the university study shows that, done intelli-

Letters to the E

Letter to the Editor

This letter is to Congratulate the Lady Cougars Junior Varsity Basketball Team for another fine year! It is high time that they get some recognition for their continued wonderful performances on the court. We always hear about the varsity teams, coaches and players in the paper, but never about JV.

This squad of talented young ladies has been a dominant force on the court since their middle school days. They had an outstanding freshman season with an undefeated 20-0 record. These girls averaged a 20-point win margin over their rivals. This even included Division 1 Janesville Craig and Beloit Memorial teams. One member on this squad also shattered the Clinton High School freshman scoring record! During their early days through the present, they continue to dominate over the older level girls on a regular basis. So far this year, they continue to be undefeated in conference play.

Of course, these girls could not have done it without the encouragement and help from their coaches. On behalf of the parents of these girls, I would like to thank the coaches: Mr. Perkins, Mr. Korh, Mr. Poepfel, Mr. Zahn, Mr. Powers, Mr. Witte, Mr. Cash and Mr. Greer for all that they have done, and continue

to do, with these girls.

A special thanks to Coach Powers for the excellent freshman season video he put together for the girls. If anyone would love to see these girls in action, contact Coach Powers for your copy of this awesome video. You won't be disappointed!

In closing, I would like to say,

Dear Editor,

If we retire in Wisconsin son's property sell our home leave our state Retired for cannot afford is two to the average an years when creases or to sell our friends, families are where the thousand.

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EXXON QUITS TO MINE NEAR MOLE LAKE

By [Name] (JPM)
Public opposition of
concern by Indian tribes
March, 1987

and environmentalists might have been added significantly to Exxon Minerals' decision to discontinue its search for a permit to mine near the Mole Lake Reservation.

Exxon pulled out of the permit process because "of factors they have no control over," suggested Dr. Al Gedicks, Director of the Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy.

Environmentalists and Indian tribes raised serious questions over the impact of a permit to mine a 75 ton copper and zinc deposit which they (Exxon) weren't able to resolve," said Gedicks.

The Sokaogon Chippewa, Potawatomi and Menominee tribes and environmentalists fought to ensure that ground water would receive adequate protection and the affected tribes would receive compensation and assurance and that environmental questions would be answered satisfactorily. Dozens of public events and hundreds of meetings were sponsored in the region by groups opposed to Exxon's plan.

Exxon's decision to quit the permit process came on December 10, but its management contends

the decision was on purely economic grounds.

"It's an economic decision," said Exxon's Permitting Manager Barry Hansen, citing low metal prices as the main factor in reaching the decision.

The Menominee Tribal Impact Committee welcomed the news but issued a note of wariness.

"No doubt, if market conditions improve, they will proceed to apply for all the necessary permits," said the committee. "Faced with the real danger of pollution of the Wolf River, we cannot accept Exxon reports at face value."

"We believe the Secretary of Interior has a trust responsibility to protect the resources of the Menominee tribe," the committee said. "We also feel the federal government in the past has failed much too often to properly protect the water resources throughout the nation. We cannot allow this to happen to Wolf River."

Wolf River flows directly to the Menominee Reservation, and Exxon's proposed tailing pond would have been located next to Swamp Creek, a tributary of the river.

The Mole Lake Reservation would have been only one mile from the mine site and the tribe was concerned the mining activity would affect their wild rice beds.

"We're happy Exxon has pulled out," said Tribal Chairman Arlyn Ackley. "It will give us some breathing room."

6021

MIL JOUR Exxon decision a shocker

Loss of mine called an economic bomb for a depressed area

DEC 11 1986

Journal staff, Special to The Journal

Crandon, Wis. — State officials and Crandon-area business people have reacted with dismay to the announcement by Exxon Coal and Minerals Corp. that it was suspending indefinitely the development of a copper and zinc mine south of here.

Exxon's announcement Wednesday took Crandon business owners by surprise, according to John Kronschnabl, owner of The Cedars Supper Club, located a mile north of Crandon, and a vocal booster of the zinc-copper mining project.

"It's definitely been a real setback," Kronschnabl said. "Exxon's mine has been a ray of hope that perhaps some prosperity would come, whenever."

Exxon cited low prices for the minerals for the cancellation of the project, which will mean the loss of up to 1,400 construction jobs, about 600 permanent mining jobs and about 800 service jobs in the North Woods area in which the mine was to be developed.

The project was expected to cost \$540 million and to have a major impact on the Crandon, Antigo and Rhinelander areas.

The environmental impact statement prepared for the project estimated that 1,600 people would move to the area, including 700 schoolchil-

AT A GLANCE

The Exxon Mine

A 17-year history in Wisconsin

- **1969:** Exxon Minerals Co. begins studying geological records to find mineral ores in Upper Midwest.
- **1974:** Airplane with sensing equipment identifies a narrow, mile-long stretch near Crandon that may contain mineral-bearing ores.
- **1975:** Exxon begins mineral exploration phase. First hole drilled at Forest County site in June. Tests show mineral-bearing areas. Exxon leases additional land east of the Mole Lake Chippewa reservation.
- **1976:** In May, Exxon formally announces its discovery of an ore body bearing zinc, copper and other metals.
- **1977-79:** Mine project office opens in Crandon and extensive drilling begins in 1977. About 200 holes are drilled from 1977 to 1979. In July 1978, Exxon tells State Department of Natural Resources it intends to submit mining permit application, marking beginning of scientific study in preparation of an environmental impact statement.
- **1980:** Exxon submits preliminary project plans. In March, DNR says a full environmental impact statement must be done.
- **1985:** Exxon completes second large-core drilling program. Exxon also announces that, because of continued low market prices for metals, the zinc-copper mine will be redesigned. New permit applications show Exxon plans to reduce size of mining operation.
- **1986:** In May, DNR releases draft environmental impact statement summarizing the project. In December, Exxon announces it will indefinitely postpone development of the mine because of low copper prices.

OVER

aren.

The mine would have taken two to three years to build and would have operated for 29 years.

At the same time that backers were trumpeting the potential economic gains, however, environmentalists were complaining loudly that waste from the mine would pollute streams in the area and contaminate groundwater.

"I am very upset Exxon is not going to stay in Wisconsin," Gov.-Elect Tommy G. Thompson said. "You can't measure it in dollars and cents. There were so many people who had their hopes up."

Donald B. Achttien, project manager for the Exxon venture, said the firm was withdrawing its permit applications with the state.

"It was market conditions that brought us to this conclusion," Achttien said.

Although the price of zinc and copper has risen slightly in the last year, the long-range forecasts for zinc and copper prices were not good enough to continue, he said.

Zinc was selling for 44 cents a pound late Tuesday and copper for 63 cents a pound. In 1971, when Exxon was exploring in the area, copper was selling at 49 cents a pound and the price peaked at 96 cents in 1980. Fifteen years ago, zinc was selling at 17 cents and peaked at 53 cents in 1984.

Restaurant owner Kronschnabl had hoped to greet large crowds of hungry mine construction workers in the near future.

"But now it looks pretty bleak here," he said. "I expect to see some business failures of the locals that may have been holding out, waiting for Exxon to begin construction. It sure is a blow to people hoping for employment."

"We've got 20% unemployment up here."

State Sen. Lloyd Kincaid (D-Crandon) said that the State Department of Natural Resources took too long to review the project and that too much bureaucratic red tape was part of the reason for Exxon's pullout.

Thompson, however, did not criticize the agency.

His top cabinet appointee, James R. Klauser, has been Exxon's Madison lobbyist, and Thompson said he was aware before the November election that Exxon might cancel its mining plans.

Thompson said he tried to persuade Exxon to go forward, but was unsuccessful.

Kronschnabl, a member of a local business development group, said Crandon officials were considering building an industrial park to attract companies to their Forest County area.

The industrial park proposal, in fact, had been discussed Tuesday night, he said.

"This is ironic: Exxon has been saying all along, 'Two years, two years, and we'll build,'" he said. "That hope is why we haven't looked aggressively into getting other businesses up here."

Now local business owners and public officials will have to reassess the community's economic future, Kronschnabl said.

Jack Schaeffer, owner of Schaeffer's Supermarket in Crandon and a member of the Local Mining Impact Committee, pointed to one likely positive effect of the decision.

"I expect that this will stop speculation, he said. "Some businesses have changed hands several times in recent years, as different people lined up to benefit from the mine."

"Our property values have wildly escalated up here — a good 20% or more in the last several years."

Carol Marquardt, town clerk in the Forest County Town of Nashville, said the news didn't surprise her. She said she and other town officials often had said they thought that low metal prices might make it impossible for Exxon to pursue plans to mine in Nashville and the neighboring Town of Lincoln.

Achttien said Exxon would retain its Wisconsin property and possibly develop the mine if mineral prices improved.

"We are disappointed that we cannot proceed with the project at this time, and we intend to maintain our mining properties intact so that we can resume the permitting process

when conditions warrant," Achttien said.

Achttien praised the DNR, which started its environmental review of the project five years ago.

At the DNR office in Rhinelander, spokesman David Daniels said DNR officials thought that they had made great progress in resolving issues

with Exxon.

Arlyn Ackley, chairman of the Sokaogon Chippewa Mole Lake Indian Community, said he was "happy that they have abandoned their plans" because he did not think that all the environmental concerns had been answered.



Scared of mining plant: Sonny and Mimi Wroczynski and their dog, Snowy, stand on the dock of their Rolling Stone, appearing relaxed and tranquil.

Tranquility will be maintained as the mine opens.

Exxon mine emotions run deep

By Terry Anderson
Special to the Gazette

FRANKFON — Emotions over the proposed Exxon Minerals Co. mine can be seen at the start from which mine and copper reserves would be dug from the earth.

On Monday, the state Department of Natural Resources said a preliminary environmental impact statement approved the proposed mine would provide no environmental problems that cannot be solved.

Meetings will be held on June 29 and July 6 at the Washburn County Hall near Frankfon to gather public comment before the DNR issues a final environmental impact statement on July 7.

The mine and mill complex would be built about eight miles south of Frankfon. During the 36 years between the construction start and closure, the mine would employ 600 to 700 persons. The total project would cost about \$440 million.

The ore is located about 2,000 feet underground and contains traces of gold, silver and lead as well as the main deposit of zinc and copper.

The DNR announcement was welcomed by Frankfon Mayor Kenneth Schulz, who said the local economy has been hurt recently by the pulp industry de-

Please see Mining/A-2

"I get criticized for spearing 400 fish and they're going to drain off four lakes."

— Mole Lake tribal chairman



Arlyn Ackley

From A-1

□ Mining

fish and they're going to drain off four lakes," Ackley said.

The DNR has concluded that removing water from the mine could reduce the levels of some nearby lakes by as much as 8 feet. Exxon believes it can mitigate the problem by pumping water from a series of wells within the mine.

The threat of ground water contamination and drastic change in lake levels also worries many of the people who own property on the lakes and streams downstream from the mine site.

The mine site is tucked inside a valley just beyond the living room view of Sonny and Mimi Wreczycki's home on Rolling Stone Lake.

They contend that if there were any problems with waste materials leaking from the mine site, the contaminated water would flow right past their home where eagles, osprey and a pileated woodpecker can be seen feeding each morning.

"We know the mine is going to come," Wreczycki said. "We just don't want it to change our life. You didn't work all those 20 years to find it all go to hell."

Wreczycki is chairman of the Rollingsstone Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, which represents 325 area families. The group is seeking assurances from both the mining firm and the state that if there were environmental damage they would be financially protected.

"We've got insurance on our home, our cars, our lives. We just don't want to wake up one morning with nothing," Wreczycki said.

"Without good water you have nothing. We're not asking for any more. We're not asking for any less," he said.

cline and the announced closing of Connor Forest Industries in nearby Laona.

"We're in favor of it (the Exxon project) as far as it goes. Something is really needed to keep the young people in our area," Aubol said.

But growth may pose some problems.

Crandon's sewage treatment plant already has been expanded. Aubol said the Forest County city of 2,000, may need to expand its police force from two to three full-time officers, and the DNR also recommends construction of a bigger jail.

"We may have to make some adjustments. People are used to a lot of peace and quiet. But we believe it is going to be good for us and the people of this area," Aubol said.

The project faces stiff opposition despite DNR assurances that adverse environmental and cultural impacts can be minimized.

Mole Lake Tribal Chairman Arlyn Ackley said the Sokaogon Chippewa tribe has objected to the mine in the past and will not change its position.

"I'm not satisfied with living next door to a mine operation. I'll never say that it's good for us." As he spoke, Ackley pointed to the mill site which lies two miles east of Mole Lake.

Ackley said the project may benefit Crandon and the state, but he is not convinced it will help the people of Mole Lake.

He worries the mining operation will result in ground water contamination and damage to lakes and streams.

"I get criticized for spearing 400

play of the 1985-86 theater season by the New York Drama Critics Circle.

The organization of theater critics also voted Monday to name "wright Michael Frayn as foreign play. No award was for best musical.

Tomlin and Jane Wagner voted a special citation for "Search for Signs of Life in the Universe," by Tomlin and which was directed by Wagner.

Parton Talks about "I guess the wife and I had reason Napoleon Russia: It seems at the time."

Cosby and his have four daughters. Sounding a lot like Heathcliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" explains some of his fatherhood in the new published in late March Doubleday.

"No matter what you child to do, he will always be opposite. This is Cosby of Intergenerational Parenting," he says.

Fielding left his White firm. Fielding told The Washington Post that allegations he was disqualified himself in the Deaver probe were "a misunderstanding of the facts and GAO said Deaver isolated" four different at overlapping provisions as a result of his in the Canada-acid incident Reagan's deputy Deaver held at least on acid rain in the March 1985 and commitment of a special to focus on the

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Nuns to ask Exxon for report on effects of mining

Green Bay Pr. Gaz.
By Bonnie Stowers
Press-Gazette correspondent

SINSINAWA, Wis. — The Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters of Wisconsin are asking Exxon Corporation to tell shareholders about the effect of company mining projects on native peoples near those mining sites.

A delegation of Dominican Sisters announced in a press release Saturday that they will attend the Exxon annual meeting on May 16 in Los Angeles, Calif., to introduce a shareholder resolution requesting the disclosure of this information.

The sisters own 400 shares of Exxon stock and have been shareholders for several years.

The Dominicans, based in Wisconsin, said they first became aware of this issue through contact with the Sokaogon Chippewa whose tribal lands are near Crandon, the site of Exxon's proposed copper zinc mine.

Although the Dominicans' shareholder resolution requests mine impact information for native groups worldwide, the Sokaogon Chippewa tribal council has unanimously supported by formal resolution this request for a report to all shareholders.

The Sokaogons say their wild rice ancestral lands and entire way of life stand to be dramatically affected by the Crandon mining project.

"Exxon has mining projects around the world," said Sister Toni Harris, a representative of the Dominicans. "There are projects in operation or under development in South America, Australia, Canada

MAY 12 1985
and several states besides Wisconsin. We know of organized groups concerned about the effects of mining on native peoples in Columbia, South America, Australia and Wisconsin. This makes us wonder about company mining operations in general. We're just asking for information."

MAY 12 1985
The action by the Dominicans comes at a time when the appropriateness of Exxon's mining investments has been the question of recent business and mining publications. The company has reportedly been forced to shut down its uranium operations due to losses. In addition, \$760 million invested in copper and other minerals has involved \$430 million in losses.

Sister Sarah Naughton, treasurer of the Dominicans, said, "Business reports tell us that Exxon minerals lost \$51 million in 1984 alone. This fact combined with local resistance to some mining operations seems to create an unstable investment climate jeopardizing returns to those of us who are shareholders."

Naughton said that Exxon has published "some beautiful public relations type booklets — expensive, glossy paper full-color photos embossed covers."

Harris said, "These brochures don't address all our questions, rather than spending money on those kinds of public relations efforts we'd like to see a simple, concise report with clear direct answers to our questions about the impact of mining on native peoples."

Serenity and technology

Exxon wants happy blend in mining venture

NOV 24 1983 MIL JOUR
By Jani Jordan

Crandon, Wis.—UPI— Can the economic benefit of the biggest mining operation ever planned in modern day Wisconsin mesh with the solitude of the North Woods where many residents value their surroundings as much as a weekly paycheck?

The Exxon Minerals Co. says it can.

Some of those living in the area near the planned \$1 billion copper and zinc mine in northeastern Wisconsin aren't sure they want to risk finding out.

"It's hard for us to go ahead and trust a large corporation such as Exxon," said Wayne LaBine of the Mole Lake Reservation near the proposed mine. "I don't think we can be trading off our environment for 30 years of prosperity."

Barry Hansen, Exxon Minerals permitting manager, says, "This is a good project for Forest County and Wisconsin. It isn't a win-lose proposition. Done properly, it's a win-win situation."

Promise of 700 jobs

From any perspective, the proposed Crandon mine is more than just another hole in the ground. To many, it epitomizes the question of how much the environment should be altered in the quest for jobs.

For a region where double-digit unemployment has become almost a way of life, the promise of the 700 or so jobs Exxon says the Crandon mine itself would bring to Forest County and surrounding areas seems almost a dream come true.

"Exxon couldn't have picked a better time to proceed with this," said Peter Davison, a rural postal carrier who heads the Town of Lincoln's committee on the mine. "I think this has clouded people's thinking."

There is an unspoken feeling by state officials — many of whom are also proud of the state's reputation as an environmental protector — that Wisconsin's business climate is riding on the Crandon project.

"It's a question you have to ask when you put in any industry," said Robert Ramharter, the Department of Natural Resources' Crandon project coordinator. "The answer is if mining is going to be a social or economic advantage to have, with proper environmental safeguards, then it's desirable."

Intense scrutiny

Nonetheless, the Crandon mine proposal has proceeded under some of the most intense scrutiny in state history since the mining arm of multi-national Exxon Corp. announced in 1976 its discovery of a substantial "massive sulfide deposit" in the wooded area which straddles the towns of Lincoln and Nashville.

The term "massive sulfide" refers to the ecological nature of the deposit and

not its estimated one mile long and one-half mile deep size. Exxon anticipates ore reserves at about 65.8 million tons to be mined over a 22-year period, with the copper, zinc and a few other minerals marketed for a variety of uses.

The planned mine is inching ahead under the controls of a brand new Wisconsin mining law, a statute written with the Crandon project in mind.

It requires massive environmental impact reports, studies of the social and economic effects of the mine well into

With what it considers state-of-the-art mining and disposal techniques, Exxon insists it can get the job done and still protect the environment. The mine itself will be completely underground, with only its entry shaft visible, thus keeping blasting and other noises to a minimum, the company said.

Nearby, a mill will crush, grind and concentrate the mined materials for shipping by rail to an as yet undetermined location. The mine compound also will include a series of disposal sites for tailings or waste materials.

While every possible environmental impact is under review, water quality remains the overriding concern of those uncertain about or flatly opposed to the mining operation.

Ground water levels in the area will be altered as Exxon tries to keep water out of the mine. The removal and return of the water will have some effect on lake and stream levels and possibly the quality of water. Just how severe those effects may be is an ongoing debate.

The new Wisconsin mining law, which is considered to be the toughest in the nation, is still not enough to guarantee the quality of ground water which is likely to pick up some amounts of metals and other mining byproducts, said Terry Kakida, research director for the Wisconsin branch of Citizens for a Better Environment.

"It's a license to pollute," he said of requirements that Exxon purify ground water to drinking water standards standards Kakida thinks are not tough enough.

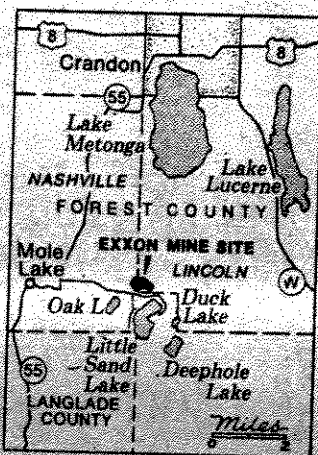
Exxon believes its \$160 million water treatment system will protect water quality. It also says studies show the replaced ground water will not endanger major bodies of water in the area.

To replace wells

In addition, the company maintains that the so-called drawdown of water levels during the mining will affect only a few private wells and will not have a significant impact on the depth of lakes and streams in the area.

Any affected private wells will be replaced at company expense, Exxon said. Hansen said he considered Exxon's four

Turn to Exxon, Page 25



Exxon's plans for a mine south of Crandon have residents worried and hopeful

the next century, the payment by Exxon of state costs of processing permits and research and the reserve of some money for the state and local governments affected by the mining.

4 feet of reports

After submitting to the state volumes of environmental reports nearly four feet thick a year ago and then providing several hundred more pages of information, Exxon will be doing well if it can begin work by 1986 — 10 years after the announcement of the Crandon deposit.

Still to come is Wisconsin's first-ever "master hearing" on Exxon's permits which will touch on every aspect of the project. The hearing, which may occur during 1984 is expected to be much like a court trial and span several weeks.

Exxon's Hansen, who is more professional than big business executive in his appearance and manner, says in addition to the long state review process just overcoming mining's negative image of open pits in Appalachia or huge mountains of waste in northern Minnesota has been tough.

"But this is a 21st century mine with modern technology. We are trying to overcome the mental image by creating a physical image of what we intend to do," he said.

Agent

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Mining might affect water quality

Exxon, from Page 21

planned multi-layered 100-acre tailings ponds for depositing of mine wastes known as slurry to be so technologically advanced as to prevent damage to groundwater quality from chemicals in the waste.

Ken Wade, DNR groundwater quality expert, said recently, however, that he was not yet convinced by Exxon's projections of where potentially contaminated tailings ponds will flow and wants more information before ruling the plan sound.

LaBine of the Mole Lake Chippewa Reservation, where about 370 people live on 1,800 acres, is generally uncomfortable with the mine project but the question of water quality troubles him the most.

Even minor changes in the level or quality of water in Rice Lake west of the mine site may mean disaster for the region's economically and religiously significant wild rice crop, he said.

Even if problems do not occur immediately, future water quality is not guaranteed, LaBine said.

"We feel this land was given to us (by God) and we have to take care of it," he

said. "We don't want people taking things from the earth that aren't needed."

Benefits questioned

LaBine also is unconvinced about the economic benefits of mining, although Exxon's recent social impact study predicted jobs for many in the vicinity in mine operation, construction and related services. Statewide, the Crandon mine could mean 2,700 new jobs, the company said.

"The jobs (tribe members) might get are sweeping the floor or driving a truck. The high paying jobs just aren't there for those people," he said, predicting that skilled union mine workers now unemployed in Minnesota and Michigan would end up with most of the positions.

Local official Peter Davison is also wary of Exxon's pledge to hire local workers and projections that the population growth in the region will be so widespread it will not overwhelm just a few communities.

Other mines

"I also fear that once Exxon develops, there will be other mines all over," Davison said. "We'll end up like northern

Minnesota or northern Michigan. That will be the end of northern Wisconsin as we know it."

Nelda McNeil, a member of the County Board in adjacent Langlade County, is more optimistic.

"I think it's something that will be very valuable to the people because of the economic conditions here," she said, adding that even when the mine closes the community will still have the buildings in the complex and the Exxon-built rail line and can seek new industries to use them.

Ironically, there is no guarantee Exxon will ever build the Crandon mine even if it overcomes citizen opposition and survives the state permit process.

A final decision, Hansen said, will come when the permits are received and will be based on the market atmosphere of the time. There is some outside speculation that the Crandon project is a make-or-break proposition for Exxon Minerals. Hansen rejects that idea, but admits that with considerable money already invested in research and meeting government regulations "Crandon is a very important project for Exxon Mining Co. and plays a large role in what we see as our future."

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EXXON: THE LATEST THREAT

APR 1985
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TREATY RIGHTS VS. MINING INTERESTS

Several questions related to treaties are being raised as the Sokaogon seek to protect their land and its resources. One centers around the 1855 Treaty which, according to the oral history of the tribe, afforded them a twelve square mile reservation, which would encompass the mining site near Crandon. The Sokaogon feel they have a right to settle their treaty claim issue prior to the mine being developed. However, Exxon says that the corporation holds clear and undisputed title to the land.

Another consideration may be the implied rights to the resources on ceded territories as affirmed through the Voigt Decision. The legal ramifications of the tribe's rights to harvest fish, game, and rice may also give it a legal handle to protect the resources on the land from depletion by mining projects. Treaty rights may, indeed, be a significant weapon for environmentalists across the country, giving the tribes the authority to intervene if treaty-protected resources or habitat are threatened.

Support for the Sokaogon's right to settle their treaty claims came from the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, who own stock in the Exxon Corporation, by way of the following resolution in 1983. The response of the Exxon Corporation's Board of Directors is also given below:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATION

■ The Corporation's directors recommend a vote AGAINST this proposal.

In 1975, Exxon discovered a major zinc/copper deposit at Crandon, Wisconsin. In the ensuing several years, Exxon has obtained title to the relevant lands and the rights necessary to develop this deposit. Exxon's title to these lands and rights to the mineral deposit are clear and unencumbered. Exxon has filed an Environmental Impact Report with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The process of obtaining necessary permits to develop the mine is expected to take two or three years. In view of our clear title, Exxon does not believe it should delay the permitting process.

Accordingly, a vote AGAINST this proposal is recommended.

Currently, the Exxon Corporation is in the permitting stage of its operation, seeking permits from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to develop its mining operation. The Sokaogon, not likely to drop their cause, are waiting to see if permits are granted. This will determine their next move. The next phase of what will be termed the Sokaogon's battle for survival.

Not only mining may threaten reservations and surrounding lands, according to Arlyn Ackley, Mole Lake Tribal Chairman. Ackley also encourages tribal leaders to be aware throughout the State of Wisconsin of plans for nuclear waste dump sites as well as increased mining interests in other areas. From his experience in battling mining interests at a local level, Ackley notes that other reservation lands, or adjoining lands may well be prime targets for such pursuits.

Al Gedicks, Director of the Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy, Madison, also notes in an article appearing in the North Country Anvil, Summer/Fall 1984, that the Lake Superior region is considered a "prime place for mineral deposits...its Precambrian glacial rock is believed to be some two billion years old." The nature of the rock which may make it rich in minerals or good "dumping" grounds. Al Gedicks also notes that the scope of the search for minerals in the Lake Superior region is emphasized by that fact that more than 40 multi-national organizations have leased mineral rights of more than 900,000 acres in the region.

The search, Gedicks feels, has fallen "disproportionately upon Indian reservations—the Chippewa, Potawatomi, Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee and Oneida." The reason for this is that



STOP—the sign in front of roads leading to Exxon's exploration sites are clear mounted atop locked gates. Mole Lake's

message to Exxon is the same—for the sake of our children—STOP!

Since the Exxon Corporation first became interested in the Crandon area for mining pursuits in 1969, the small Sokaogon Band of Chippewa have had to think very long and hard about their future. Consequently, they have been involved in extensive studies on the impact of mining for the past decade.

The potential benefit of mining to the community, such as jobs, increased populations and business, plus the possibility of mining on the reservation, have had to be weighed against the potential of their land and rice lake being devastated by mining wastes and their social fabric destroyed. As with any issue, not everyone on the Mole Lake reservation agrees on what may be best for the tribe.

However, Tribal Chairman, Arlyn Ackley, clearly opposes the mining project and view it as jeopardizing the future of the entire band through contamination of the resources—the resources which comprise their heritage. Ackley points out that the 1800 acre reservation is their homeland. It contains the burial grounds of their forefathers, and a rich rice lake which has provided the wild rice they have used for generations both for subsistence and for religious purposes. The question arises: How can you replace a homeland? Where would the Sokaogon have left to go should their land be depleted or overrun in a mining boom?

Several threats to the reservations primary rice lake, Rice Lake, exists if the proposed mine were to go into operation. For one, the mine-dewatering operation could eventually lower the water table of the lake. But, more seriously, the disposal of mine wastes in a series of tailings ponds could contaminate the lake. Water removed from the surface of the tailing ponds will be treated and discharged into Swamp Creek, a tributary of the Wolf River which feeds Rice Lake and cuts diagonally across the Mole Lake reservation.

Other considerations in terms of negative impacts of the mine on the reservation include gas emissions and dust from hauling, noise, erosion and sedimentation, and ultimately, exposure of tribal members to contaminants found in the plants, water and animals they consume.

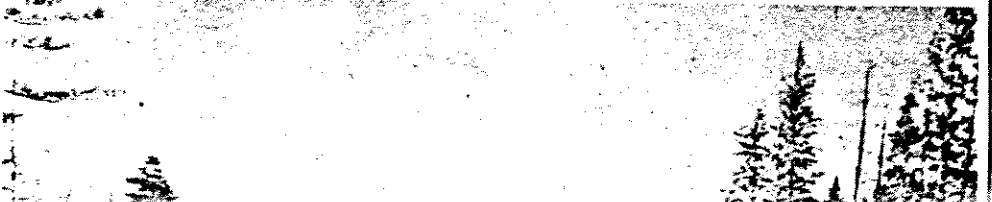
Resource contamination is only one consideration, however. Ackley is also concerned about the

effect of a large mining operation could have on the social and cultural existence of the tribe. A report prepared in 1980 by a private consulting group, Coact Research Inc., seemed to indicate the mining operation could, indeed, undermine the social cohesion of the Sokaogon band.

Among several conclusions in the Coact report were these:

- The "already marginalized economic and social status of the Sokaogon...will be further marginalized from social and economic interaction with the influx of white mine workers...in the Exxon mine...The social dislocations brought about by intense competition with white mine workers for jobs, recreational pursuits, fishing, hunting, wild rice, etc., may well spell the end of Sokaogon Chippewa tribal cohesion and solidarity.
- Increased land use conflicts will arise causing local jurisdiction to impose land use restrictions, restrictions which will "limit expressions of tribal identity" because "Indian culture, lifestyle and social cohesions are closely tied to the land."
- If the mine is approved and tribal members currently living in urban areas move back to the reservation in hopes of receiving mining jobs, the problems surrounding the current housing shortage will be exacerbated.
- The Exxon mine "is more likely to exaggerate the unemployment and economic problems of the tribe than remedy them. The prospect of Exxon jobs and prosperity is liable to attract many more tribal members back to the reservation than there are actual jobs for."

As one Sokaogon tribal member put it, "We have been fighting for our rice lakes since 1806. We have been fighting for 179 years to secure our right to the lakes. And now, in 1985, we are still fighting." And Mole Lake will continue to fight even so formidable a power as Exxon, known for its worldwide mining interest, lobbying strength and wealth. However, today the battles are legal—and treaties may well be the most valuable weapon of the Sokaogon.



native mining Development Policy. Madison, also notes in an article appearing in the North Country Anvil, Summer/Fall 1984, that the Lake Superior region is considered a "prime piece for mineral deposits...its Precambrian glacial rock is believed to be some two billion years old." The nature of the rock which may make it rich in minerals or good "dumping" grounds. Al Gedicks also notes that the scope of the search for minerals in the Lake Superior region is emphasized by the fact that more than 40 multi-national organizations have leased mineral rights of more than 900,000 acres in the region.

The search, Gedicks feels, has fallen "disproportionately upon Indian reservations—the Chippewa, Potawatomi, Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee and Oneida." The reason for this, Gedicks says "is that the Indian reservations were set up on areas of glacial rock, considered worthless for farming."

Gedicks continues to warn that "if Exxon gets the go-ahead, the entire northern two-thirds of Wisconsin could be made into a colony both for mining (including uranium) and for storage of nuclear wastes."

Because of the increased interest in the Lake Superior region over the recent years, both by mining companies seeking leases and by considerations of areas for nuclear waste dump sites, Ackley feels tribes should stand up and take note—the threats to reservation lands may be more imminent than believed.

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Rice Lake, noted for its abundant wild rice harvest, is green with rice stalks during the summer season. Sotoogon fear that

this, one of their few sources of the now precious wild rice, may be polluted by contaminants from the Exxon mine should it ultimately be permitted.

In These Times
The sisters meet Goliath

June 26 1985

For the past few years, Exxon has had blueprints for a large underground copper and zinc mine gathering dust in its corporate headquarters. All that lies between Exxon and the proposed site at the headwaters of the Wolf River in Wisconsin are members of the Sokaogon Chippewa tribe and an even smaller group of Roman Catholic nuns. The Chippewas, who have gathered wild rice for centuries, are fighting to maintain their wild rice lake that lies just one mile from the proposed mine site. The rice is an essential part of their diet, an important cash crop and a sacred symbol in Chippewa religious ritual.

If Exxon proceeds with its mining plans, large volumes of sulfide-bearing wastes will be stored in waste ponds 90 feet deep and encompassing 600 acres. Says Chippewa tribal chairman Arlan Ackley, "If Exxon's engineering is not 100 percent perfect, the pollutants from the mine will ruin our wild rice lake. Exxon can move on when they've taken the ore out, but we have nowhere else to do." Exxon's environmental impact statement did not take the Indian concern seriously, blandly mentioning that the "means of subsistence on the reservation" may be "rendered less than effective."

Since it was clear that Exxon had turned a deaf ear to their concerns, the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters have been going to bat for the Indians for the last few years. The sisters have a little more clout than the Indians: they own Exxon stock and have made a plea at stockholders meetings that the Indian life not be disregarded in pursuit of profit. Last month they travelled to Los Angeles to confront Exxon at the annual stockholders meeting. The sisters needed 5 percent of the vote to keep the issue on next year's agenda, but they managed to gain only 3.3 percent (an increase over last year's vote from 16 million to 18 million shares).

Exxon management was especially relieved: the mining division has come under criticism lately for other botched operations which have led to \$430 million in losses in the last few years. The vote has thrown the Indians and the nuns back to square one, looking for a new angle to take on the corporate giant.

Indian tribes spearhead defense

Are state's minerals ripe

By AL GEDICKS
Special to The Capital Times

AUG 1 1983

Over the past decade multinational corporations and development-oriented nation states have waged resource wars against native peoples on the world's resource frontiers. From the Amazon Basin of South America to the Philippines, vast energy and mining projects have uprooted, dislocated, and, in some cases, destroyed native communities.

The victims of the new resource wars are not confined to the native populations of the Third World; they are also found within the internal colonies — the Indian reservations and native reserves — of the advanced capitalist countries.

Since the early 1970s, nearly 85 percent of the total world expenditures on mineral exploration has been channelled into the U.S., Canada, Australia and South Africa.

One of the most significant battles in the new resource wars is now taking place in the Lake Superior region of northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The reservations of the Chippewa, Potawatomi, Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee, Oneida, and Winnebago Indians lie in the southernmost extension of the energy and mineral-rich geological formation known as the Canadian Shield (formerly known as the Chippewa Lobe).

The two-billion-year-old Precambrian rocks of northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan are similar to those areas of Canada and South Africa where the world's richest uranium deposits have been found. As these rich deposits are depleted, however, uranium companies

must search the globe for new sources. This search has brought the uranium industry to the Lake Superior region.

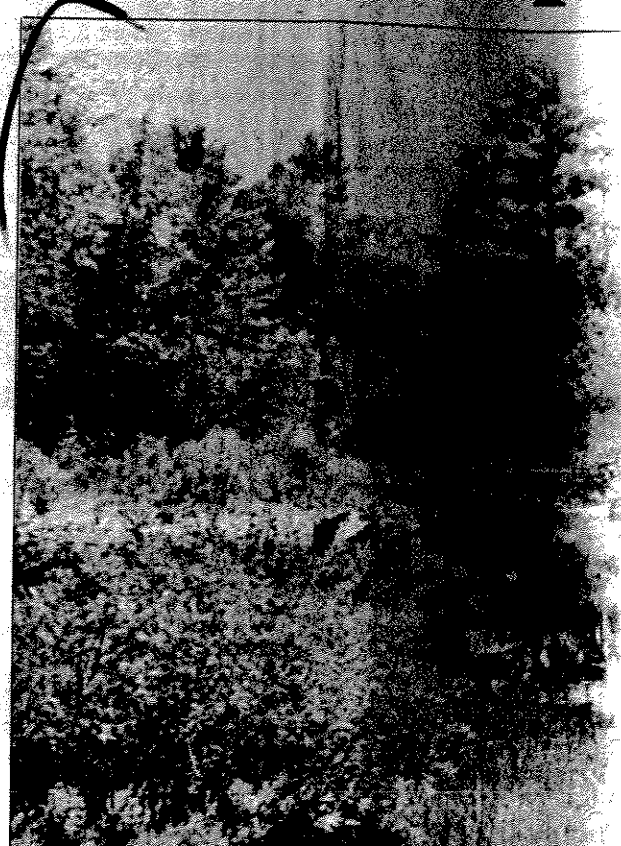
Some of the biggest uranium producers in the world, including Exxon, Kerr-McGee, Western Nuclear, Anaconda, Urangesellschaft (West Germany) and Minatome (France), have leased mineral rights to more than 900,000 acres in the Lake Superior region.

Uranium is the raw material used to fuel nuclear power plants and to make nuclear weapons. Uranium mining is the first step in the nuclear fuel chain; nuclear waste disposal is the last. The same Indian tribes and rural communities that have been targeted for uranium and base metal (copper, zinc) mining also face the threat of radioactive contamination from a proposed nuclear waste dump in the granitic bedrock of the region.

The long-range planning of the mining corporations and government agencies envisions the region as a new resource colony that will provide raw materials for corporate growth and diversification, as well as a dumping ground for the toxic and radioactive wastes left behind from the mining process.

Exxon's recent mine application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources raises the issue of the destruction of native communities by multinational corporations in its sharpest form.

Exxon's proposed copper-zinc mine site in Forest County is less than a mile from the Sokaogon Chippewa reservation. Tribal leaders fear that acidic runoff and seepage from the mine and 600-acre waste pile will destroy the Chippewas' wild rice



Swamp Creek flows near the Exxon site and into the Chippewas

lake, the mainstay of their subsistence economy and culture.

The Chippewas also claim that the ore body, which extends under their reservation, lies in the middle of a 92,000-acre tract of land that the United States government promised them following a 1854 treaty. In 1975, the Chippewa rejected Exxon's offer of \$20,000 to explore for and mine minerals found on their 1,500-acre reservation, and reasserted their treaty claim to the lands encompassing the Exxon discovery site.

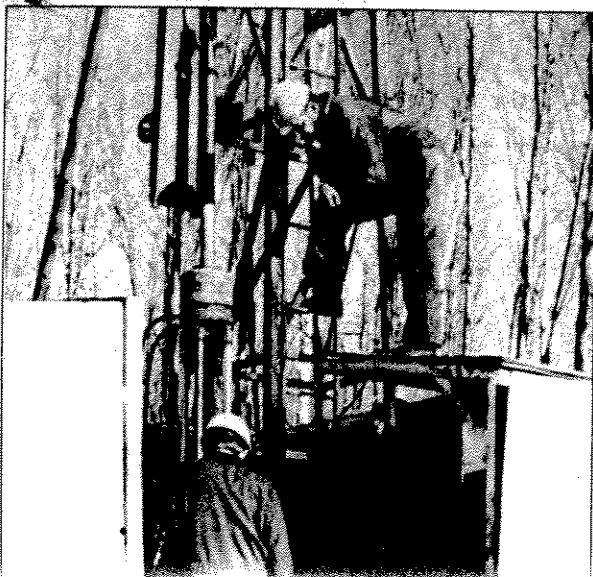
While Exxon's application does not mention the possibility of uranium mining or uranium byproduct extraction from the copper-zinc ore body at Crandon, Exxon has filed a mineral lease for the west end of the deposit specifying royalties for different grades of uranium ore.

Production of this uranium, via byproduct extraction, is both technologically and economically feasible. Moreover, an environmental impact statement for byproduct extraction is not required. The Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission can grant byproduct licenses without a full environmental impact hearing.

Exxon could answer all questions concerning the deposit by making core samples available for indepen-

plans for uranium extraction from Indian reservations and rural communities in northern Wisconsin, opposition to all mineral and energy exploration is growing. In the forefront of the opposition are the four Indian reservations that have been identified in recent Bureau of Indian Affairs reports as prime candidates for uranium exploratory drilling: the Menominee, the Potawatomi, the Lac Courte Oreilles band of Chippewa and the Oneida.

The victims of the new resource wars are not confined to the native populations of the Third World; they are also found within the internal colonies — the Indian reservations and native reserves — of the advanced capitalist countries. Since the early 1970s, nearly 85 percent of the total world expenditures on mineral exploration has been channelled into the U.S., Canada, Australia and



More than 85 northern townships



Swamp Creek flows near the Exxon site and into the Chippewas' wild rice lake.

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The Chippewas also claim that the ore body, which extends under their reservation, lies in the middle of a 92,000-acre tract of land that the United States government promised them following a 1854 treaty. In 1975, the Chippewa rejected Exxon's offer of \$20,000 to explore for and mine any minerals found on their 1,000-acre reservation, and reasserted their treaty claim to the lands encompassing the Exxon discovery site.

While Exxon's application does not mention the possibility of uranium mining or uranium byproduct extraction from the copper-zinc ore body at Crandon, Exxon has filed a mineral lease for the west end of the deposit specifying royalties for different grades of uranium ore.

Production of this uranium, via byproduct extraction, is both technologically and economically feasible. Moreover, an environmental impact statement for byproduct extraction is not required. The Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission can grant byproduct licenses without a full environmental impact bearing.

Exxon could answer all questions concerning the deposit by making core samples available for independent assessment. But the company has not done so.

Much more is at stake at Crandon than Exxon's investment in a single mining project, however. Some 40 multinational corporations have leased more than 400,000 acres in Wisconsin's north woods for potential metal and uranium mining.

If the Crandon project is approved by the state, it will open up the northern two-thirds of the state to corporate resource colonization. Can Indians and environmentalists hold off this planned destruction of the Indian cultures and environment of northern Wisconsin?

Despite the secrecy surrounding

plans for uranium extraction from Indian reservations and rural communities in northern Wisconsin, opposition to all mineral and energy exploration is growing. In the forefront of the opposition are the four Indian reservations that have been identified in recent Bureau of Indian Affairs reports as prime candidates for uranium exploratory drilling: the Menominee, the Potawatomi, the Lac Courte Oreilles band of Chippewa, and the Oneida.

sin's groundwater. In April 1983, Peshek resigned as public intervenor to accept a job with Exxon's law firm in Madison.

In July 1982 a new statewide organization was established to coordinate the efforts of citizen and tribal groups concerned with mining — the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council. The principal focus of WRPC public education and organizing efforts has been Exxon's

cent of the vote, or more than 16 million shares. Like most stockholder resolutions, it was introduced less to win votes than to force the company to respond publicly to the treaty claim. With the assistance of the Dominicans and the Corporate Responsibility Program in Milwaukee, the tribe plans to submit another stockholder resolution for next year's meeting.

Opposition to Exxon's proposed mine is also growing among rural residents in Lincoln and Nashville, the two townships immediately adjacent to the mine and waste disposal area.

In March of 1983 the newly formed Nashville chapter of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council presented the town board with 400 signatures on a petition asking the board to pass an immediate moratorium on all mining development. After the town board turned down the moratorium request, dissatisfied citizens threw their support behind Wayne La Bine, an outspoken Chippewa critic of the Exxon mine, as candidate for town chairman in the April 1983 election.

Although La Bine did not win, the substantial non-Indian support that he received demonstrated growing local opposition to Exxon's plans. At the annual town meeting in April, a mining moratorium resolution received 41 percent of the vote.

Opponents of the mine feel confident that during the next three years, as Exxon's application is reviewed by the DNR, they can develop strategies that will successfully challenge Exxon's \$1 billion stake.

Northern Wisconsin may yet provide one of the few victories for native peoples in the new resource wars.

Al Gedicks is director of the Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy in Madison and the co-author of "Land Grab: The Corporate Theft of Wisconsin's Mineral Resources."

The victims of the new resource wars are not confined to the native populations of the Third World; they are also found within the internal colonies — the Indian reservations and native reserves — of the advanced capitalist countries. Since the early 1970s, nearly 85 percent of the total world expenditures on mineral exploration has been channeled into the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

More than 85 northern townships have joined these tribes in enacting bans on all mineral exploration. The immediate impetus to the township bans was state legislation of 1981 that allowed uranium mining and the dumping of radioactive and toxic pollutants into the groundwater up to federal maximum contaminant levels.

Dianne Bady, president of the Rock County Citizens Action Group, called the state's former public intervenor, Peter Peshek, "our own James Watt" for his role in drafting this legislation. More than a dozen northern environmental groups called for Peshek's resignation for abandoning his responsibility to protect Wisconsin's groundwater.

proposed copper-zinc mine at Crandon.

As soon as Exxon filed its mine application with the DNR in December 1982, the Sokaogon Dominican Sisters of Wisconsin entered a stockholder resolution asking that the company postpone any further investment in the Crandon project or further participation in the mine permit process until Chippewa treaty claims are settled. At Exxon's annual shareholders' meeting, the Sokaogon Chippewa and Dominican delegation cited Wisconsin's attorney general in emphasizing that the company's title to the Crandon deposit was legally uncertain.

The resolution received 2.5 per-

622.1 x 906

Forest-Co. mining area yields traces of ancient people

By TIM CUPRISIN

Of the Press-Gazette

JUN 12 1983

CRANDON — There were people living a few miles south of here at least 1,200 years ago.

Until recently, there was no trace of them.

Then Exxon began developing land in the area for a proposed zinc and copper mine. The company is required by law to make sure that historic and archaeological sites are not disturbed by construction.

Archaeologist David Overstreet of the Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center in Wauwatosa was brought in to examine the property.

"What he found may not appear to be dramatic. But to him, it's a gold mine.

GREEN BAY PR. QAZ. Overstreet discovered a series of circular pits apparently used for storage. They were almost undisturbed.

"It's really unusual to find these types of features where you can see their origins on the surface," he said.

"It was just abandoned for some reason and it has never been disturbed radically by logging, by site preparation, by erosion."

Now that an unexpected find has been made, Exxon has decided not to develop that piece of land. It will remain as it was more than a millennium ago.

The company doesn't want the exact site made public. Exxon officials fear souvenir hunters will dig up the ground in search of arrowheads.

As you tramp through the woods with Overstreet, it becomes clear how difficult the task is for the uninitiated. For other than a few leaf-covered circular depressions in the ground, the area looks like many other parts of the northwoods.

"I think that this cluster of pits may represent storage features where provisions or materials were cached and then reclaimed."

— Archaeologist

topographic settings where sites are known to occur," said Overstreet.

"It's a very large site and it's very complex. There are at least two periods of occupation here and possibly three."

One period was the Late Woodland phase, from the year 700 to about 1300. "There's also some earlier material that's identified as Nokomis phase, which may be A.D. 100 or 200," he said.

But with the limited mapping and excavation done so far, it's hard to tell if there's any earlier material.

Overstreet has been getting a good idea of how these early inhabitants lived.

"It probably would have been a little cooler and moister at the time it was occupied," he said. "The vegetation patterns were quite different. It would have been a forest of white pine, yellow birch and hemlock."

"I think that this cluster of pits may represent storage features where provisions or materials were cached and then reclaimed," he said as he crouched over the damp ground.

"It was a common subsistence and settlement pattern in the Eastern Woodlands. It may be that this site was occupied in the fall for exploita-

"They may break up into spring camps to exploit the extensive fisheries and in wintertime, move into smaller occupation units."

"A lot of times they moved right down into the frozen bogs and swamps. It was the smart thing to do."

Along with the prehistoric artifacts, Overstreet has discovered the foundations of two buildings dating back to the mid-1800s.

"In the earliest of the logging days and the pioneer homesteads, the log cabin was built and earth was banked up around the floor to serve as insulation."

"This pit is characteristic," he said as he pointed out a spot in the center of the still-visible foundation.

"They could have been used simply as a pit in the floor to catch the ashes under the stove. Other people say they were used as meat lockers or root cellars," he said.

Who built the two structures remains a mystery.

"I went through all the county tax records and rolls back to the late 19th century. There's no record of ownership," Overstreet said. "It may be that these are early pioneers or logging industry. I just don't know."

Overstreet was in Crandon earlier this month finishing up the project he started several years ago. He was following the route of a pipeline that Exxon plans to build for its mine.

He and his staff will probe every 10 meters along a three-mile route.

"It does not look like a very high potential area," said Overstreet. "But we still have to go through and do some systematic sub-surface testing along the entire route."

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Indians to ask Exxon to postpone mining

MAY 18 1993

Sentinel Madison Bureau

Madison — A resolution to postpone further activities in connection with Crandon zinc or copper mining until Sokaogon Chippewa Indian land-ownership claims are settled will be presented to Exxon Corp. stockholders at their annual meeting Thursday.

A tribal delegation and a representative of the Dominican Sisters in Wisconsin will present the resolution at the stockholders meeting in Orlando, Fla., according to a spokesman from the Madison-based Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy.

MIL SEN

Proponents of the resolution say that Exxon is obliged to respect the right of the Chippewas to settle their claims of land ownership before mining plans are further developed.

The company says it has clear title to the lands and the right to develop the Crandon deposit.

Proponents also cite a "global copper depression" and claim it is unwise economically and socially to invest in Crandon mining at this time.

The company's board of directors is recommending that stockholders vote against the resolution.

Rhineland News

DEC 9 1981 10-FATS-1-6-82

Sokaogons reveal rich ore deposit

By ROLAND BARKER
Managing Editor

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community is sitting on an ore body which may be worth \$1 billion, Bureau of Indian Affairs officials confirmed today.

The ore body, made up of at least copper and silver, has been discovered for the tribe by the U.S. Geologic Survey but has not been announced at the tribe's request, said David Baldwin, of the BIA Division of Energy and Minerals, in an article in Forbes Magazine, a national business weekly. While Baldwin did not specifically say the deposit was at the Mole Lake Reservation, located south of Crandon, another BIA mining official told The Daily News today that Baldwin had been describing an ore body on Sokaogon land. Baldwin was unavailable for comment.

Tribal chairman Raymond McGeshick said the Sokaogons have known about the ore body for about two years following the drilling of seven holes by the U.S. Geologic Survey. While the tribal council has not met since the publication of the Forbes article Nov. 9, McGeshick said he doubts whether the tribe will change its stance against development of the deposit.

"I don't think they want it," McGeshick said of tribal members. "Even if it's under the ground, they say leave it there. But who knows what they'll say in five years."

The deposit is located only a half mile from the western boundary of the reservation where Exxon did extensive drilling a few years ago. The Exxon deposit is located on the eastern boundary. McGeshick said the tribe watched Exxon's exploratory drilling with concern. "They were very close," he said.

This year has been a particularly hard one for the Mole Lake tribe as it has been on most Indian reservations in the country. Reagan cuts in federal programs have resulted in unemployment as high as 90 percent, McGeshick said. But tribal members are still worried more by pollution and social changes which could result from mining.

"There's a small tribe in the north, a really small tribe and they're sitting on a sizable amount of copper," Forbes quoted Baldwin. "When we talked to the tribe, they told us their whole lifestyle for thousands of years had been tied to the wild rice that grew in their lake, and I couldn't tell them if we started mining we would never get any copper sulfide in the lake."

Baldwin said the deposit was first estimated by BIA geologists to be worth about \$250 million, but three months ago, after further testing, geologists said the silver content of the ore was so high it could net the tribe \$1 billion.

Mining company officials have suspected for a couple of years that a deposit existed on the tiny reservation adjacent to Exxon's huge copper-zinc deposit. The Sokaogons have turned down all mining company requests to explore on Indian lands.

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Tribe sitting on valuable body of ore

Number 10, 1981

By Rocky Barker

Special to The Journal

Mole Lake, Wis. — The Sokaogon Chippewa community is sitting on an ore body that may be worth \$1 billion, the Bureau of Indian Affairs officials confirmed Wednesday. The tribe, however, may not want to develop the deposit.

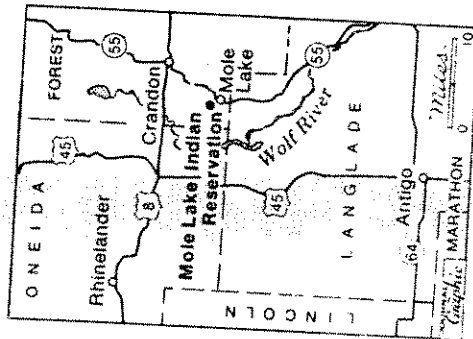
The ore body, made up of at least copper and silver, was discovered for the tribe by the US Geological Survey but had not been announced previously at the tribe's request, said David Baldwin, of the BIA Division of Energy and Minerals, in an article in Forbes magazine, a national business biweekly.

While Baldwin did not specifically say the deposit was at the Mole Lake reservation, located south of Crandon, another BIA mining official confirmed Wednesday that Baldwin had been describing an ore body on the western edge of the six-square-mile reservation.

Tribal chairman Raymond McCeshick confirmed that the 290-member Sokaogon tribe had known about the ore body for about two years after the drilling of seven holes by the Geological Survey.

Near drill site

While the tribal council has not met since the publication of the Forbes article Nov. 9, McCeshick said he doubted whether members of the tribe would change their stance against development of the deposit.



The Sokaogon Chippewa community is sitting on an ore body that may be worth \$1 billion.

"I don't think they want it," McCeshick said of tribal members. "Even if it's under the ground, they say leave it there. But who knows what they will say in five years."

The deposit is only a half mile from the western boundary of the reservation where Exxon Minerals Co. did extensive drilling a few years ago. Exxon is considering development of a huge copper-zinc deposit, which also contains silver, on the eastern boundary of the reservation.

McCeshick said the tribe watched Exxon's exploratory drilling with concern. "They were very close," he said.

Hard year

This year has been a particularly hard one for the Sokaogon as it has been on most Indian reservations in the country.

President Reagan's cuts in federal programs have resulted in unemployment as high as 90%, McCeshick said. But tribal members are still concerned more by pollution and social changes that could result from mining.

"There is a small tribe in the north, a really small tribe, and they're sitting on a sizable amount of copper," Forbes quoted Baldwin as saying. "When we talked to the tribe, they told us their whole lifestyle for thousands of years had been tied to the wild rice that grew in their lake, and I couldn't tell them if we started mining we would never get any copper sulfide in the lake."

Baldwin said the deposit was first estimated by BIA geologists to be worth about \$250 million, but three months ago, after further testing, geologists said the silver content of the ore was so high it could net the tribe \$1 billion.

Mining company officials have suspected for a couple of years that a deposit existed on the reservation.

The Sokaogon have turned down all mining company requests for exploration on Indian lands.

Indians hunt lost treaty on land

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — The Sokaogon Band of Chippewa Indians is searching for a lost 1854 treaty that could prove the band owns the mineral rights to a 12-square-mile portion of land in three northern Wisconsin counties, a tribal leader said Tuesday.

The land includes a recently discovered site by Exxon USA that may have been home to a group of woodland Indians as early as 800 A.D.

Depressions thought to be pits where wild rice was separated from its husks were found on the site.

The find does not support the treaty claim, said Daniel Poler Jr., tribal secretary. "But it does seem to show that a culture that held wild rice important once lived here."

Wild rice is an important part of the Sokaogons' diet and a source of revenue for the northeastern Wisconsin from the Upper Peninsula after 1697.

Historians say the Sokaogons migrated into the story of the lost treaty "is part of our history," Poler said. "It has been passed down over the years."

The treaty reportedly was drawn up at an Apostle Islands Conference between leaders of Great Lakes tribes and federal Bureau of Indian Affairs officials.

Mineral rights estimated to be worth billions of dollars in Forest, Oneida and Langlade Counties could be involved.

"We haven't seen any paper on the treaty yet," Poler said of the search being conducted

in at the National Archives and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Claims Bureau in Washington, D.C.

"But documents and oral histories from tribal elders show that we were living in the area before 1850."

According to the oral histories and documents on file in the tribal archives, the Sokaogons were granted the parcel in return for as a plow blade cuts."

The land in question is bounded by Monico in Oneida County, Wabikon Lake in Forest County, the Forest-Langlade County line for Elcho in Oneida County.

The area has been the center of intensive mineral exploration by Exxon and other firms.

A copper-zinc deposit being developed by Exxon is in the area.

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Indians could mine ore themselves

Madison —AP— The Sokaogon band of Chippewa Indians could mine the ore deposit on their reservation near Crandon without paying Wisconsin's mining tax or receiving a state permit, the State Justice Department has said.

"Put simply, subsurface minerals on the reservation are 'not the state's to regulate,'" Atty. Gen. Bronson C. La Follette said in the opinion, quoting from a Federal Court decision involving the Crow tribe in Montana.

Federal regulations would preempt state taxing and permit laws, whether the tribe hired a non-tribal mine operator or mined the deposit itself, La Follette said in the formal opinion to Gov. Earl.

The opinion could have a major effect on the Sokaogon Chippewas' ability to develop the ore deposit promptly if they chose to do so.

While Exxon Minerals Co. has spent years preparing and submitting its mining plans to the Department of Natural Resources for permits for a nearby ore deposit discovered in 1975, the US Department of Interior has issued mining permits to Indian tribes in a year or two.

"The federal (mine permit) laws are radically different from the state laws," Michael Mudrey of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey said.

Federal, not state, anti-pollution laws generally apply on reservation lands, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs can ban tribal mining if a mine would hurt water quality significantly, the Justice Department opinion added.

But the state's interest in preventing off-reservation pollution would

have to be weighed painstakingly against federal rules and the federal interest in promoting tribal self-government on a case-by-case basis to determine whether state anti-pollution controls would apply, La Follette said.

The 28-page legal opinion, dated Nov. 7, appeared over La Follette's signature but actually was drafted by Asst. Atty. Gen. John Niemisto, one of the Justice Department's Indian-law experts.

Earl sought the opinion on behalf of Ariyn Ackley, chairman of the Sokaogon Chippewas.

In 1982, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced the discovery of minerals from each of six test holes it drilled on the reservation in southern Forest County, near Mole Lake.

At the time, the government put the value of the copper, zinc and silver deposit at more than \$1 billion, but metal prices, particularly copper prices, have fallen since then.

The Sokaogon band has not announced its intentions regarding the deposit.

Ackley has been unhappy with the amount of state money the band received from the Mining Investment and Local Impact Fund for evaluating impacts on the Sokaogon Chippewas from mining Exxon's deposit, and with the strings attached to the money.

Whether Exxon receives a permit next year and builds its mine also would affect the tribe's plans. Mining a deposit the size of the Mole Lake deposit might not be economical unless there were an existing ore mill nearby to process the ore, Mudrey said.

State criticizes Exxon report while seeking more answers

By David Stoeffler
Environmental reporter
WIS ST JR
MAY 13 1983

While calling an Exxon Minerals Co. report on a proposed zinc and copper mine near Crandon "a major step forward," the state issued a criticism of the report's shortcomings and asked for answers to hundreds of additional complex questions.

The Department of Natural Resources, in a 4-page letter and a 57-page point-by-point analysis, told Exxon what it already knew: The process of getting all the necessary licenses and approvals for an \$800-million mine in Forest County was not going to be easy.

The Exxon filing "does not yet contain all the information necessary to support many of the important conclusions contained in the report nor to allow an independent analysis of the project," the DNR said, adding that

much of the information apparently was in the hands of Exxon.

The sulfide-ore deposit, discovered in 1974, is estimated to be one of the 10 largest in the world.

Concerns about ground-water quality were dominant in the DNR criticism, as were questions about general and specific environmental, social and economic impacts of the project.

The department, which expects to take about two years to study the report and Exxon responses before issuing an environmental-impact statement, said Exxon:

- ✓ Misidentified a variety of state regulations, requirements and characteristics, including calling a five-lined skink a turtle. (It is a lizard).
- ✓ Sometimes based information on old studies and data.
- ✓ Did not include permit applications for waste-water discharge or ad-

dress needs for a solid-waste landfill.

✓ Failed to discuss the ecological relationships in the area.

"The discussion should characterize the area as a remote, low-population-density region possessing intrinsic values for human use and ecological relationships," the DNR wrote. "These values enable the area to support species preferring solitary habitats and the tourism industry, an essential element of the area's economy."

The impact on ground-water quality and resulting availability of water for private uses was singled out.

To mine the bedrock, the water table must be drawn down by pumping water out. That will introduce oxygen to rocks and possibly add undesirable chemicals to the ground water.

The DNR denied a company claim that ground water in the rocks is "highly mineralized and unsuitable without treatment for many domestic, industrial or agricultural uses." This statement, the DNR said, should be substantiated or removed.

Another area of concern, the DNR said, was the possibility that the Crandon mine might be expanded to service other ore bodies in the area. The technical and economic feasibility of such an expansion should be described, the DNR said.

Plan to delay mining loses in Forest County

By BONNIE STOWERS APR - 7 1983
Special to the Press-Gazette

CRANDON — A proposal requiring town of Nashville officials to ban mineral exploration and mining in the Forest County town until state mine laws are changed was defeated by a 32-22 vote at the town's annual meeting Tuesday night.

The defeat came after some town residents complained that they had not been notified that the ban would be considered at the meeting and accused moratorium backers of "trying to ramrod" the proposal through.

Attorney Nancy Johnson of Clark Lake, author of the proposal, said town residents are not convinced present state mine laws protect land owners and the environment and want a moratorium "because it will give us time to work for stronger laws."

Johnson said more than 400 town taxpayers had signed letters asking the Town

Board to pass a moratorium on mining but she conceded that not all the signers were eligible to vote in Nashville.

Only eligible voters were allowed to act on Johnson's proposal Tuesday.

Kevin J. Lyons of Milwaukee, town attorney, said a ban would "not give us time or lose us time" because the period required for the mine permit issuing process has been set by law.

Exxon Minerals Co. applied to the Department of Natural Resources Dec. 22 for a permit to mine a large copper-zinc deposit here. DNR officials said then it would take two to four years to issue a permit, during which time a series of public hearings would be held.

Moratorium backers had also supported the write-in candidacy of Wayne LaBine, a Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe mine committee member, for town chairman. LaBine polled 110 votes Tuesday but lost to incumbent Town Chairman John Schalock, who polled 209 votes.

OPINION

Sunday, August 24, 1997

Mining company's promise of prosperity a flat-out lie

By Thomas Michael Power

I was born and raised in Wisconsin and spent my teen-age years paddling the rivers of northern Wisconsin. The threat of Exxon's proposed Crandon mine to the Wolf and Wisconsin rivers both saddens and outrages me.

My 30-year experience as an economist living in Montana, the "Treasure State," a state with a very long experience with the environmental legacy of copper mining, leads me to comment on the promises made by mining companies to local communities.

One of the most powerful arguments that mineral companies can muster in their endless quest for access to more of our landscape is that they offer rural communities and households something that they desperately need: high-paying jobs. Local and state government officials, chambers of commerce, and local civic organizations typically see these jobs as a godsend.

Given the massive environmental destruction that typically accompanies mineral extraction, such communities and their citizens appear to face a stark, tragic choice: Accept the degradation of the natural environment and enjoy the prosperity the jobs bring — or turn down those jobs and enjoy the resulting higher environmental quality but live in relative poverty.

But review in your mind the mining towns you are familiar with. How many of them, if any, are prosperous? Most of our mining and smelter towns are run-down and decrepit. The people who live in them have below-average incomes. Poverty rates and unemployment are higher. So are rates of child abuse, alcoholism and spouse-battering.

How can we explain this dramatic and systematic failure of mining's promise of prosperity for communities willing to embrace it? The answer lies in the other economic characteristics of these industries.

■ First is the instability that is endemic in mining industries. In modern chemical mining, mine lives can be as short as five to 10 years. Even these short-run operations can be interrupted by dramatic declines in metal prices on international markets.

■ Second, these industries are "mature" economic activities that have been with us since before the industrial revolution. We have had decades, even centuries, to adapt technology to mining. The result has been dramatic and impressive gains in labor productivity.

With each passing year, a smaller and smaller labor force is needed to extract larger and larger quantities of raw materials and process them. This has meant that the employment opportunities provided by these industries are steadily declining.

Both workers and local merchants

react rationally to this instability and uncertainty. They reduce their investment in the local community. They do not buy or build new homes; they do not expand their businesses.

Local officials are hesitant to invest in local public infrastructure too, since a mine or mill shutdown could leave them without the ability to pay off the bonds, pay for the upkeep and afford the salaries of the additional public employees. Workers do not even move to the mining towns; they commute instead, taking their paychecks away from the community.

But this is just the beginning of an economic unraveling. Mining tends to have dramatic negative impacts upon the natural landscape: Trees are stripped away, the topology is radically changed, streams are poisoned and silted up, fisheries are destroyed, wildlife habitat is fragmented, the recreational potential of the land is degraded, scenic beauty is lost, and air and water quality deteriorates.

This is not just an environmental or aesthetic concern. It is also an economic disaster.

Over the past half century, people, businesses and economic activity have increasingly moved toward perceived high-quality living environments. This means that an area's ability to attract and hold people and businesses is crucial to its economic development.

Mining can systematically undermine that part of an area's economic base. It sacrifices the natural landscape for unstable, short-term employment opportunities. Long before the mineral deposit gives out, the layoffs tied to technological change or instability of international commodity markets steadily shrinks the employment base. The long decline and decay evident in most of our mining towns sets in.

Preserving the natural environment protects an important part of the community's current and future economic base. Focusing upon diversification and stability lays the basis for household, business and public investment.

Encouraging entrepreneurial solutions to problems rather than passively seeking salvation from a large international corporation also builds a resilience into the local economy and community that no company town has.

When natural resource industries make their "offers that cannot be refused," we have to keep in mind the powerful images of Butte, Mont.; Kellogg, Idaho; Lead, S.D.; the copper towns of Arizona; the iron fields of Minnesota; the coal fields of Appalachia.

This is not speculative doom-saying; it is economic reality. Rather than retreating to the environmental high ground when these economic promises are made, we need to confront the false promises on their own terms, with hard economic facts.

Power is chairman of the economics department at the University of Montana.

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NEILLSVILLE
The Clark County Press

FEB 17 1995

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**Louisiana rule a threat
to Wisconsin**

by State Representative Spencer Black

It's hard to think of a state that is more different from Wisconsin than is Louisiana. Their weather is hot and steamy - our's tends to be cool and crisp. They eat spicy food - our cooking is more down home and hearty. A favorite dish down there is blackened fish - if our bratwurst is black, it means it's been on the grill too long. And, of course, they root for the New Orleans Saints. We love the Packers.

There is another difference that might be the biggest of all. When states are ranked on the quality of their environment, Wisconsin is almost always at or near the top. Louisiana is usually dead last. Wisconsin has long been a leader in enacting strict laws to keep our outdoors clean. Louisiana, by contrast, has weak protections. One section of river in Louisiana is so polluted with toxic chemicals that it earned the name "Cancer Alley." Much of that state's coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat has been destroyed by careless activities of the oil and gas industry.

However, if a proposal by Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources is adopted, there will be less difference between environmental protection in Louisiana and Wisconsin. A rule change proposed by the Natural Resources Board will prohibit Wisconsin from enforcing environmental protections that are stricter than other states. The proposal, officially known as NR 1.52 and which has been dubbed "The Louisiana Rule", would, with very few exceptions, mandate that any regulation to protect our environment in Wisconsin could be no stricter than federal law. The Louisiana Rule would also require, that as Congress weakens existing laws that prevent pollution of our drinking water and rivers and lakes, Wisconsin would have to consider weakening our laws as well.

Wisconsin has adopted laws that are stricter than those in Louisiana and other states. That is one reason why we have avoided many of the environmental problems elsewhere and why Wisconsin is a great place to live. For example, we were the first state in the nation to adopt laws to protect our groundwater. Our groundwater is the source of drinking water for more than 70 percent of Wisconsin's population. If the Louisiana rule had been in effect, we would not have the standards we now enjoy that protect our drinking water. Likewise, current standards to prevent the dumping of toxic chemicals in our rivers, lakes and streams would also not be in place.

Public opposition to the Louisiana Rule has been so strong that the Natural Resources Board has been forced to delay a final vote on this proposal. While on a cold winter day, we might want to swap weather with Louisiana, most of us in Wisconsin do not want to trade our beautiful outdoors like the Wolf River or the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage for Louisiana's Cancer Alley.

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MONTFORT

The Rural Register

DEC 26 1995
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search for a store employee when
they need help.

AT ISSUE: OUR ENVIRONMENT

By Representative Spencer Black

Kermit the Frog, the Muppet character, was fond of saying "It's not easy to be green." Conservationists might come to the same conclusion looking back over 1995. Protecting our natural resources has been an uphill battle in the Legislature during this past year.

Conservationists spent most of their efforts this past year working to prevent a rollback of hard won environmental gains. Public support for the environment was crucial to stopping some of these attempts to weaken the protections we now enjoy for our outdoors. However, several significant reverses of our system of protecting our environment passed both the Assembly and Senate and were signed into law by the Governor.

The two most damaging measures that passed turn the Department of Natural Resources into a political patronage agency and eliminate the Public Intervenors. Governors will not be able to directly hire--and fire--the DNR Secretary. One reason Wisconsin has had a good record on the environment is that we have, up until now, separated day to day politics from natural resources decisions. The Wisconsin system goes all the way back to 1927 when the great conservationist, Aldo Leopold, led the successful campaign of sportsmen to kick the political cronies out of the conservation department. The return of political influence to decisions about our outdoors could undercut much of the progress we've made in taking care of our environment.

The Public Intervenors were the environmental watchdogs who helped citizens all over the state protect groundwater supplies from contamination. They were eliminated by the Legislature and the Governor.

Some attacks on the environment were turned back. A raid on Wisconsin's Stewardship fund was proposed, but not passed. The Stewardship Fund helps protect the best of what is left of outdoor Wisconsin. In its first five years, the Stewardship Fund has already protected almost 125,000 acres of natural areas and wildlife habitat. Governor Thompson, in his capital budget, wanted to divert almost \$10 million from the Stewardship fund to unrelated state construction projects. After loud protests from citizen and outdoors groups around the state, the attempt was abandoned.

Also proposed was the transfer of Wisconsin's state parks, trails and forests from the DNR to an offshoot of the Department of Development. Commercial exploitation of our state parks would threaten the natural values of Wisconsin's outstanding park system. Widespread opposition at public hearings and in the media forced this proposal to be dropped. Attempts to roll back a generation of environmental progress are likely to continue. Strong public opposition will be vital if we are to maintain environmental quality in Wisconsin.

DNR says it's seeking best science on mining

By Jeff Meyers

State government reporter

Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer says he is naming five scientists to a long-awaited Crandon mine advisory panel to inject the "best possible science" into the emotional debate.

Three UW-Madison scientists, led by Sea Grant Institute Director Anders Andren, are part of the Wisconsin Science Advisory Council on Metallic Mining.

Meyer, during a briefing session in Gov. Tommy Thompson's office, said the council would conduct a "broad technology review" that will "be given exceptional weight" as his agency reviews the mine project. He said the final decision on whether the mine will proceed likely will rest with a civil service administrative law judge and the courts — something that could take until January 2003.

"This has nothing to do with the mining moratorium bill," said Meyer, adding his opinion that the proposal before the Assembly this week "doesn't add ... environmental protection" to the North Woods.

~~But a leading DNR and mining critic said Meyer's actions prove the agency no longer is independent.~~ Meyer, once appointed by a Thompson-appointed citizen board, now is a direct appointee of the governor.

"The timing is certainly suspicious," said state Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison.

He noted that the naming of the panel has been delayed for about a

year and that the subject will be part of Thompson's speech to be delivered on the eve of the vote.

Black said he welcomes any independent scientific review but added "it's unfair to the scientists to put them in such a politicized position."

"This shows exactly why we need a moratorium," he said. "The DNR has become a political agency that's an arm of the governor's office."

The five scientists will be under contract to the state for about a year at a cost of about \$100,000, DNR officials said. Andren, the chairman, said he hasn't been a Thompson contributor and that he hasn't done contract work for mining companies.

He said the scientists wouldn't do their own tests, but review data to sort out the competing viewpoints.

In addition to Andren, the scientists are: Tuncer Edil, a UW-Madison engineering professor; Timothy Grundl, an associate professor of chemical hydrogeology at UW-Milwaukee; Bezalel Haimson, a mining engineering professor at UW-Madison; and Alphonse Zanoni, a Marquette professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering.

The first meeting of the panel is slated for Jan. 26. All meetings of the panel are to be public, DNR officials said.

Its report, expected before the end of 1998, will be included unamended in the environmental impact statement on the mine, the officials said.

Crandon mine time line

State Journal staff

The proposal: Over a period of 35 years, a joint venture of Exxon and Rio Algom called Crandon Mining Co. plans to pull tons of zinc and copper from a shaft mine located on about 550 acres about five miles from Crandon.

Developments this week: Gov. Tommy Thompson on Tuesday finalizes a science advisory panel; and state Assembly on Wednesday considers a mining moratorium bill.

Key dates:

1976 — Exxon announces the discovery of a vast mineral deposit.

1986 — Exxon withdraws its permit applications, citing poor

metal prices.

1993 — Exxon and Rio Algom announce formation of Crandon Mining Co. to seek development of the deposit.

1994 to present — Crandon Mining and state Department of Natural Resources discuss technical aspects of proposal.

1997 — State Senate approves mining moratorium bill that could delay project.

Fall 1998 — Thompson administration science advisory panel conclusions to be included in DNR draft environmental impact statement.

1999 — Final impact statement and likely permit decisions. Administrative hearings begin six months later.

2000 — State administration

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THURSDAY/DECEMBER 4, 1997

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer yesterday told Madison Democrat Spencer Black he is "flat wrong" in telling people the new DNR mining rules do not protect groundwater. *"This agency would never turn it's back on its responsibility to protect ground water — and our citizens prove it," Meyer said.*

Black, Meyer spar over mine rule

DNR head denies danger to water

By Mike Flaherty
Legislative reporter

The company hoping to mine the copper and zinc ore beneath Forest County soil must now meet a new set of ground water rules — but the state and mine opponents differ over the rules' impact.

The rules approved Wednesday by the Department of Natural Resources Board would be a strict set of regulations to better protect Wisconsin's ground water, said

DNR Secretary George Meyer.

But they also extend the area around the mine that companies can pollute without having to shut down the mine — which increases chances of severe pollution, protested environmentalists.

The rules, which must be approved by the Senate and Assembly's natural resources committees, extend "special lenient treatment of the mining industry," Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, told the DNR's oversight board.

The rules mean landfills and other facilities regulated by the DNR will face stricter rules than mines, which have much more potential to hurt the environment, Black said.

At the center of the debate is a proposal by the Crandon Mining

Co., a partnership of Exxon and a Canadian mining firm, to open a 500-acre copper and zinc mine near Crandon. The mine, called a sulfide mine because the ore is locked in acid-bearing rock that must be stripped of its mineral, has become embroiled in controversy over mining regulations in Wisconsin.

Environmentalists worry that the mine's acid-laden tailings could pollute ground water and the nearby Wolf River.

The company counters that the mine's waste water, which will be piped to the Wisconsin River, will be clean enough to drink — and that it has engineered a lining that will seal the tailings and never leak.

One of the new ground water rules will require ground water

Status of proposal

■ **Summary:** Metallic mining ground water rules approved Wednesday would extend the area around mines the DNR will monitor for pollution.

■ **Status:** The DNR Board endorsed the rules Wednesday.

■ **Next step:** The proposed rules must be reviewed and approved by the Senate and Assembly's natural resources committees before they have the force of law. The Legislature meets again in January.

testing at both 150 feet and 1,200 feet from the mine.

Meyer told Black he is "flat

wrong" in telling people the new rules don't protect ground water. If the agency finds pollution at the mine's 150-foot boundary, it is required to take action, Meyer said.

"This agency would never turn its back on its responsibility to protect ground water — and our actions prove it," he said in a test exchange with Black.

Black, a former lobbyist for the Sierra Club, countered that the rules should be more strict. If the agency finds pollution at 150 feet it is required to act — but it is not required to shut down the mine or make the company prove in court that it can fix the problem quickly, Black said.

That's the standard other businesses, such as landfills, have to meet, he said.

News Editors please note: This article refers to new mining rules requested by Assembly Republicans and unanimously approved Wednesday by the state Natural Resources Board. The change would require an early-warning circle of pollution monitors to be installed only 150 feet from the edge of any new metal-ore mine. If small amounts of metals, acids and other contaminants are detected at the circle, known as a mandatory intervention boundary, mining companies could be forced to change processes, pump out contaminants or even close.

Spencer Black is a former lobbyist for the Sierra Club, the special interest group ordered by a Dane County Court to pull illegal campaign attack ads last year.

Local/State

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Green Bay Press-Gazette ★★

Comments? Call the Metro Desk, (414) 431-8346

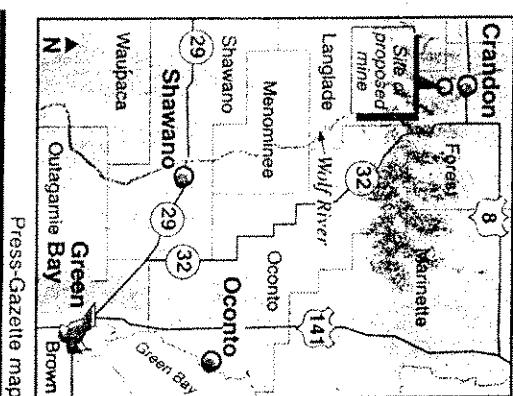
Sunday, March 9, 1997

Grandon Mining turns up heat

Lobbying intense before Tuesday vote on moratorium

MADISON (AP) — Lobbyists are convinced they will down the Dale Alberts stood in front of a table spread with minerals and stacked with documents as he presented a two-hour lecture that he calls "Mining 101" to Republican legislative staffers. Alberts represents the Crandon Mining Co., a partnership formed by mining giants Exxon Coal and Minerals and Rio Algom to extract 55 million tons of zinc and copper from a proposed mine in Northeastern Wisconsin near Crandon. The Senate is scheduled to vote Tuesday on a bill that the com-

pany is just one step from the part of a Crandon Mining Co. lobbying effort that several legislators say rivals the intensity of some of the more memorable lobbying efforts in recent history. "There's a lot of pressure," says state Sen. Kevin Shibleski, D-Amherst, a co-sponsor of the Senate bill. "I'd say it's comparable to the Brewers stadium. Alberts, who formerly worked in government relations for Rio Algom, came to Madison about seven months ago to set up Crandon Mining Co.'s lobbying office on the fifth floor of a build-



Press-Gazette map

MINING

From B-1

Harrill says Crandon Mining even with the big money of two of the world's largest mineral companies behind it — has up until now lost the public relations war on the mine and the moratorium to the state-mining opponents.

"This is not just a tag group of individuals," Harrill said. "It's an organized, coherent opposition. At different meetings I see them reading off the same script that's printed on the Internet. Our opposition was

way out ahead of us on this thing."

"This time around," says Keith Reopelle, a lobbyist for Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, "a real significant difference is that instead of just environmental groups fighting this, we've got others, including a half-dozen statewide fishing groups that are solidly behind us."

The coalition started coming together two years ago when Gov. Tommy Thompson proposed a budget that eliminated the state Public Interenor's Office and made the secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources a member of his cabi-

net. Decade Director Pam Porter now on leave to run former Intervenor Kathleen Falk's campaign for Dane County Executive, started stitching together a statewide conservation coalition called the Wisconsin Stewardship Network.

Linked by pages on the Internet's World Wide Web and made up of conservative sporting groups as well as the traditional environmental groups, the Stewardship Network has played a powerful role in bringing together a diverse group of people from throughout the state to take on the mining companies.

SPINS: Mining economics isn't about prosperity

THE LAKELAND TIMES—October 3, 1997—Page 11

(From Page 6)

investments are substantial, and there's no question that Ladysmith plowed most of these dollars into economic development. As Tynan observes, the city spent the money on various projects, from improving its airport to building an industrial park.

In addition, the city spent \$2.8 million for a new plant for a local furniture manufacturer, helping to retain 100 jobs and add 30 more. In all, Christianson says, mining investments helped save or create more than 300 jobs.

For Christianson, those statistics should settle the matter.

But Tynan doesn't stop there. He goes beyond looking at the microeconomic impact -- the specific funds flowing to specific projects -- and looks at the macroeconomic results.

In other words, what has the mine's presence meant in terms of taxpayer debt, unemployment, and such things as school investment? Does the mine's money add up to a solid foundation for the future, or does it leave a gaping

economic hole that will pollute future prosperity?

For example, what impact did the mine's operation have on unemployment?

It certainly didn't help. Despite all that talk about jobs saved and created, Ladysmith's unemployment increased from 8% in 1989 to approximately 9.7% in early 1997.

Throughout the mining period, in fact, unemployment fluctuated between 8% and 11%, except for 1995 and 1996, when a regional drop in unemployment pulled the rate below 8%.

By contrast, Medford's unemployment stayed relatively stable, creeping from 6.2% in 1989 to 6.5% in 1996. Its unemployment dropped sharply, too, during 1995 and 1996. Overall, Medford held its own in employment rates, while Ladysmith fell further behind.

Medford kept its steady rate of employment even with an increase in population (from 4,300 in 1989 to almost 4,400 now). Ladysmith's unemployment rate rose even though

its population declined.

And while it's true that Ladysmith's wage rates grew -- gross wages increased from \$16,000 to \$18,700, a jump of 16.8% between 1989 and 1995 -- wages grew at a similar pace in towns without mines.

Most important, the mine failed to wipe out or substantially close a glaring wage gap between Ladysmith and Medford and between Ladysmith and other Wisconsin towns.

Lagging behind

Even worse, while Ladysmith poured mining dollars into what appears to be dubious economic development projects -- dubious given their inability to create adequate numbers of jobs or average wages -- the city began to lag behind other communities in infrastructure and school investments.

Between 1992 and 1996, for example, Medford's school expenditures stayed around \$2.2 million, while Ladysmith's declined from about \$1.6 million to \$1.5 million. With such riches pouring in, one wonders why officials chose not to make education a serious priority.

Likewise, the mining money hasn't eased the burden on Ladysmith taxpayers -- they've seen city debt rise 86%, from \$150,000 to \$280,000 between 1989 and 1996. During the same period, Medford's debt remained constant at \$135,000.

With or without? Your choice

All totaled, Medford, without a mine, seems to have done better than Ladysmith, with its mine.

Let's quickly recap: Ladysmith lost population while Medford gained. Who knows, maybe people opted for Medford rather than for the Ladysmith paradise because wage rates were \$1,300 a year higher. Perhaps they moved to Medford

while Ladysmith's unemployment was almost two percentage points higher and growing.

Perhaps it was Medford's infrastructure expenditures on sidewalks and street lamps and benches, which was about twice as much per capita as Ladysmith's.

Perhaps it was the smaller debt, which meant a lower tax burden. Perhaps it was Medford's commitment to the future, with its strong school expenditures.

Despite his mistreading of his town's economy, I do agree with Christianson on two general points.

First, when judging the economic impact of mines, Ladysmith is a good place to start -- that is, to start unraveling the lie of mining prosperity.

Christianson said something else that's true: "It may well be years before Rusk County can calculate the full benefit of the Flambeau mine."

Benefit may not be the right word, but it's certainly true that the mine will assert itself through the years.

The sad thing is, if mining history teaches us anything at all, it is that the mine's long-term impact will almost certainly encompass an economic and environmental catastrophe costing millions and millions of dollars to clean up.

What benefit then, these mines that will have long since closed their check books and gone away?

Blood drive Tuesday

The Bo-di-Lac Fire Department Auxiliary will host a blood drive with the Howard Young Blood Bank on Tuesday, Oct. 7 from 1-7 p.m. at the Bo-di-Lac fire barn.

The fire barn is located approximately 12 miles on Hwy. 70 West

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In Ladysmith, a mine is a terrible thing to chase

Today, another perspective on mining economics.

Last week, this newspaper offered a viewpoint by Ladysmith City Administrator Al Christianson, who issued a glowing assessment of the Flambeau mine's contribution to his city's economy.

In Christianson's opinion, his city is living proof that mining brings prosperity.

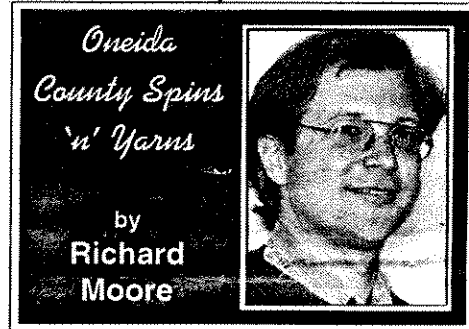
I am seldom compelled to take issue with other people's columns. But while Christianson's views have played prominently in the media, newspapers have generally failed to give equal notice to a different assessment of that mine, a study published six months ago.

In the interest of fair debate, I'd like to notice it now.

This report was authored by Tim Tynan of the state's Mining Impact Coalition. According to Tynan, the Flambeau mine has had a negligible impact on the Ladysmith economy.

What's more, Tynan compared Ladysmith's economic record with a similar city -- Medford -- and found it wanting. Both cities have slightly more than 4,000 people, both have a tax base of around \$3 million and both are the only urban centers in their counties.

A major difference, Tynan says, is that Medford did not have a mine.



Another is that Medford outperformed Ladysmith in virtually every economic category during the mining years between 1989 and 1996.

In and of itself, Tynan argues, the Ladysmith record book during the mining years is an anemic one that hardly fits the pro-mining rhetoric. Let's look at the details, as presented in Tynan's report.

Revenue generated

First of all, everyone agrees, the mine has generated revenue for Ladysmith.

Christianson says the mine generated more than \$25 million in public and private investment; Tynan puts the number at \$17 million.

Whatever the actual figure, the

See SPINS...

(Please turn to Page 11)

Indian Tribes Could Be Exempt

Madison—Mining moratorium legislation pending before the state legislature would have no authority over the state's Indian tribes according to an analysis by the non-partisan Legislative Council.

The recently issued opinion by the Legislative Council concludes that under federal law the new stricter mining permit requirements of Senate Bill 3 (the so-called "Mining Moratorium Bill") would not apply to any mining operations conducted on tribal lands.

The paper further states that the same federal laws pre-empt all state environmental regulations on tribal lands.

"This information is extremely disturbing," said Assembly Environment Committee Chairman Marc Duff (R-New Berlin). "We are trying to pass strong environmental regulation for the whole state. To learn that hundreds of thousands of acres of tribal land will be left completely unprotected under these laws is troubling."

"If the tribes are not bound by our environmental protections on mining, the so-called

Mining Moratorium Bill is a sham. We will be merely closing shop for non-Indian mining operations while opening the door on Indian lands for metallic mining completely free from the oversight of our Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources."

Duff said that he hoped that the Indian issue would be addressed before the Assembly takes action on SB 3 in Jan. of 1998.

"We intend to take prompt action on SB 3, but I would hope that we can close this huge environmental protection loophole in the current bill before we would consider making it state law," said Duff.

"The environmental laws of Wis. should apply uniformly across the state. We need to make sure that we do not have one set of laws for some people in Wis. and another set for others."

What does the state say about mining plan?

ECCOLA (which rhymes with e coli) continues to holler and jump about the terrible things that will befall Wisconsin if the Crandon Mine receives its legally applied-for permits. The anti-mining folks are all worked up because the Mining Moratorium bill never got through the House prior to adjournment. Crandon Mining Company has spent some heavy money to get the truth about mining in general and the Crandon Project in particular before the people of the state.

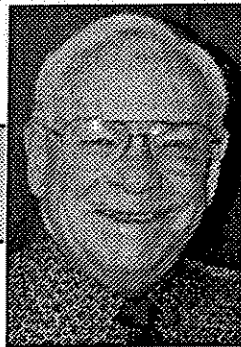
It has always amazed me and others in the media that management waited so long to get their act together in the face of the most ridiculous claims being made by many people who have nothing to do with mining.

They called treated water coming from the mine site as 'sewerage'. That's strange, considering the amount of treated water presently being discharged into the Wisconsin River by many companies including Rhineland Paper Company. ECCOLA doesn't call that sewerage. In truth the water they plan to pump from Crandon will be more pure than what's in the river now.

Crandon Mining Company needs to tell the public about mining. They are under the most stringent restric-

Paper Trails

By
Dick
Timmons



tions ever imposed upon any business in the history of the state. If the scientists at The Department of Natural Resources ever live long enough to approve the permitting of sulfide mining then I much prefer to listen to them than to folks who get 90 percent of their information off the Internet or second hand.

The truth of The Crandon Mine is that if approved as safe for our environment it will provide the largest financial boost to the poorest counties of Wisconsin and great value to peripheral counties such as Oneida and Vilas will be immense. Lifetime jobs between a quarter of a century and thirty five years will bring new prosperity to families who

desperately need it.

The taxes to the State of Wisconsin will provide millions of dollars to our treasury.

Instead of kicking business in the head, it sure would be a lot nicer if we who live up here had more to say about what goes on in our area of the state than people like Rep. Spencer Black in Madison.

If mining proposals don't succeed because the companies are unable to meet state requirements then fine...there'll be no mining. But for God's sake allow the process to proceed.

A lot of fear mongering has gone on for too long by so-called environmentalists who for the most part are not professional scientist environmentalists. I'm interested in hearing what the state has to say and it ain't over 'til the fat lady sings. Right now she hasn't even entered the theater.

Copies of a report containing public concerns regarding the proposed Crandon Mine and DNR responses which were gathered at a public meeting in Tomahawk on June 18 are available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Integrated Science Services, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Alcan Aluminum's Australian subsidiary, Alcan South Pacific, will perform a feasibility study and an environmental impact statement on the development of its Cape York Peninsula bauxite reserves in northern Queensland, Australia. The site contains about 175 Mt (193 million st) of proven bauxite reserves.

The Cape York studies should be completed by early 1997. If the project is deemed viable, Alcan would start construction activity later that year.

Mining could begin in late 1999. The ore would be primarily dedicated to Alcan's alumina production requirements at nearby Queensland Alumina (owned 21.4%) in Australia and at Aughinish Alumina Limited (owned 100%) in Ireland.

Wyoming's coal production rose 11.4% during 1995, while permitted annual capacity remained relatively stable, according to the Wyoming Geological Survey.

The 239.4 Mt (263.9 million st) of coal produced from Wyoming mines during 1995 was equivalent to 56.6% of the 423.2 Mt (466.5 million st) of permitted annual capacity.

Of the 28 producing mines in the state, only five produced more than 80% of their permitted capacity. Another 11 mines produced 50% to 75% of their permitted annual capacity during 1995. Three mines are applying for an additional 37 Mt (41 million st) of annual mine capacity. If these permits are approved, permitted annual capacity for Wyoming coal mines will reach more than 453 Mt/a (500 million stpy).

Morrison Knudsen will lead a joint venture in engineering, procurement and construction management of a \$110-million coal processing, stockpiling and ship loading project at the 3.4-Mt/a (3.8-million stpy) Bontang surface mine in East Kalimantan, Indonesia.

The other partners include Sandwell, of Vancouver, British Columbia and P.T. Indotek Engico, of Jakarta by P.T. Indominco Mandiri.

Phase one of the project involves managing construction of initial mine facilities and the building of a 13.5-km- (22-mile-) long mine-to-port haul road. Phase one, valued at \$30 million, is expected to be completed by the end of 1996. Phase two involves a two-year-long project to install equipment and build facilities. Its value is \$80 million.

Once completed, this phase of the project will allow coal loading into ocean-going Panamax-class vessels. Some of the equipment will include a 140-kt (154,000-st) capacity blending stockyard, a 350-kt- (386,000-st-) capacity port stockyard and a 2-kt/h (2,200-stph) shiploader.

Sunnyside Gold and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment reached an agreement on a two-year-old lawsuit concerning the cleanup of the Sunnyside Mine near Silverton, CO. Sunnyside Gold is a wholly owned subsidiary of Echo Bay.

The agreement calls for Sunnyside Gold to maintain and improve water quality in the Upper Animas river basin. In return, the state removed objections to the company's reclamation efforts. Sunnyside Gold sued the state during 1994 for clarification on Colorado's enforcement of water-quality rules regarding hazardous discharges from naturally occurring seeps and springs.

The company has spent about \$10 million in reclamation efforts at the Sunnyside Mine and Mayflower Mills since they closed in 1991. Sunnyside said its expects to spend an additional \$5 million to \$10 million on five other sites.

Another part of the agreement has the company removing waste piles and mining debris from property it does not own.

Summitville Consolidated Mining pleaded guilty to 40 federal felony charges and agreed to pay \$20 million in fines for its part in the Summitville Mine disaster in southwestern Colorado. The company filed for bankruptcy in 1992 and has assets of less than \$750,000. It also owes the US Environmental Protection Agency more than \$100 million for the cleanup. That must be paid before the \$20 million fine.

Tom Chisholm and Samye Buckner, two the mine's former managers, still face trial on felony charges. In the agreement, Summitville admitted conspiring with Chisholm and Buckner and "one or more other people" to violate state and federal environmental laws.

US attorney Kim Fimberg said the investigation is continuing and there could be more indictments of former Summitville officials. ■

Student must learn latest computer technology

Students (Continued from page 11) study including database, ore reserves, equipment selection, stability analysis, ventilation, drainage, economic analysis, development and mining plans.

An individual project must be completed within one semester. It is a lot of work to do in a relatively short period of time. It would not be possible to finish even half of it using traditional manual design techniques including general purpose software. How do the students do it? They use Vulcan to perform most of the design tasks.

Vulcan has several modeling and design capabilities. It helps to unfold students' creativity and accelerates the learning process. Educational effects are tremendous. Students are able to contribute to the industry immediately after graduation with minimum training on site. ■

USA CONCEPT

Beneke recognized the USBM's many achievements over its 85 years, including its work in saving lives and in making workplaces safer and the environment cleaner.

Rhea Graham, director of the USBM, followed Beneke in celebrating the USBM's achievements, saying "though there is no easy way to speak of the hurt that can come when a decision is made that ends your opportunities for public service...there is an abundance of riches to celebrate from the accomplishments and innovations of the [USBM], and I am proud to lead the tributes today."

Graham noted that because mining and minerals' role in society is frequently seen as the extreme case of extraction versus preservation, it was imperative that the USBM staff render unbiased and professional research and analysis. "We in the [USBM] have a proud history of responding to need, producing a product, and then moving forward to the next challenge. Ironically, our successes in completing what we have started brought us the fate we face today. Responding to a change should not make an agency irrelevant."

She praised the dedication and selflessness of her colleagues, saying their service speaks well of our nation's human resources.

After a narrated video, *The U.S. Bureau of*

Mines: Serving the Nation with Distinction, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt gave his well-wishes and thank yous. "[The USBM's] accomplishments are investments that will continue to pay dividends to all Americans for years to come. We've all benefited from the commitment of the thousands of individuals who have served in the Bureau," he said.

"The most momentous part of this is not the institutional transition; it is the way in which that transition is impacting on the lives and career expectations of a lot of people," Babbitt said. He said that he wished the Congressional mandate had spread the transition across a period of time. "It would have allowed us to give more extensive consideration of your needs and to make more provision for moving a lot of dedicated people into other areas of government service as the openings arose," he said.

Robert Armstrong, assistant secretary for Land and Minerals; J. David McAteer, assistant secretary for Labor and Mine Safety and Health; Dan Gerkin, senior vice president for Public and Constituent Relations, National Mining Assn.; and Dr. Craig Schiffries, director of the Board on Earth Sciences and Resources, National Academy of Science, also spoke at the event.

Alaska announces exploration-incentive program

The Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) has published criteria for certifying exploration expenditures made during 1995. The instructions relate to an Exploration Incentive Act passed by the Alaska State Legislature in 1995 that allows up to \$20M of credit per project for mineral exploration. The instruction package from the DNR specifies how to apply for certification of the expenditures. The act allows qualifying exploration costs to be credited against future taxes and royalties due to the state. The credits can be taken for exploration on state, federal, or private lands and are site specific.

Steve Borell, executive director of the Alaska Miners Assn., said that >100 mi² of state mining claims were staked in 1995 in the Fairbanks District alone and that companies new to Alaska may not know about the Exploration Incentive Act. "I am sure new companies have been out there quietly exploring and they too can benefit from the act," he said.

ENGINEERING & MINING JOURNAL March '95

**TO KEEP YOUR CASH,
TO KEEP YOUR COOL
AND TO KEEP YOUR R-12 SYSTEMS
WORKING, WHERE DO YOU TURN?**

THE NEXT PAGE ...