

Pt 30

Associate Editor: Thomas W. Still, 252-6110

WISCONSIN

'It seems like blinders go up when people start to talk about guns, preventing productive discussion and activity.'

State Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud, R-Eastman

OPII

OUR OPINION

Scrutinize mining, don't abandon it

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

Our answer is a resounding "yes."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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WISCONSIN
Newspaper Association

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Clipping Service Division

MENOMONIE
The Dunn County News

OCT 1997

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Bos- Bossany on board," said
Jim Hathaway

Spencer Black still guardian o

By Pat Eggert
News Reporter

The last session of the legislature "cut our environmental protection system off at the knees," Spencer Black said during a visit to UW-Stout last Wednesday. He intends to introduce legislation to undo the damage during the next session.

Black was in the area for a speaking engagement at the Sierra Club meeting in Eau Claire that evening, and took a side trip to Menomonie to endorse the candidacy of Joe Plouff, Democratic candidate for the 29th Assembly seat. The position was vacated by retiring Al Baldus.

"This is a district that can make a difference," Black said. His bill, the Conservation Restoration Act, would restore an independent Public Intervenor, and remove the Department of Natural Resources from its new position as a "political patronage agency," he said.

"It's not going to happen

"It's not going to happen without the right people in the legislature ..."

Spencer Black

without the right people in the legislature," Black said.

Black talked about the system of conservation in Wisconsin that dates from the days that Aldo Leopold "kicked political influence out of the Conservation Department."

The resulting independent, citizen controlled DNR led to the highest levels of environmental protection the country, and the lowest unemployment rate, Black said. Those two go together, Black said. The state that ranks lowest on environmental protection, Louisiana, also ranks lowest in providing economic opportunity for its citizens.

Black said he met Plouff when the City Council member invited legislators

up to show how much the Red Cedar Trail had benefitted Western Wisconsin.

Black said that proposed mining in Wisconsin is a threat to the state's environment, and is tied to the attacks on environmental protection in the state. The public intervenor's office was eliminated because of efforts of mining interests, Black said.

He has proposed a mining moratorium bill, that would restrict mining until the companies could point to a mine that has been closed for ten years and not resulted in permanent pollution problems.

"I think it's a very minimal requirement," Black said. He noted that Plouff has pledged himself to support the bill, while his opponent, Jim Anderson, has not.

"We do not want an Appalaichian type situation in Wisconsin," Black said.

No Longer A Moratorium

Dear Editor:

The Mining Moratorium bill (SB 3), which I am one of the Authors, is no longer a Moratorium. Yesterday the State Assembly, against my and hundreds of my constituents, wishes, adopted several amendments to the Mining Moratorium bill.

These amendments can be looked at two ways: 1. An effort to kill the bill, or 2. An attempt to make the bill stronger or weaker. I voted against all amendments as this was my bill, and as I had been asked by hundreds of my constituents to pass the Mining Moratorium bill without amendments.

I can fully support the argument that SB 3 did NOT need to be amended. SB 3 passed the State Senate earlier this Session on a 29 to 3 vote. Saying that SB 3 needed to be fixed or amended is saying that the Senate was in error when the 29 upper House members passed it, that they did not know what they were doing, that the Senate is effective but this is not the case as the Senate in fact did the right thing. SB 3 did not need to be amended in the Assembly. But the fact still remains now that the Mining Moratorium bill, because it was amended has to go back to the Senate, a Senate that right now has no Majority party (the Senate has 16 Democrats and 16 Republicans due to a vacancy).

The strategy of myself, Rep. Spencer Black and the supporters of the Mining Moratorium bill is to ask concerned citizens around Wisconsin call and write their Senators asking them to "Not Concur on Assembly Amendment #4 to SB 3" when SB 3 is taken up by the Senate. The Senate Leadership has agreed to take the bill up right away in February, so call now. The main Legislative Hotline number is 1-800-362-WISC, the operator will connect you to your Senator. Why not concur on Assembly Amendment 4? This is the amendment that gutted the bill, the amendment that took the Moratorium out of the Mining moratorium bill - obviously I voted against this amendment. The amendment re-defines "Pollution" in a way that will allow Exxon to get around the Moratorium and get a permit from the DNR as soon as the permit process is available.

SB 3, the Mining Moratorium bill, basically was originally introduced to require Exxon to prove to Wisconsin citizens before we allow them to mine the 55 tons of Copper in Crandon that they have a similar sulfide ore mine project somewhere else that has operated for at least 10 years and has been closed for at least 10 years without any pollution.

This Crandon mine is at the head waters of the Wolf River, a river that winds throughout my Assembly District. Exxon has a horrible record with these types of sulfide ore mines and Exxon has killed Rivers in the past. So SB 3 in principle would delay the Crandon Exxon mine at least 20 years, right? Well not any more. Assembly amendment 4 redefined pollution in a way where now Exxon will be able to point to a mine that is polluting and say here is our example, so now the DNR would have to issue them the permit to start mining, because of Amendment 4.

I won't elaborate on the numerous enormous issues relating to the 100 foot deep waste dump, the threat to the Wolf and Wisconsin Rivers, the profits Exxon will get and the political and environment damage implications because this issue has been covered very well in the past.

But what is important now is for you to call your State Senator and ask them to vote against Assembly Amendment #4 by non-concurring.

Sincerely yours,
William D. Lorge
 Representative to the Assembly
 Madison

Menroe County Democrat
 1-29-98

282-3698

Nancy Full
Nicollette
Anderson

WATERSHEDS

Nitrogen Pollutes Embarras River

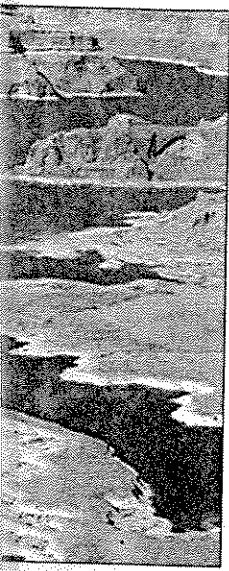
New research from a University of Illinois study shows a large amount of unused nitrogen from farm fields enters the Embarras River in East-Central Illinois through drainage tiles.

Not all agricultural land is drained by tiles, but without artificial drainage, some of the most productive land in the world would be unusable. In Illinois tiles are used to drain about 40 percent of the agricultural acreage.

"The drainage tiles are like point sources of nitrate pollution," said Mark David, professor of biogeochemistry in the UI Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. "When the tiles stopped flowing, the nitrate level of the river dropped to zero. However, when big rainfall events occurred, nitrate levels in the drainage tiles jump."

The two major sources of nitrates in agricultural fields are fertilizer applications and mineralization of soil organic matter. Only half of the nitrogen applied to the fields is actually used by the crop, the rest is returned to the atmosphere, used by subsequent crops, or is accumulated in the soil organic matter.

David Gentry, a UI agriculture research specialist who participated in the study said, "We may be able to fine tune nitrogen fertilizer application to reduce the nitrate load of the river, but we would never be able to



formed when the was built in 1964.

thrived before the fed- named the Colorado

ra Club board mem- e campaign, but some -mocking his efforts hat they feel is a los- are better projects to b staff members also d have been slow to

h could become the recovery project ever, lion-dollar tourism and drinking water ern states.

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Invoking the Sacred

November 21-22, 1997



conscious choice - Natural Living Journal
Nov/Dec issue - Midwest Edition

totally eliminate it." Perhaps unaware of the tremendous yields sometimes achieved through biodynamic agriculture, Gentry mused, "This is something we have to live with if we want to grow corn at current production levels."

The negative effect of high nitrate levels in the Embarras River can be seen in areas of the Gulf of Mexico where scientists think nitrates and other nutrients have accumulated enough to deplete oxygen in the water, and kill biological organisms.

For more information contact: Gary Beaumont, 217-333-9440.

Proposed Sulfide Mine in Wisconsin

Northern Wisconsin could experience environmental and economic devastation if permits are granted to Exxon and Rio Algom for their proposed Wolf River mine, near Crandon.

Exxon plans to send its wastewater across a 38-mile pipeline to discharge below the Hat Rapids Dam, threatening both the Great Lakes and Mississippi Watersheds. Toxic acid mine drainage would contaminate the Wolf and Wisconsin Rivers, which both flow into the Mississippi.

If the Exxon permit is granted, the door could be opened for other mining companies, which have already leased over 300,000 acres in Northern Wisconsin, awaiting permit approval.

Earthwins has begun a campaign to protect the Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds from the Multinational Sulfide Mining District, and offers information on citizen involvement at their website.

For more info see: www.earthwins.com.

PACKAGING

A Biodegradable Plastic is Born

A corn-based wrap could be a biodegradable alternative to plastic wrap and may help reduce the amount of plastic waste that adds to landfills. The new material will also create another use for the Illinois corn crop.

Scientists with the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have developed the plastic-like wrap from zein, a protein found in corn gluten meal after the production of ethanol. Zein is used now as a base ingredient in animal feed and in coatings on candy, rice, and pharmaceutical tablets.

Because the wrap is made from this pro-

benefits that may come from the new material, Padua said, but a biodegradable wrap is high.

"We've received questions about new uses for the material from different industries," says Padua. "It's fun to look into the possibilities."

For more information contact: T 217-244-2880, or e-mail: t-prow@

COMMUTING

Carpooling for Cleaner Air

Traffic congestion is one of the ground level ozone, but air quality improved by reducing the number of cars on the road through carpooling.

The Partners for Clean Air, a coalition of over 300 businesses and special interest groups, have been educating Illinoisans about ground level ozone and its risks, while alerting the public on Action Days."

The Chicago Area Transportation Rideshare Services offers free assistance anyone wanting to form a carpool or a "Share the Drive" hotline, 800-92

Rideshare Service also offers free information to employers interested in developing "Ozone Action Day" plans and year-round rideshare programs.

WASTE

New Method for Waste Disposal

A solution to the problem of waste disposal may be on the horizon. American Scientific Corporation has developed new technology that could be of significant importance to problems arising from human waste disposal activity.

The technology is called Disintegration Technology (SDT) and incorporates sound waves and energy to disintegrate virtually any metallic substances into powders as fine as negative 400 mesh.

This means that previously problematic materials like rubber (tires), gypsum (wall), plastics, insulation, glass, and other solid wastes can be cost-effectively "micronized" and separated for reuse as industrial raw materials. For more information about SDT see www.uniserve.com/fa

PUBLIC HEALTH

Proposal Weak

Muskego Sun 4/15/98

OtherViews

PublicForum

Lawmakers: Be honorable

Public Forum:

State Reps. Scott Gunderson and Mary Lazich, in my opinion, sold out the people of Waukesha County on Jan. 21 and 22 at the state Capitol.

What am I talking about? The mining moratorium bill. How do I know? I was there for every minute of the two days of debate on the floor. And, believe me, I paid keen attention to what was said by our state legislators, including Reps. Gunderson and Lazich.

Both of them voted to amend the bill, gutting its strong controls on mining. Then they voted for the weakened version. Pretty clever, isn't it? That way they could come home to their constituents and say, "Yes, I voted for this bill because I knew you wanted it," when in reality they had taken the teeth out of it first.

This situation is quite worrisome. So much exploratory drilling has been done across northern Wisconsin that, according to a former Exxon geologist, the north woods has the potential to become a "new domestic mining district." Kerr-McGee, BPH-Utah, Noranda and Exxon are just a few of the mining giants who have been snooping around the area, looking to see if they might be able to turn a profit from our Wisconsin resources. There is even the potential for uranium mining in our state.

The most crucial vote was not the final one, but rather the earlier vote to adopt the so-called Exxon/Rio-Algom

amendment. The original bill said that a mining company could not get a permit to mine in Wisconsin unless it could prove by example that a similar mine had operated without contaminating nearby water supplies. What the amendment did was to redefine pollution to mean a violation of environmental law that had actually gone to court. This means that mines that have caused great environmental damage but have not actually gone through a formal legal proceeding could be used as acceptable examples. Many such mines exist, so we are in big trouble.

And here we sit with a gutless bill that's on its way back to the state Senate for confirmation. What do we do? Reason tells me that if the Assembly could add a weakening amendment, then the Senate should have equal power to remove it. Time is short.

Call your state senators, Joanne Huelsman (521-5010) and Margaret Farrow (782-1261). Tell them to fight to remove the Exxon/Rio-Algom amendment and give us back a true moratorium on sulfide mining. After all, Exxon and Rio-Algom are not citizens of this state. You are the ones who vote and deserve to be the ones who vote and deserve to be represented.

**Laura Furtman
Webster**

To: Mike - Duff's office
From: Rep. Goetsch
re: Laura Furtman
Date: Feb 17, '98

Ms. Furtman sent "Letter to Editor" to two
for Bob's local papers. One Daily - ^{the} Daily Citizen
of Beaver Dam and one weekly - The Mayville
News in Mayville. Both in Dodge Co.

Below is a response from a woman in
Columbus printed in the Daily Citizen of Beaver
Dam.

To the Editor:

Why does this Laura Furtman
person keep writing all these mean,
nasty and untrue letters about Reps.
Gene Hahn and Bob Goetsch? And
why do you keep printing them?

Hahn and Goetsch voted for the
exact same tough, bipartisan mining
bill supported by Rep. Spencer Jack
and Sen. Kevin Shibilski, the
authors of the measure (Senate Bill
3). It's now on its way to the
governor. What's the problem?

I'm tired of all these extremists

coming into our area and polluting
our hometown paper with their
falsehoods. What an insult — do
they really think we're not smart
enough to see through their
extremist political garbage? We
don't need anyone from the
Minnesota border invading the Dai-
ly Citizen and telling us what's best
for our area.

**Angela Stone
Columbus**

Daily Citizen 2/13/98

A big victory for the environment and democracy

By Spencer Black

On Feb. 4, the Legislature — at long last — approved a strong mining moratorium bill in 1995. It was given little chance of passage by state Capitol pundits. Exxon, Crandon Mining and other mining interests spent more than \$2 million lobbying against the bill. They spent even more on television and newspaper ads and political contributions. In the end, however, this bill to protect our environment from potential damage from sulfide mining did pass. It passed because a broad coalition of hunters, anglers, environmentalists, church groups, senior citizens, students, local governments and American Indians created one of the largest grass-roots campaigns in recent legislative history. This is a big victory for the environment and for grass-roots democracy.

The passage of a strong mining moratorium bill shows that the voice of the people can overcome the money of the lobbyists. This success comes at the end of a long and tough fight. Personally, one of the difficult aspects of this was the strategy by bill opponents to make personal attacks on myself and other bill supporters. The latest example was a particularly nasty opinion column in Tuesday's Capital Times by a Republican legislative leader. Perhaps mining lobbyists and Republican legislators thought that if they could transform the mining issue into just another political name-calling squabble, the public would be turned off and not get involved. Fortunately, that tactic didn't work. While the name-calling against me was certainly unpleasant, the public was not diverted from the real issue. From the fishing clubs of the Fox River Valley to local government officials along the Wolf and Wisconsin rivers to citizen volunteers who circulated petitions at county fairs and farmers' markets, the public expressed support for the mining moratorium bill loud and clear. Even though the Republicans lost in their efforts to kill or weaken the bill, they continue to attack me as they did in Tuesday's rather vitriolic column. I believe that only degrades the quality of our public discourse and diverts attention from the real issues. I have not done that in the past and I don't plan to change that now.



FILE PHOTO
State Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, addresses a rally at the Capitol opposing the Crandon mine.

As originally introduced — and eventually passed — the mining moratorium bill delays a mine in a sulfide ore body like the Wolf River mine near Crandon until the mining industry has demonstrated that a similar mine has operated and been reclaimed for at least 10 years without causing contamination of water supplies. In January, the Republicans in the state Assembly radically altered the mining moratorium bill by voting for an amendment pushed by mining industry lobbyists.

The Assembly Republican amendment gutted the bill because it changed the definition of "pollution" so that only a mine subject to a legal or administrative action would be considered "polluting." There are hundreds of mines that have caused great environmental damage but have not gone through a legal procedure and thus would not be considered "polluting" under the new Republican definition. Had the Assembly

Republican action been allowed to stand, the mining moratorium bill would have been useless because hundreds of polluting mines (mines that have contaminated drinking water and rivers with cyanide, arsenic and other toxic chemicals) would have been declared "nonpolluting." As my Senate colleague Kevin Shibleski of Stevens Point put it, the Assembly Bill contained "a loophole you could drive a mining truck through."

I do want to correct at least one of the misleading statements in Tuesday's attack column. The Republican leader implies that I voted for this weakening amendment (Assembly Amendment 4). He even called me "hypocritical" because he says I criticized the amendment but voted for it. That's simply not true. Not only did I vote against Amendment 4, I led the fight on the floor of the Assembly against Amendment 4. I copy of the official Assembly roll call on the amendment is welcome to give me a call.

Fortunately, the state Senate closed the loophole contained in the Assembly Republican version of the bill. The Senate listened to the strong public sentiment and restored the original intent of the bill. As one newspaper put it, "The Senate put the muscle back in the moratorium." As a result, the bill that passed and is now on Governor Thompson's desk defines "pollution" the way it should be — as contamination of surface or ground water by toxic chemicals based on scientific data.

Our mining laws are tougher because of the passage of the mining moratorium bill (assuming Tommy Thompson doesn't veto it). Many Wisconsin citizens have learned that they, by working together and being persistent, can influence public policy and persuade the Legislature to pass strong environmental laws.

I introduced the mining moratorium bill because I believe that protecting our environment is essential to the future of our state and I'm very proud of the role I played in helping to pass this bill. After all, our greatest wealth in Wisconsin is not copper or zinc — it is our plentiful supply of clean water.

Rep. Spencer Black is the Assembly author of the mining moratorium bill.

83-91-2

Celebrating a people's win

One thing that progressives aren't very good at is declaring victory.

That's too bad, because they won a big one when the Legislature passed the mining moratorium bill this month.

Tommy Thompson has yet to sign the bill, and so any celebrating must be tempered by the need for the eternal vigilance that always must be accorded our governor. But even Thompson admits that, politically and practically, he will be hard pressed not to sign the bill eventually.

That's a remarkable admission on the governor's part and a remarkable victory for the progressive activists and environmentalists who came up with the idea to stop the proposed Crandon mine by requiring corporations to prove that operations of the sort they propose have a good environmental safety track record.



Black

When state Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, and others proposed that idea three years ago, it was dismissed by the Thompson administration, Republican legislators and many Democrats as unrealistic.

But the people did not dismiss it. Black and others traveled the state, building an unlikely coalition of rural folks who hunt and fish, suburbanites who vacation in the woods, and urbanites who wear the "green" label. The coalition drew in American Indians and opponents of treaty rights, township officials and Earth First! activists.

Two things bound the coalition together: a profound fear that Wisconsin's environment was threatened and a profound lack of faith in the willingness of most state officials to defend it.

The one legislator the coalition trusted throughout the long battle was Black. And when Black identified amendments attached to the bill by Assembly Republicans as threats to its effectiveness, Wisconsinites demanded that the Senate ensure that the final bill was sound.

The Senate did just that, and an embarrassed Assembly finally fell in line.

Now, however, Assembly Republicans are attacking Black. They're claiming that the bill Black initially promoted was flawed and that their amendments actually made it better.

The fact is that the Assembly amendments did bring some clarity to the proposal. But they also wrote in a definition of mine "pollution" that was far too narrow, and that opened a loophole for mining companies to slip through.

As Black explains in an article on today's Monday Section front, he and the Senate's chief proponent of the mining moratorium, Kevin Shubitski, D-Stevens Point, closed that loophole by adding an additional amendment defining mine "pollution" as scientists and citizens do.

It's no surprise that Republicans have attacked Black. He was a key player in a people's coalition that beat them at a game they like to think they've mastered.

The majority of Wisconsinites who seek to defend their state's natural beauty should not be confused by Republican deceptions, however. Spencer Black has fought harder than anyone else in the Legislature, not just for the mining moratorium but for the whole of the environmental agenda that is Wisconsin's greatest legacy.

Compromise needed on mining bill

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL 1-25-98

Now that Exxon has sold its half-interest in the proposed Crandon mine, its partner, the Canadian company Rio Algom Ltd., vows to continue the fight, but also says it will try to work with opponents to make the controversial project more acceptable.

Good luck. Opponents of the mine — and we're among them — strongly believe that it should not be built, period. No concessions or changes by Rio Algom are likely to change that view. The forested wetland under consideration is environmentally fragile, and the jobs the mine would generate are simply not worth the gargantuan risks to Wisconsin's natural resources.

But Democrats in the Legislature need to compromise on their mining moratorium bill. A moratorium is not the proper way to stop *this* mine or *any other*.

Rather than taking constructive steps to further tighten state regulations on mines to address valid concerns, well-meaning opponents of the Crandon mine — including the bill's author, Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison) — have opted for the politically expedient moratorium. The bill is really intended to circumvent the regulatory process and hold one industry, mining, to higher standards than other industries face.

Poor tactic:

A moratorium is not
the proper way to stop
this mine or any other.

Unfortunately, the bill has built up a huge head of steam in the Legislature. It was passed by the Senate last March and the Assembly last week. Still, like most bad bills, this one can be improved. Amendments added by the Assembly would do just that.

Officials with the state Department of Natural Resources have rightly criticized the language of the moratorium bill as ambiguous, arguing that it would be difficult to interpret and therefore to enforce. The amendments would correct that problem. For instance, one GOP amendment clearly defines what constitutes a violation of environmental law.

Black believes that amendment guts the bill; we believe the new language strengthens the measure. In the words of a DNR attorney, all the amendments make the language "more specific, more crisp and provide greater direction" to DNR regulators.

Ambiguous laws are bad laws, especially those that pertain to state regulation. How are regulators — or, for that matter, those being regulated — supposed to meet public standards that are deliberately vague?

The amended bill now goes back to the state Senate. Let's hope senators see the light.

HERE ARE THE HEADLINES:

ASHLAND PLANT BEING CLOSED...

PROPOSED MILWAUKEE PRISON ON HOLD...

STUDENT ACCUSED OF PUTTING VIRUSES INTO COMPUTER...

LAWMAKER WANTS ETHICS PROBE OF SIERRA CLUB...

THE DETAILS:

FOLLOWING WEEKS OF RUMORS.. AN ASHLAND PLANT EMPLOYING MORE THAN TWO- HUNDRED PEOPLE IS BEING CLOSED DOWN. FORT JAMES CORPORATION HAS ANNOUNCED IT'S CLOSING THE 80-YEAR-OLD NAPKIN MILL IN MARCH. COMPANY OFFICIALS SAY IT WOULD COST TOO MUCH TO UPDATE AND EXPAND THE FACILITY. ABOUT 220 EMPLOYEES WERE NOTIFIED OF THE CLOSING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. SOME MAY BE OFFERED JOBS AT OTHER FORT JAMES PLANTS.

IN HIS STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS LAST NIGHT.. GOVERNOR THOMPSON PROMISED STATE HELP FOR ASHLAND TO CREATE JOBS FOR DISPLACED WORKERS.

-1/21-

A MINIMUM SECURITY LOCK-UP PROPOSED FOR MILWAUKEE HAS BEEN PUT ON INDEFINITE HOLD. STATE SENATOR ALBERTA DARLING SAYS THE MOVE EFFECTIVELY KILLS THE PROJECT. STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICIALS HAD HOPED TO CONSOLIDATE TWO SMALLER FACILITIES INTO A SINGLE ONE- HUNDRED BED PRISON LOCATED IN MILWAUKEE'S RIVERWEST COMMUNITY. DARLING AND SENATOR GARY GEORGE.. AS WELL AS COMMUNITY LEADERS.. FOUGHT THE FACILITY.. SAYING THE LOCATION IS INAPPROPRIATE.

-1/21-

A 17-YEAR-OLD STUDENT FACES FELONY CHARGES FOR ALLEGEDLY DOWNLOADING VIRUSES INTO THE RHINELANDER HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER SYSTEM.. CAUSING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN DAMAGE. ADAM KOPE IS FACING A CHARGE OF KNOWINGLY DESTROYING COMPUTER DATA.. WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM FIVE YEARS IN PRISON. A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT ALLEGES KOPE ADMITTED TO OBTAINING 89 VIRUSES FROM THE INTERNET.. AND TO PUTTING THEM IN THE SCHOOL COMPUTER SYSTEM LAST WEEK. AUTHORITES SAY AT LEAST TEN- THOUSAND DOLLARS DAMAGE WAS CAUSED TO THE SYSTEM.

(Thanks to John Burton, WHDG in Rhineland, for this story.)

-1/21-

A STATE LAWMAKER IS ASKING THE ETHICS BOARD TO INVESTIGATE THE SIERRA CLUB.. FOR ITS SUPPOSED ROLE IN A MINING MORATORIUM MAILING. REPRESENTATIVE MARC DUFF SAYS A GROUP CALLED THE MINING MORATORIUM COALITION SENT POSTCARDS URGING WISCONSIN RESIDENTS TO CONTACT THEIR LEGISLATOR ABOUT VOTING AGAINST THE MINING BILL. DUFF ALLEGES THE MAILING WAS PAID FOR BY THE SIERRA CLUB. DUFF SAYS AS A REGISTERED LOBBY ORGANIZATION.. THE SIERRA CLUB SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO REPORT THE MAILING AS A LOBBYING EXPENSE.

(END)

Reagan's
Page 1/21/88
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OP

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

OUR OPINION

Scrutinize mining, don't abandon it

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

Our answer is a resounding "yes."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Right to protest not license for incivility

Had the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. been alive to witness what happened in Madison Monday, he would have been

Monday's keynote speech, later referred to the outburst. She said King believed "people of all colors and religions could

H. Wheeler, Madison

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FLEISHMAN International Communications
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Green Bay Press-Gazette, Sunday, June 8, 1997

Vote on mining bill

WEBSTER — I am writing because I believe the people of Brown County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman Marc Duff at the May 12 public hearing in Ladysmith on Assembly Bill 70, the mining moratorium bill.

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 Northwoods.

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

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, 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 and let's pump the (waste) water from Madison to Middleton when they get down with it."

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

Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "no," voice your opinion to your state representative. Contact the speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote as soon as possible.

Laura Furtman, Webster

*RESPONSE
SENT*

Center - two teams, Colonial Building, Tomah Memorial Hospice Program, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Toro, Wilton Elementary - three teams sponsored by the Wilton Lions, Gundersen Clinic,

way, contact Rick Georgeson, 372-3115. Thank you.

Jan Path
Relay for Life Publicity Chair

Lawmaker's flip remark appalling

I am writing because I believe the people of Monroe 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 on May 12, and lasted over seven hours. It was attended by more than 300 people.

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

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

At one point during his heated testimony he said to Rep. Duff, "They should put the tailings dump down in Madison." I was shocked to hear Rep. Duff respond, "Fine by me." Ward went on to say, "Well, good. Let's work on that. Let's put the dump right down there with Gov. Thompson. Let 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 Monroe County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is "no," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Laura Furtman
Webster

for remedial reading teachers at the first-grade level.

Committee members have persuasively articulated a need and the board should ask some hard questions before approving the experiment.

•Why fill the positions of classroom teachers instead of hiring specialists? The committee says the remedial teachers are being hired because the federally-funded remedial reading teachers are spreading the cost. No argument there. But why hire reading specialists? I Hitchens, the district's reading coordinator, told the board that specialists prefer certified specialists who cost a little more but are worth the extra investment.

•Why make the positions more specific? What's mag

Recall petition

I would like to thank each and every person in Monroe County who helped circulate petitions in the effort of First Breath Alliance to recall Sen. Kohl and Sen. Feingold for their support of the Partial Birth Abortion (PBA).

Tuesday, June 3, the petitions were taken to Madison. There were people who had gotten signatures that very morning and drove them to Madison to meet First Breath Alliance. The count of signatures to recall Sen. Feingold was 349,958 and 343,494 to recall Kohl. We were approximately 40,000 short for each senator.

We didn't succeed with the numbers.

Tomah Monitor-Herald

AND TOMAH JOURNAL

June 16, 1997

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SENT 6-19-97

608-269-6876

Letters To The Editor

Letters to the editor are welcome and, in fact, encouraged. Letters must be signed and should not be more than 450 words in length. Anonymous letters receive no consideration. The newspaper reserves the right to edit any letter, especially for length and grammatical considerations. A thank you note will not be considered a "Letter to the Editor".

Sparta Herald - June 16, 1997

ENVIRONMENT CHAIR SHOWS INSENSITIVITY

Dear Editor:

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

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**Laura Furtman
Webster, WI**

MISMANAGEMENT IN LITTLE FALLS?

Dear Editor:

When I "managed" the Little Falls Recycling and Sanitation Center, I was paid \$6.50 an hour.

I never got a raise after Karl Merow became Town Chairman (two raises previous to this). After I was terminated, the town combined my job with a road maintenance position, advertised the position, accepted job applications, and interviewed applicants. The salary listed for this job was \$7.00 an hour.

After all of this, the town board decided not to hire anyone. Meanwhile, one of the town's two road maintenance men has been working at the recycling center (the other one has since quit, so maybe). This man's hourly salary is \$10-something. Should the town board be paying \$4 an hour more than I was paid for the position, and \$3 more than the combined positions were advertised for?

This man has also stated that he is only going to work for the town three days a week. Quite a bit of road work was approved by the town board for this year. How is that going to get done? There are people who have been waiting a long time for improvement of their roads. I guess they'll just have to keep waiting. As for the people who applied for this job, I suppose they're just out of the game.

**Marge Peacock
Sparta**

Cap Times 12-12-97

Mine ban won't halt tribes, foes say

By David Callender

The Capital Times

Opponents of a proposed moratorium on sulfide mining in Wisconsin say the bill would do nothing to prevent the state's Indian tribes from mining on tribal lands.

"This information is extremely disturbing," said Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, the chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee and a critic of the proposed moratorium.

Duff said if the tribes aren't covered by the bill, "the so-called mining moratorium bill is a sham. We will merely be closing shop for non-Indian mining operations while opening the door on Indian lands for metallic mining completely free from the oversight of our Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources."

But moratorium supporters said Duff's "discovery" of Indian sovereignty is nothing new and is a sign of the opponents' growing desperation over the measure.

"It's an attempt by some politi-

Moratorium bill called 'sham'

cians to drive a wedge between Indians and non-Indians on this issue," said Ken Fish, director of the Menominee Nation's Treaty Rights and Mining Impact Office.

The Menominee hold the most tribal lands in the state, totaling nearly 240,000 acres. Fish said the tribe has no plans to do any mining and the tribe's constitution bars "exploitation" of natural resources.

Duff's comments came in response to a report by the nonpartisan Legislative Council that traced the state's ability to regulate tribal mining. The report is based on a 1986 Wisconsin attorney general's opinion.

Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, the moratorium's author, said the Legislative Council report is "nothing new."

"It's really a non-issue," he said.

Tribes have long been exempt

from all state mining laws, he noted, and, perhaps more importantly, the U.S. Geological Survey has found no mineral deposits sufficient to justify mining on tribal lands.

The U.S. Constitution and federal laws state that Indian tribes are sovereign entities, much like states. As a result, except in certain cases, the tribes set their own laws and operate independently of states, although like states, they are still subject to federal laws. In some cases, they are also subject to state laws.

The Legislative Council memo states that the proposed moratorium and other existing state mining restrictions would not apply to Wisconsin's Indian tribes.

The moratorium is aimed primarily at blocking the proposed Grandon mine in northeastern Wisconsin at the headwaters of the Wolf River. The bill passed the

Senate overwhelmingly last year; the Assembly is scheduled to take it up in January.

The moratorium would bar mining companies from opening a mine unless they can prove that a similar mine has operated pollution-free for at least 10 years, and that another mine using similar technology has been closed for at least 10 years without polluting.

Many northeastern Wisconsin tribes, including the Mole Lake Chippewa and the Menominee, support the moratorium and oppose the Grandon mine.

In recent years, several tribes have asked the federal Environmental Protection Agency for state status, which would allow them to enact their own water-quality standards stricter than state laws. The state has consistently opposed the tribes' efforts.

Duff said Thursday that he would support allowing the tribes to enact tougher standards than existing state laws, but he believes the state must still regulate their mines.

ideas or comments?
Contact City Editor Sean Johnson
at (920) 426-6665 or email:
news@oshkoshonline.com

Local

B

Underheim to back mining moratorium

By KARL EBERT
OF THE NORTHWESTERN

State Rep. Gregg Underheim will formally announce his support for a mining moratorium bill that could derail a proposed copper and zinc mine near Crandon.

The Oshkosh Republican, who previously had been listed among the undecided members of the Assembly, said he told Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, a state business-lobbying organization opposing the moratorium, and lobbyists for the mine that he would vote for the moratorium.

But until now, he has not pub-

licly sided with mine opponents.

"It's not a surprise to the people who are opposed to the moratorium because I told them a month-and-a-half ago," said Underheim, who plans to formally announce his support for the measure Thursday at a public meeting at the Oshkosh Public Library. The 7 p.m. meeting is sponsored by Wisconsin's Environmental Decade.

Crandon Mining Co., a Wisconsin partnership of Exxon

Coal and Minerals of Houston and

Toronto-based Rio Algom Ltd., is seeking state, federal and local permits to remove 55 million tons of copper and zinc ore from a mine about eight miles from Crandon in Forest County.

Critics contend the mine poses a water-pollution threat and will scar the landscape.

The bill requires mining companies to show examples of a similar mine that has operated for at least 10 years without polluting ground or surface waters and has

been closed for at least 10 years without affecting water quality.

The state Senate passed its version of the measure, 29-3, in March. The Assembly is expected to begin debating the bill in January.

Underheim said his decision is driven largely by the flood of mail and telephone calls that have deluged his office.

"The term representative means something," he said. "The volume of mail and the amount of contact I have received on the issue far exceeds anything that I have seen since I was elected. That level of concern deserves my support."

But he said support for the moratorium also stands on its merits, especially in light of questions about a proposed holding pit that would contain up to 44 million tons of mine waste containing mercury, lead and sulfuric acid.

"To date, there is no proof that what is being proposed (by the companies) will work. If the pit is constructed and there is a leak, there is absolutely no proof that a leak can be neutralized or prevented for sinking into the ground water," Underheim said.

Karl Ebert may be reached at (920) 426-6688.



Underheim

Ideas or comments?
Contact City Editor Sean Johnson
at (920) 426-6665 or email:
news@oshkoshonline.com

Local

OSHKOSH NORTHWESTERN

Underheim met with support in area

Most at Oshkosh meeting support bill calling for mining moratorium

By MITCH TREBON
OF THE NORTHWESTERN

A friendly crowd greeted mining moratorium supporter Rep. Gregg Underheim in Oshkosh Thursday. Only one person spoke against a proposed bill calling for a moratorium.

Underheim drew praise from citizens and representatives of various wildlife, fishing and environmental groups during a meeting at the Oshkosh Public Library. He parted ways with those who spoke against the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' handling of the issue, however.

"I think the moratorium is a good idea because, at this point, the technology that is proposed is untested," said Underheim, R-Oshkosh. "My fear, though, is that the only people you will trust are the people who say what you want."

Two days ago, Underheim announced that he will support the moratorium on a proposed copper and zinc mine near Crandon when the bill comes up for an Assembly vote early next year. The bill passed the state Senate, 29-3.

It would require Exxon Coal and Minerals to provide examples of a similar mine that has operated

at least 10 years without polluting surface and ground water and has been closed for 10 years without additional pollution — effectively preventing the mine from opening for many years.

Crandon Mine Co., the Wisconsin partner of Exxon, is proposing a series of clay layers to prevent mine tailings from becoming acidic and leaching into ground water. Underheim said discussions with DNR scientists led him to support the moratorium. They told him they're undecided at this time about whether the proposed clay layers would work.

Many of the 50 people at the meeting said they're skeptical of DNR scientists, particularly in light of DNR Secretary George

Meyer's opposition to the moratorium. They reminded Underheim that Meyer is a political appointee of Gov. Tommy Thompson.

"He (Thompson), in essence, called the people of the state stupid for supporting the moratorium," said Roger Bongert of Oshkosh. "I do not understand how we can trade short-term economic stability and growth for our natural resources. We have no idea of the long-term effects."

Underheim said he would be surprised if Thompson vetoes the moratorium bill if it passes the Assembly.

Dan Netzer, the only supporter of the mine, said he worked in a mine in Rock Springs, Wyo., for 14 years and saw how it added to



Eye on the Environment

"I think the moratorium is a good idea because, at this point, the technology that is proposed is untested. My fear, though, is that the only people you will trust are the people who say what you want."

Gregg Underheim
Oshkosh representative

the tax base and improved schools. There is plenty of state and federal oversight to ensure that Exxon doesn't pollute, he added.

Mitch Trebon may be reached at (920) 426-6689.

dent. was entitled simply "Elkhorn." It has recently been reprinted and is again available at many local business places.

This year, 1998, both serious and fun things are being planned for the citizens of Wisconsin. Here in Walworth County the Sesquicentennial Committee, headed by Virginia Hall, former UW-Extension home economist, has decided to put the emphasis on education for adults and children. The county program has the title "A Look at the Past, A Vision for the Future." There will be more information from the county committee forthcoming during the rest of the winter months.

Now, what will be planned for this special year by the city of Elkhorn?

Elkhorn Independent

1/14/98

Letters to the editor

Exxon nightmare

One of Walworth County's State Representatives, Neal Kedzie, appears to have made up his mind about the Mining Moratorium Bill, and the implications are quite serious for those who live in his district. In brief, the Bill says that companies like Exxon cannot move into Wisconsin and mine for metals unless they first prove they can do it without polluting our ground and surface waters. That translates into protecting our drinking water, including Walworth County's. It sure makes common sense to me, but apparently not to Kedzie. He sits on the Assembly Environment Committee, and recently cast a preliminary vote AGAINST the Bill.

You may wonder why this should be of any concern to you. I believe that any legislator who opposed the Mining Moratorium Bill is in effect saying, "Yes, I'd be OK with the same sort of mine and toxic waste dump that Exxon proposed for Crandon being located in my HOME district." Any other conclusion would be hypocritical. After all, if it's OK for Crandon, shouldn't it be OK for the legislator's own back yard?

Exxon's proposed Wolf River mine would produce the state's

largest toxic waste dump, a "tailings pond" over 90 feet deep and covering the size of at least 200 football fields. All similar mines have caused acid mine drainage, which consists of a toxic soup of sulfuric acid and heavy metals like mercury and arsenic that inevitably leaks into local water supplies. Kedzie may feel comfortable having something like that in Walworth County, but I doubt if most people in the area would agree.

It's time we band together to support the Mining Moratorium Bill and cancel out the negative votes of people like Kedzie. Call Walworth County's Reps. Scott Gunderson (1-888-534-0083), Cloyd Porter (1-888-534-0066), and Stephen Nass (1-888-529-0031) and tell them to vote "Yes" on the Mining Moratorium Bill as it stands - without any substitutions or amendments. And let Kedzie know that he WILL be held accountable in the next election. His number is 1-888-534-0043. Remember, voting "No" on the Bill or watering it down with amendments will pave the way for Crandon's Exxon nightmare to occur around the state, maybe even in Walworth County.

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.

Bird watcher's journal

A feather

Let's have some fun in the new year. See if you can guess what each of these expressions mean. If you feel like it, mail us your answers.

Ella Woodbury
W4320 MacLean Road
Elkhorn, WI 53121

To feather one's nest.
To show the white of a face.
To talk turkey.

To get the bird.
To fly the coop.
Swan song.

Next week this column will give you the meanings based on a book, "A Hog on Ice," by Charles Funk.

A cock and bull story.

To play ducks and drakes.
To rule the roost.
To lay an egg.
To cook one's goose.
A feather in one's cap.
As poor as Job's turkey.

Remember when

Talent shows

By Annette Newcomb
STAFF WRITER

WLS talent Show

The front page of the July 23, 1936, Independent reported that 100 Walworth County residents had been cast in the big WLS Home Talent Show. It was the second year the show was presented. The event was to be held at the band shelter and an estimated 800 spectators were expected to watch. "The stage was to be decorated with baled hay, horse collars, pitch forks, and other farm tools."

Those from Elkhorn who had auditioned and were chosen for the cast included Lulu, Lois and Dorothy Peck, Elmer Schieby, Kenneth and Irma Recknagle, Erdelle Loveland, Carol Stallman, Myrtle Steinbicer, Robert Price, Georgine Sweet, George Dejan, Robert Belknap, Lester Stanley, Robert Smith, James Ancell, Robert Carmen, Joe Pavelsek, Maryon Loveland, Arlene Finley, Hollis Ward, Charles Peters, Howard Merry, Dorothy and

Edna Recknagle.

To help get locals interested in the show, under the direction of Miss Allen, performers staged in the display windows of Chicago Store on Saturday. Their dialogue broadcasted side, via loud speakers. It gave the impression of a live radio show and drew quite a crowd.

Log cabin fund-raiser

In other front page news, a county campaign to raise \$50,000 for the Centennial Cabin at the fairgrounds had begun.

It was hoped a log cabin could be built at the fairgrounds as a permanent structure. It was reported that many villages and towns had exceeded their goals thus far.

"East Troy was the first to go over the top, with a quota of \$30.00, when Mrs. R. J. I. came to the meeting of the Centennial Committee at the new exhibit building, with a check in hand. Previously the East Troy School had sent \$3.25.

Letters of thanks

True meaning of Christmas

The Lakeland Nursing Home would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all who shared the true meaning of Christmas with our residents.

Our appreciation to the Elkhorn Area High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Music Makers, Keokuk Moraine Baptist Church Youth Choir and Gateway Class for their musical performances.

Weather

DAY	DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Tues.	6	38°	34°	.40
Wed.	7	34°	31°	.01
Thurs.	8	32°	27°	8"
Fri.	9	30°	11°	1.4"
Sat.	10	12°	1°	00
Sun.	11	13°	3°	00
Mon.	12	25°	5°	00

Submitted by
Eighth-Grade
Weather
Watchers

EDITORIAL PAGE

THE MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
SOLOMON JUNEAU
FOUNDER 1837

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1991

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DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR
GERRY HINKLEY

EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR
KENNETH P. ROESSLEIN

DEPUTY EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR
SUE RYON

OUR OPINION

Crandon mine: Bad idea, bad legislation

Few issues have so polarized public opinion about Wisconsin's environment in recent years as has the proposed zinc mine near Crandon. Nowhere has that been clearer than at a public hearing last week on the so-called mining moratorium bill.

Unfortunately, many folks at the hearing acted as if the bill is an either/or proposition. Either you respect forests, lakes and streams by supporting the moratorium, or you believe it's OK to pillage the North Woods. Either you welcome good-paying, mining-related jobs by opposing the moratorium, or you're an environmental obstructionist.

Sorry, but it's not that simple. The moratorium bill is bad legislation. And the Crandon mine is a bad project.

Crandon Mining Co., a Wisconsin partnership of Exxon Coal and Minerals Co. of Houston and Rio Algom Ltd. of Toronto, wants to remove 55 million tons of zinc, lead and copper ore from a deposit five miles south of Crandon, a vulnerable wetlands area in Forest County. The moratorium bill, which would prohibit metallic mining in Wisconsin for years to come, would put the Crandon mine on hold.

There are real risks to the environment inherent in digging a deep underground mine in a heavily forested county virtually saturated with water. There are more than 190 lakes and 500 miles of trout streams in the area, including

Both are flawed:
The moratorium bill is bad legislation. And the Crandon mine is a bad project.

the headwaters of the Wolf River, designated by the state as an Outstanding Resource Water.

Opponents legitimately fear that acids and metals seeping from the mine and a nearby 220-acre waste-rock landfill would pollute ground water and nearby streams and lakes. True, mining officials say they would employ proven technology to protect the environment. But even the best safeguards may not be enough.

Sure, the mine would generate hundreds of jobs and would also benefit other Wisconsin firms. But are those economic benefits important enough to risk damage to a fragile ecosystem such as this one, in a state where tourism and recreation combine to form a multibillion dollar industry? We think not.

Still, the metal-ore moratorium bill, poorly conceived and seriously flawed, isn't the answer; it's a politically contrived, simplistic attempt by some legislators to kill the mine.

Opponents of the moratorium bill are correct when they argue that the environment would be better protected under the state's existing mining laws and other applicable environ-

mental regulations, among the most comprehensive and stringent in the nation.

The state Department of Natural Resources has spent 3½ years studying the Crandon proposal and is not expected to release its draft environmental impact statement until early next year. Doesn't that attest to the thoroughness of the state's regulatory process?

In contrast, the moratorium bill passed by the Senate is so ambiguous that it may well be ineffective. DNR Secretary George Meyer thinks an amendment to toughen the bill would make it so restrictive that no industry in the state could meet its requirements — a major practical and legal flaw.

But just because this moratorium bill is poorly written doesn't mean the Legislature should wash its hands of the Crandon mine. If the DNR comes down in favor of the mine, then the Legislature will have to intervene to protect this environmentally sensitive region.

One more thing: Gov. Tommy Thompson has shown he respects Wisconsin's natural resources by strongly supporting state purchases of three major flowage areas — the Chipewaut, Turtle Flambeau and Willow. It would be totally inconsistent for him not to seize this opportunity to add to his environmental credentials by trying to stop this controversial project, or at least leaving it up to the state's environmental regulators to decide.

The News

Assembly's stall on mining bill is politics at its worst

Letter to the Editor:

I am writing because I am angry that Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill, has yet to be issued out of Committee and scheduled for a vote by the full Assembly.

This is an example of politics at its worst. Apparently it is possible for a single Assemblyman from a wealthy Milwaukee suburb to effectively decide the fate of Northern Wisconsin's drinking water, rivers and forests. And as we all know, metallic sulfide mining and its associated toxic waste dumps could end up in any number of counties, including Shawano.

Rep. Marc Duff, Chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee, was asked about a vote over 3 months ago at a public hearing on the Bill. He responded, "I'm going to have a vote (in committee) ... I'll issue it out of Committee and then it's

Forester: Oak wilt education is key

Letter to the Editor:

This letter is in response to the Letter to the Editor correspondence which appeared in the August 27 issue of The News.

The correspondence was in regards to why oak cutting permits are required from April 1 to October 1. The number one reason is education. It

gives me a good chance to get out and tell citizens about the problems of oak wilt and the ways to prevent overland spread. The second reason of the permit system is that it

allows me to control cutting so that it only has to occur in certain situations such as

See LETTER, Page 8

up to the Speaker to calendar it. The Speaker has made a public commitment that he will bring it up for a vote on the floor. In politics your word is your bond...

So where's the Bill? Rep. Duff is dragging his feet, and his earlier statement appears to be a ruse. This is no surprise. After all, he refused to allow any discussion or vote on the Mining

Moratorium Bill in his committee during the last legislative session. I just don't understand how he and Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, can prevent a Bill from reaching the floor when it has already passed the Senate by a strong bipartisan 29-3 vote. What's going on?

It's clear that Exxon doesn't want the Bill. They have spent over \$1,000,000 on television

ads and high pressure lobbying in the Capitol to defeat it. And why? The Bill would require them to prove they will not pollute Wisconsin's ground and surface waters before being allowed to set up shop wherever they please.

The Bill is crucial to the protection of drinking water in EV-ERY county, including Shawano. The only way it stands a chance of being passed is if we call and write to our local representatives, as well as Rep. Duff and Brancel, to DEMAND A VOTE on the Bill in its original form, and not some watered-down version. They all can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

"In politics your word is your bond..." Well, Reps. Duff and Brancel, is your word your bond? It's show time.

Laura Furtman
Webster

See News 8/27

copy for Duff

State

Legislator criticizes lobbying effort

WAUSAU (AP) — Crandon Mining Co. spent \$553,898 in the first six months of the year lobbying the Legislature in response to antimining forces, a company official said Thursday.

"We are not happy about having to spend this kind of money on a lobby-related effort," lobbyist Dale Alberts said.

"We didn't expect there was going to be an aggressive antimining campaign led by a few lawmakers who have turned mining into a partisan political issue," he said.

Most of the expense has involved replying to legislation promoted by Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, he said.

The measure was approved by the Senate in March and waits action by the Assembly.

It would prevent the state Department of Natural Resources from allowing metal ore mining without showing that a previous mine somewhere in North America operated at least 10 years without polluting ground water or surface water.

Also, the example would have to be a mine that has shown no sign of pollution at least 10 years after closing.

Critics say the criteria would effectively prevent metal mining in Wisconsin, whose only existing ore mine is an open-pit operation near Ladysmith.

Crandon Mining wants to dig a shaft mine to a copper and zinc deposit near Crandon, burying tailings in a pit and pumping

**'DESPITE THEIR
multimillion-dollar campaign, they are losing in the
court of public opinion. People who want strong
mining laws can spend a fraction of this.'**

Rep. Spencer Black
D-Madison

treated water to the Wisconsin River near Rhinelander.

Black said Thursday in an interview from Madison that Crandon Mining's lobbying and television commercials, and a coalition that makes thousands of telephone calls to Wisconsin residents, are attempts to "buy public opinion."

"Despite their multimillion-dollar campaign, they are losing in the court of public opinion," Black said. "People who want strong mining laws can spend a fraction of this."

Crandon Mining is a Wisconsin partnership formed by Exxon Coal and Minerals of Houston and by Rio Algom Ltd. of Toronto. It needs state and federal permission to remove 55 million tons of ore.

Defenders of the proposal say it can provide jobs and that the environment would be protected by DNR regulations.

Black said he was advised by "media experts" that Crandon Mining has probably spent more than \$1 million on television commercials in recent months.

Four groups, including Crandon Mining, spent \$765,503 lobbying against the moratorium bill through the first six months of the year, Black said, quoting records filed with the state Ethics Board.

Alberts said his company considers its general advertising as proprietary information. He declined to say how much has been spent on television commercials.

"Mr. Black's estimates of our expenditures on television advertising are inaccurate," he said.

Crandon Mining is a member of a group called the Coalition for Fair Regulation, which hired a Utah telemarketing company to conduct a public opinion survey, Alberts said.

One of the questions involves the Black legislation, he said.

"The coalition is indeed engaged in identifying people that support the concept of fair regulations," Alberts said.

The coalition's Wisconsin members include companies in the timber industry, he said.

The Senate's approval of the

bill "woke up a lot of companies in Wisconsin," Alberts said.

Black said he has information that people supporting the mine and opposing the moratorium are receiving postcards to send to legislators.

Crandon Mining wants to counter "misinformation and fear-mongering tactics," Alberts said.

The company has spent \$30 million on the Crandon project in Forest County and must protect its investment, he said.

"We have to combat misinformation with the facts and that is what we are about," he said. "We believe rational people will understand the facts and let the existing regulatory process work."

Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, chairman of the Assembly's Environment Committee, said last month that Black's moratorium bill could be amended in the assembly.

Based on a DNR interpretation of the bill, the measure provides no additional assurances that mining can be environmentally safe, the Wisconsin Legislative Council said in a memorandum July 8 to Duff.

"The bill is ambiguous concerning what environmental laws are to be referred to in determining whether mines operated in the United States and Canada have been operated and closed in a manner that satisfies the two preconditions of the bill," William Ford, a lawyer for the council, wrote.

Family

WISCONSIN

DNR says new study of river unrelated to mining company

By Ron Seely

Environment reporter

Officials with the state Department of Natural Resources say a re-evaluation of pollution standards on a stretch of the Wisconsin River near Rhinelander has little to do with the proposed zinc and copper mine near Crandon.

"It's something we would have done even if Crandon had not existed," said Dale Patterson of the DNR's Bureau of Watershed Management.

The segment of river in question flows from Rhinelander in north-central Wisconsin to the Grandmother Dam south of Tomahawk. It's the same stretch into which Crandon Mining Co. — a partnership formed by Exxon and Rio Algom — plans to dump

treated waste water from the proposed mine.

Critics say the DNR is taking a new look at allowable pollutants to accommodate Crandon Mining's plan to pump the treated wastes to the Wisconsin River via pipeline from the mine site, 38 miles away, near the headwaters of the pristine Wolf River.

Carl Zichella, Midwest regional director for the Sierra Club, called the DNR plan "a politicized effort at skid-greasing for the mining industry."

"This decision means that Exxon will have a crack at rolling back standards that may already be too lax," Zichella said. "The Wisconsin River is already one of

Wisconsin's most polluted rivers."

At issue are the levels of biological oxygen demand (BOD) in the river. BOD represents the amount of organic material in the water that uses up oxygen as it degrades. The more organic material in treated wastes — the more wood fiber from a paper mill, for example, or nitrogen from mining wastes — the more oxygen is consumed and the lower the dissolved oxygen levels in the surface water. That's bad for fish and other aquatic life, which require a certain level of dissolved oxygen to stay healthy.

Patterson, chief of the bureau's water quality modeling section, said allowable BOD levels in the river below Rhinelander are being re-evaluated because recent analysis has shown that summertime levels of dissolved oxygen sometimes drop below the legal standard of 5 parts per million.

In addition to studying those levels over the next couple of years, Patterson said, the agency

will also re-evaluate the BOD levels each discharger is allowed in its treated wastes. Those dischargers include Rhinelander Paper Co., the city of Rhinelander, American Tissue, Tenneco Packaging and the city of Tomahawk.

Patterson said it is unlikely the agency would increase allowable BOD allocations and added that in order to pump its treated wastes, Crandon Mining might have to negotiate with existing dischargers to buy the BOD allocation it needs, depending on how standards are changed.

"It's going to complicate life for Crandon if they want to pursue discharge into the Wisconsin River," Patterson said.

But Zichella said that Crandon, which he argued wouldn't be allowed to discharge under current standards, will only stand to benefit from any changes in BOD reallocations among dischargers.

"Will the DNR tell these companies to reduce their pollution for Exxon's benefit?" Zichella asked. "Or will they magically decide that the Wisconsin River can absorb even more pollution?"

WISCONSIN EDITOR: Nancy Conner
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WISCONSIN

Senator criticizes bill exempting mineral-rights owners from taxes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

State officials reject a lawmaker's argument that "inexcusable and reprehensible" maneuvering in the Capitol produced a tax break for corporate owners of thousands of acres of mineral rights.

MADISON, WIS.

The legislation, signed into law by Gov. Tommy Thompson, was escorted almost unnoticed through the Legislature by two senators in the closing days of the 1993-94 legislative session in March, Rep. Spencer Black said.

Assembly Bill 461 went into effect this month, allowing Cornell University of Ithaca, N.Y., the Chicago & North Western Transportation Co. and other interests to retain mineral rights on land when a county takes possession of it because of unpaid taxes.

It also allows the mineral rights holders to avoid paying property taxes on the mineral rights.

"They get the mineral rights. We have to pay the taxes," said Black, D-Madison.

The single-page bill, requested by Cornell, received no floor debate in the final week of the session. It was approved without a roll call vote.

It affects hundreds of thousands of acres of mineral rights in northern Wisconsin, legislative attorneys said.

"This doesn't have anything to do with politics," Jeffrey Abraham, a Milwaukee attorney representing Cornell, said last week. "This has to do with correcting an inequity."

State law as interpreted by attorneys general and courts caused Cornell to lose long-held mineral rights when landowners failed to pay their property taxes and coun-

ties took possession, Abraham said.

Cornell has about 137,500 acres of mineral rights dating to 1866, Abraham said. University founder Ezra Cornell sold the timberland for \$6 million in 1897 to start a university endowment but kept half interest in the mineral rights.

"They haven't gotten a nickel" from the rights although "the potential may be there," Abraham said.

The Cornell lawyers included Stephen Bablitch, a former prisons chief in the Republican governor's administration.

Mineral rights owners have lost the rights without knowing about it because they weren't reliably notified about property tax foreclosures, Sen. Mary Panzer, R-West Bend, said.

"I looked at it as a matter of fairness," said Panzer, who sponsored the measure with Sen. David Helbach, D-Stevens Point, after Cornell made little headway in courts.

Panzer denied anything unusual about the way the bill was enacted.

Black, chairman of the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee, called it a "mineral rights grab."

Its handling in the Legislature was "inexcusable and reprehensible" because it "evaded public discussion" and prevented "an opportunity for the public to review an unfair property tax exemption," he said.

State Revenue Secretary Mark Bugher accused Black of "a clear stretch of political rhetoric."

Bugher became the principle of the Cornell amendment after being approached by Bablitch.

When it first came up as amendment to another Department of

Revenue bill, there was a public hearing, Bugher said.

Although Chicago & North Western benefits from the bill, the Illinois company did not lobby for it.

The statute overturns a precedent set in 1992.

Cornell filed suit against Rusk County in 1990 when the county was about to take title to 160 acres of farmland for unpaid property taxes. A Circuit Court judge in Ladysmith sided with Cornell but the 3rd District Court of Appeals in Wausau ruled for the county in January 1992.

Cornell was unable to get a review by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

When the university's lawyers turned to the Legislature, the county adopted a resolution opposing any change in the law, county corporation counsel Steve Anderson said.

The approval of the legislation was a surprise, Anderson said.

Now "there's nothing that compels these people to pay property taxes," Anderson said. "Farmer Brown still pays for Cornell's mineral right."

Anderson recommends that the Wisconsin Counties Association ask the Legislature "to allow us to separately tax these mineral rights."

Abraham and Bugher deny there will be any property tax losses for the county. Delinquent tax payments can be recovered when the county sells the property, they said.

Bugher said his Revenue Department once considered taxing mineral rights separately but concluded there would be a problem with evaluating the worth of untapped ore.

Tax assessors lack the technical skill to do that, he said.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1994

Pro-mining interests outspend other side 3-1

By Sharon Theimer

Associated Press

Mining interests and their advocates outspent their opponents nearly 3-to-1 last year lobbying Wisconsin legislators on proposals that included a mining moratorium bill that never got a vote, an Associated Press review found.

Crandon Mining Co., Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and Flambeau Mining Co. together dedicated \$385,800 and 2,391 hours to lobbying in 1996, according to reports filed with the state Ethics Board and reviewed by the Associated Press.

Key mining opponents — the Menominee and Oneida Indian tribes, the Sierra Club and Wisconsin's Environmental Decade — together spent \$142,591 and 2,413 hours to lobbying last year.

The reports do not specify the amount of lobbying on a particular issue.

Crandon Mining Co., which is seeking state, local and federal permits to mine 55 million tons of zinc and copper in Forest County, dedicated \$289,011 and 1,134 hours to lobbying.

"I consider that money that was required to be spent to address a number of initiatives in the Legislature which were designed to essentially stop mining in the state of Wisconsin," said Dale Alberts, Crandon Mining's manager of governmental affairs.

Crandon Mining Co. is a partnership formed by Exxon Coal and Minerals Co. of Houston and Rio Algom Ltd. of Toronto to create an underground mine five miles south of Crandon.

The biggest spender among the mine's opponents, the Menominee Indian tribe, spent \$71,779 and 902 hours lobbying legislators last year. Mining was one of the tribe's top priorities, Chairman John Teller said.

The mine would be at the headwaters of the Wolf River about 45 miles north of the Keshena reservation, and the river runs through the center of the reservation, Teller noted.

The mine's opponents worry that drainage from the mine's dump will pollute the Wolf River, and that the 33,600 gallons of treated wastewater the company plans to discharge into the Wisconsin River each hour will taint that waterway.

Much of the lobbying last year centered around a proposal by Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, that would require mining companies to provide an example of a similar mine run for 10 years without polluting surrounding waters before they could move forward with a proposed mine.

Black said there are no mines similar enough to the Crandon mine to meet the requirements, so in effect the proposal, known as the mining moratorium bill, would

have banned the Crandon mine.

The bill languished in an Assembly committee. Then in May, as 1996 legislative business drew to a close, Black used a technical maneuver to try to pull the bill from committee for debate.

The Assembly and Senate voted in favor of bringing the bill out for debate, but Assembly leaders adjourned for the year before that could happen.

Black and Sen. Kevin Shibilski, D-Amherst, plan to try again this year.

Black said the amounts listed in the lobbying reports are just a fraction of the money spent to influence opinion on mining. He noted that Crandon Mining Co. recently began airing TV ads stating the mine will be the safest in the nation.

The mine would be worth up to \$1 billion, Black said.

James Buchen, vice president of government relations for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, said WMC spent about 10 percent of its lobbying time and money on mining. That amounts to \$53,959 and 1,023 hours.

"They're basically trying to outlaw a fundamental industry that isn't a frivolous industry or something that you could argue the world could do without," Buchen said. "You'd have to shut the lights off and leave the state if you didn't have the products of mining."

Bill would delay Crandon mine

Legislator campaigns for 10-year moratorium at forum

By SEAN SCALLON
Leader Reporter

KESHENA — State Assemblyman Spencer Black campaigned here Monday for a pending assembly bill which would impose a 10-year moratorium on sulfide mining in Wisconsin.

Black (D-Madison) is one sponsor of Assembly Bill 753 which is aimed at preventing construction of a proposed sulfide mine on the Mole Lake Indian Reservation near Crandon. The project will be run by the Crandon Mining Corporation (CMC), a subsidiary partnership of both Exxon Corporation and Rio Algom, a Canadian mining corporation.

"I feel this is a reasonable

approach towards dealing with the problems associated with sulfide mining," Black said at a public forum at St. Michael's Church.

"All this bill asks of mining companies is that they show the citizens of this state that a sulfide mine operation can be run without major pollution to the surrounding area that the mine is located in and can be cleaned up."

The proposed bill would force mining companies looking to establish sulfide mines in Wisconsin to prove that similar mines have not caused significant damage to the environment over a period of ten years.

"It just makes a lot of sense that a mining company show that a sulfide mine can operate without polluting

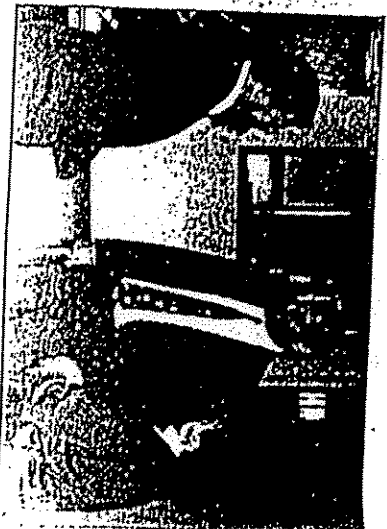
the surface or groundwater," Black said.

"Crandon Mining Company is telling us that they have the technology to do this, but we want to see it successfully established somewhere else first. We shouldn't be the guinea pig for unproven technology."

Peter Theo, Director of Government Relations for Crandon Mining Corporation, says that the bill is a diversion from the real issue at hand.

"Every mine is different," Theo said. "The geological and terrain features are different everywhere you go. The issue is whether we can operate a safe mine with little

See Mine, Page 2A



Leader photo by Sean Scallon
State Rep. Spencer Black, center, talks with Arin Brown, left, and Sylvia Brown about an Assembly bill that would put a 10-year moratorium on sulfide mining in Wisconsin. Black spoke in favor of the bill at a public meeting Monday at St. Michael's Church in Keshena.

impact to the surrounding environment. This bill just raises a bar that we feel we've met in trying to put together a safe mining operation by 1996 laws."

The geology of the Mole Lake area includes a high concentration of sulfide rock. To extract minerals like lead, copper, and zinc from the rock, chemicals are used to bring out the valuable ores in a process known as leaching. These ores are then concentrated in a process known as beneficiation.

The waste rock and chemical wastes left over from the leaching and beneficiation processes are that are stored in a specialized containment area on the mine site. When exposed to air or water, the tailings can become toxic.

The containment area for the Crandon mine will be 350 football fields long and 90 feet deep.

Opponents of the proposed mine are concerned that no matter how many safeguards are installed, the tailings will eventually leak into the groundwater or into the surface water over a long period of time.

"Exxon keeps telling us to trust them but their track record isn't very good," Black said. "They told the people of Alaska to trust them and then came the Valdez disaster. Even after that incident, Exxon's lawyers kept stringing out the disastor money that they owed. I don't want to see that happen in this state. This bill makes sure that

very proud of its land conservation efforts and strong environmental policies," Teller said. "We will do what we can to convince the Legislature to pass this bill. The money from any new jobs from this mine will only last for a short while, but the earth lasts forever. We feel it's our responsibility to speak out against the possible harm this mine may do to our natural resources."

John Teller, Tribal Chairman of the Menominee Nation, said that the tribe will try to lobby and add its voice in favor of the bill.

"The Menominee nation feels very proud of its land conservation efforts and strong environmental policies," Teller said. "We will do what we can to convince the Legislature to pass this bill. The money from any new jobs from this mine will only last for a short while, but the earth lasts forever. We feel it's our responsibility to speak out against the possible harm this mine may do to our natural resources."

With this amount of work and the data we've gathered, we feel confident that we can construct, operate, and reclaim this mine while providing economic benefits to the community."

The vote on the bill will take place on May 7. Black says he's about one vote short of victory.

"It's going to be close but we're one vote short of 50," Black said. "We're going to have to work very hard because Exxon is spending a lot of money lobbying against this bill."

Exxon earns our trust."

Theo states that CMC has done diligent work in showing the state that the Mole Lake mine is viable.

"We've used 140,000 man hours to study whether a mine is feasible at Mole Lake and we've submitted all our data to the state. It's up to the DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers but we've done everything according to state law in submitting our proposal.

← Mine

SENT US

STEVE - FYI

1. SHE DOES KNOW ABOUT POLITICS - SHE'S A MEMBER OF THE WE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

2. COMMITTEE VOTE ON: 11-11-97

3. SHE NEVER CONTACTED US, AND I DOUBT SHE CALLED YOUR OFFICE

- MIKE (DUFF'S OFFICE)

P.S. THIS IS THE SAME WOMAN WHO'S ATTACHED MARC THROUGHOUT THE STATE - SO IF SHE HOLDS TRUE TO FORM, THIS HAS GONE OUT STATE-WIDE.

the colors of the flowers are much more brilliant in the spring, I guess because the colors of the season around the neighborhood, preserve or on a trail. We always have to go crunching in the fall.

Reader opinion

Furtman: Is our water the next Exxon accident?

Letter to the editor:

Just when it looked like the Mining Moratorium Bill might be coming to a vote on the Assembly floor, look what has happened. We have a change in the make-up of the key players who will determine the fate of the bill. With the exodus of Ben Brancel as Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly and the succession of Scott Jensen to the post, the bill looks to be in limbo again. And remember, this bill is designed to protect Wisconsin's drinking water, including yours in Columbia County. It requires companies like Exxon to prove they will not pollute Wisconsin's ground and surface waters before being allowed to set

up shop wherever they please. Now I don't know much about politics, so when I heard the name, Scott Jensen, as the pick for the job, I naively wondered if his choice might have a bearing on whether or not the Bill gets to the floor. Then I happened to see an article that appeared in the April, 1997 issue of "This Month in Mining," and my worst fears became a reality. It turns out that Jensen was a guest speaker at the Wisconsin Mining Association's meeting this past February, a conference openly motivated by the industry's desire to defeat the bill. He characterized anti-mining activists as a breed of "new prohibitionists," going so far as to allude to their tactics as being similar to those used by the Nazis! He seems to forget that the Mining Moratorium Bill is just a common sense approach to regulating the sulfide mining industry.

Laura Furtman
Webster, WI

Lodi Enterprise
10/30/97

10/25/97

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Area News

Is mining bill in limbo again?

To the Editor:

Just when it looked like the Mining Moratorium Bill might be coming to a vote on the Assembly floor, look what has happened. We have a change in the make-up of the key players who will determine the fate of the bill. With the exodus of Ben Brancel as Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly and the likely succession of Scott Jensen to the post, the bill looks to be in limbo again.

And remember, this bill is designed to protect Wisconsin's drinking water, including yours in Shawano County. It requires companies like Exxon to prove they will not pollute Wisconsin's ground and surface waters before being allowed to set up shop wherever they please.

Now, I don't know much about politics, so when I heard the name, Scott Jensen, as the pick for the job, I naively wondered if his choice might have a bearing on whether or not the bill gets to the floor. Then I happened to see an article that appeared in the April, 1997 issue of "This Month in Mining," and my worst fears became a reality.

It turns out that Jensen was a guest speaker at the Wisconsin

Mining Association's meeting this past February, a conference openly motivated by the industry's desire to defeat the bill. He characterized anti-mining activists as a breed of "new prohibitionists," going so far as to allude to their tactics as being similar to those used by the Nazis!

He seems to forget that the Mining Moratorium Bill is just a common sense approach to regulating the sulfide mining industry. At any rate, it looks like my question has been answered.

Thompson, Klauser, Meyer and now Jensen. Does anyone else see a pro-Exxon pattern here? We need to call Rep. Jensen and our local representatives to demand that the Mining Moratorium Bill be brought to a vote and passed as soon as possible. NO MORE GAMES!

Rep. Jensen can be reached at 1-888-529-0032, and

Shawano County's Rep. John Ainsworth at 1-888-529-0006.

Laura Furtman
Webster, Wis.

715-524-6513

8/2/97
Cob +
Sandra

Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

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

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

tailings dump located near Rep. Black's district.

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

Sincerely,

Marc C. Duff

State Representative
98th Assembly District
Chair, Assembly Committee
on Environment

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*Tomahawk Leader
Tuesday July 22, 1997*



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-Leader and
Contributed
Photos



Legislator: 'mining moratorium' misleading

By Collin Lueck
Citing a recent opinion by state attorneys, the Wisconsin House of Representatives Environment Committee chairman is calling the "Mining Moratorium" bill a meaningless piece of legislation.

Rep. Marc Duff (R-New Berlin), who heads the committee in which the bill now sits, said the idea that the bill would protect the environment is a myth.

"I just want to stop perpetuating this myth," he stated.

The proposed bill was passed by the State Senate as SB3. Amendments added in the Senate have created confusion over the bill's current meaning, Duff stated.

After a hearing in Ladysmith demonstrated limited understanding of the bill by legislators and the public, Duff requested a legal review by the state's Legislative Council.

"We should be voting on bills with a full understanding of what they mean," explained Duff.

The nonpartisan group of attorneys found that the bill as passed by the Senate would not prohibit mining or further ensure environmental safety, Duff noted.

"Their conclusion is that it's not in fact a moratorium," said Duff.

The bill, authored by Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison), was prompted by the proposed Crandon Mine, which many fear could cause significant environmental damage.

Duff said the bill in its original form was an attempt to prevent the Crandon Mine from being developed. But, he added, the Senate's amendments have gutted the bill of its initial intent.

"If the proponents of this bill wanted to stop the Crandon Mine, this bill is not going to do it," stated Duff. "That's what the impartial legislative attorneys have concluded."

The bill would require a prospective metallic mine developer to show that a similar mine had been operated for at least 10 years and been closed for another 10 years without violating any environmental laws. With that proof, mining permits could be considered.

The phrase "without violating any environmental laws," Duff pointed out, means that the most environmentally disastrous mining operations in history could be used

as successful examples due to a lack of regulations at that time.

"This is the big loophole in the bill," he said. "You can look at a mine from back in the 1800s and it meets the qualifications because there were no laws."

Duff indicated that SB3 has little chance of emerging from his committee in the form passed by the Senate. Instead, Duff said he would like to amend the bill to strengthen mining regulations.

"What we won't do is pass a bill that just bans a mine," stated Duff.

Mining legislation is presently on temporary hold as the Senate continues to wrangle over the state budget, normally passed by June 30. Pending completion of the budget, Duff said he hopes to present a new version of SB3 in September.

TEMPERATURES

	H	L	P
July 14	80	63	-
July 15	86	62	-
July 16	83	61	1.26
July 17	86	64	-
July 18	84	58	-
July 19	71	60	-
July 20	80	58	-

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Wolf River subject of local session

By Lloyd Schultz
for the Daily Times

JEFFERSON — In an effort to bring a geographically distant issue closer to the people of Jefferson County and other areas of the state, the Wolf Watershed Educational project held an informational meeting at the Jefferson Public Library Monday evening.

Sponsored by the Jefferson County Environmental Network, the meeting presented information on the environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed metallic sulfide mine near Crandon.

More than 50 people were in attendance at the meeting that was facilitated by David Blouin, chair of the Madison Sierra Club Mining Committee.

A subject of much controversy, the proposed mine would be located in Forest County with a processing facility on site and a 340-acre tailings area for mine wastes. In addition, Exxon, the project owner, has proposed a 38-mile pipeline to carry mine waste slurry.

According to Blouin, a prime concern is the waste containment area, which officials can only guarantee for 100 years, while the materials held within it maintain potentially dangerous to the environment for thousands of years.

Blouin explained that there is pend-

ing legislation that would put a two-year moratorium on the progress of the project until mine officials and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources could insure long term environmental safety for the area.

After a brief video presentation titled Tribes at Risk, Kenneth Fish, a spokesman for the Menomonee Reservation spoke to the group.

Fish talked about the history of Native Americans in the state of Wisconsin, then spoke of the influence the project would have on the reservation residents if it damaged the environment.

Noting that the Wolf River goes through the center of the Menomonee reservation, Fish considers the river a life source for the reservation and its social and economic well being.

"We have a shared interest in the state and in the country," Fish said. But Fish pointed out that the Wolf River was too important a resource to put at risk, noting that it is so clean that the bottom of the river can be seen while driving by on portions of nearby Highway 55.

Fish expressed a concern over a DNR groundwater rule change, which he maintains is designed to accommodate the mining interests. "Who is supposed to protect this land?" he asked. "The Wisconsin DNR."

Referring to a recent memo from DNR Secretary George Meyer, Fish

noted that the DNR was questioning data provided by Exxon regarding groundwater quality models. "The DNR is sending Exxon back to the drawing board with this information," Fish said.

During the meeting, concern was raised over lack of action on the proposed moratorium. Assembly Representative David Ward gave assurances that the issue was not being ignored.

"We cannot pass any legislation until there is a budget," Ward explained, referring to the state budget impasse in the Senate. He said that the budget remains the legislature's first priority. Ward went on, mentioning that the Assembly Mining Committee had referred the issue back to the Senate as well.

While the majority of those in attendance appeared to favor the moratorium, some questioned the issue.

Jack Travis, an environmental geology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater asked how all the copper needs could be met without mining. "I have read the laws, and Wisconsin already has some of the most stringent mining regulations in the nation," Travis said.

After the meeting, Travis said that he felt people are not viewing the issue with a broad focus. "It is simply the not-in-my-backyard syndrome," Travis said.

Geologist Frank Luther, also of Whitewater, maintained that mining areas could be reclaimed. "There are mining sites that have been covered that are undetectable," Luther said.

Speaking to the group, Ward conveyed that communications from the DNR suggested that a moratorium would not change the outcome of the issue. "I'd be misrepresenting to you if according to Secretary Meyer, the bill probably isn't worth the paper it is written on," he said.

When asked about his position on mining, Ward said that he would back a proposal for mining if the project was safe. "There are many valid questions raised here that must be adequately answered first," he said.

Concluding his remarks, Kenneth Fish said, "If there is one issue that will unite this state, it is the mining issue."

A similar forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday at Hyatt Smith Hall at the UW-Rock Center in Janesville.

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Mining Activists on Mission to Canada

Kira Henschel of the Mining Impact Coalition, pulls up outside my house in her van. "The Great Lakes Mining Awareness Caravan turned out to be a minivan," she jokes. I'm accompanying a handful of die-hard anti-mining activists about to embark on a serious road trip. It's an opportunity, I think to myself, to learn more about mining issues, to talk with northern Wisconsin residents about the proposed Crandon mine, and—I'll admit it—to see the sights of the northern Great Lakes.

GUEST COMMENTARY • BRIAN LAVENDEL

Henschel has been fighting the proposed Crandon mine for years. She's embarking on this educational journey to inform Wisconsin residents about the mine and to meet with activists in Canada to learn about mining issues north of the border.

Joining us for the ride is Henschel's 9-year-old daughter Loris, Frances Bartel of the Milwaukee Greens, and Tim Tynan, an environmental studies student at UW-Madison. We are going to travel across Wisconsin, through Michigan's Upper Peninsula and over into Ontario—visiting mine sites and meeting with mining activists along the way.

Our first stop after leaving Madison is Nicolet Area Technical College outside of Rhinelander, where we meet a small but enthusiastic group—citizens and media are equal at three apiece. Carl Hilstrom, Oneida

County Supervisor, reads a statement expressing his concerns about the disposal of water pumped from the proposed sulfide copper mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River. The mine could "damage or destroy" tourism in northeast Wisconsin, he says.

No sooner do the reporters pack up their gear, than we're off to Crandon, where just outside of town we pick up Dewey Skendore, a Menominee from northern Wisconsin. "What do I do?" he says, repeating my question. "I walk around the coun-

try." Weeks earlier, Skendore took an extended stroll from Jamesville to Mole Lake—some 355 miles—to raise awareness of the Crandon Mine's threat to the Wolf River.

Pressing on, we make our way into Canada. Breannin Lloyd, a tireless environmental activist, joins us in Sault Ste. Marie. Along the way we stop for a snack. At the doughnut shop, I am thrilled to hear that phrase I'd been anticipating: "Have a good night, eh." By evening we are deep in the "push," as they call it.

Lloyd's noisy, rusty Honda leads us east through Ontario. We spend the morning in Elliot Lake, and pay a visit to Rio Algom's Canadian copper and uranium mines. Roger Payne, a company engineer, shows us several old mines in various stages of reclamation. We see lakes hundreds of acres across

that are not lakes at all—but submerged tailings, or mine waste. Payne is chipped about the rehabilitation of the mines and waters; on our way out he proudly points to a couple of megansers paddling in the tailings pond.

Sudbury, our next stop, is the mining capital of North America. A shiny statue of a nickel perched on the edge of a foothill is nearly 30 feet across. This is the site of North America's deepest mine, which dives 8,000 feet underground to the world's motherlode of nickel. Mick Lowe, a journalist and labor activist, shows us the sights. His vehicle joins the others and at last we really are a caravan.

"This is the superstack," says Mick, gesturing proudly. I don't know what he's talking about—all I can see is the side of a concrete building. Then I look up. Above us, reaching nearly a third of a mile into the sky, stands a smokestack so tall and round it seems to violate physical laws. This superstack, Mick says, is what keeps the townspeople from hacking their lungs out and from having to repaint their cars every few months. Now the sulfur dioxide (some 800 tons a day) skirts its way across the Atlantic ocean before being deposited in northern Europe. Swedes, Mick tells us, protested the construction of the superstack when it was built in 1982 because Sweden was already suffering from high levels of acid rain.

We linger a moment outside the smelter. Just as we begin to get bored with the sight, two security jeeps pull up. "Who are you?"

Are you taking any pictures?" they demand. Not wanting to get into a hassle with the private police, we drive away. It's not until a few minutes later that we realize we're being followed. "Perhaps they'll radio ahead and have us arrested," suggests someone. When we get to the city limits and the jeep calls off pursuit, we all exhale. "They're showing us out of Dodge," someone says only half-jokingly.

The next morning we make our way to the office of the Canadian Environmental Law Association in Toronto where we are joined by Jose de Echave Caceres, who has traveled from Peru to tell the international environmental community about mining in the southern hemisphere. He shares photos of villages clinging to the edges of valley-like pits, piles of tailings, polluted lakes, filthy town streets. The mining companies in Peru have few of the environmental controls found in the north. "We are told that environmental protection is a luxury we cannot afford," says Caceres.

Caceres raises a troubling question. Would putting a halt to mining in Wisconsin increase the pressure for mining in Peru? He says it would. But perhaps the more vital question is even simpler—why must we dig ever-increasing amounts of minerals from the earth? It's a question we still don't have an answer for when, some 13 hours later, our caravan rolls back into Wisconsin.

Shepherd & press submitted by Ron Kessler 1/19/91

Mining moves toward top of environmentalists' agenda

Pollution potential concerns activists

By Richard Eggleston
Associated Press

Like dandelions that stubbornly pop up in the lawn every spring, mining is again a hot issue in Wisconsin.

Controversy over the industry has kept two generations of geologists, corporate executives, bureaucrats and opponents busy since the modern era of metallic mining in the state began with the opening of an open pit iron ore mine in Jackson County in 1969.

Mining is an activity that pre-dates statehood. It gave Wisconsin its nickname, the Badger State, because badgers, like the state's miners, burrowed into the ground.

But critics say citizens throughout Wisconsin are becoming more aware of the mess that mining can leave behind, and want public officials to do something about it.

In this month alone, environmentalists asked lawmakers and legislative candidates to pledge to ban mining in northern Wisconsin until the activity can be shown to be pollution free. Also, an appeals court ruled that the DNR cannot ban mining under general state water quality laws, and the Clark County Board imposed a moratorium on negotiations with companies interested in metallic mining on county lands.

In April, the Mining Impact Coalition, a group critical of mining, attracted 1,100 people to 22 meetings up and down the Wolf and Wisconsin rivers, from Sauk City to Rhinelander, said David Blouin, a Sierra Club activist who helped organize the two-week blitz.

"We turned a lot of folks into activists," said Blouin, who wasn't around in the 1970s when hundreds of people packed meetings in Crandon and Ladysmith to oppose mining projects by Kennecott Copper and Exxon.

"I'm a second-generation activist," Blouin said.

But unlike the first generation, activist groups like the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and chapters of Trout Unlimited this time

around are passing resolutions calling for a mining moratorium until environmental questions are resolved.

And American Indian tribes are speaking out more intensely against mining projects they fear could pollute their lands and destroy their way of life.

"There's a lot more people involved the second time around," said Al Gedicks, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council. "People who were 5 and 6 years old when the Exxon project first started in 1976 are active now."

"I have never seen the steam that is going now," said Roscoe Churchill, 79, who opposed the Kennecott mine now operating at Ladysmith since the early 1970s. "A lot of people have come and

'Stopping them once is not good enough. You have to make a lifelong commitment.'

Al Gedicks

Wisconsin Resources Protection Council executive secretary.

gone, including my dear wife."

Evelyn Churchill, Roscoe's wife of nearly 59 years who fought the mining companies alongside him, died June 7.

Plans to dig the open-pit Flambeau Mine, now co-owned by Kennecott and Rio Tinto Zinc, were abandoned in the 1970s but revived in the '80s. The mine began shipping copper, silver and gold ore in 1993. It employs about 60 people and in its first full year of operation mined an estimated \$130 million worth of ore and paid \$6.1 million in taxes.

Exxon, which abandoned plans for its Crandon mine in late 1986, revived them and is now seeking permits to mine 55 million tons of zinc and copper ore. The Department of Natural Resources hopes to have an environmental impact statement completed early next year.

"Stopping them once is not good enough. You have to make a lifelong commitment," Gedicks

said. Rep. Marc Duff, R-New Berlin, chairman of the Assembly Environment and Utilities Committee, said much of the steam behind the anti-mining movement is just political hot air.

Democrats opposed to mining are trying to make pro-business Republicans look bad on the issue even though Wisconsin's mining laws are probably the best in the country, Duff said.

"There are some groups out there that are using it as a scare tactic," he said.

For example, Duff said opponents like to point to mining's exemption from Wisconsin's ground water protection law, but forget to mention that mines are subject to their own standard, which forbids ground water pollution more than 1,200 feet from a mine's boundary.

Blouin said that zone would allow a mine like Exxon's proposed deep-shaft zinc and copper mine to pollute two square miles of ground water.

"The DNR is working its tail off to make sure the Exxon mine would be the cleanest mine in the world," Duff said.

The mine on the bank of the Flambeau River near Ladysmith has been exceptionally clean, its wastewater cleaner than the river water into which it is dumped, Duff said.

But Blouin said the fact remains that mines, like landfills, are bound to cause some pollution. And he acknowledged that mining opponents are likely only to improve plans for the Exxon mine, not halt it entirely.

Supporters boast of the economic benefits of mining. Not only do the mines themselves create jobs, but mining equipment makers in Wisconsin employ nearly 5,000 people and rack up nearly a billion dollars a year in sales.

Opponents see mining as an economic as well as environmental threat to the north.

"It's an issue of the transformation of northern Wisconsin's economy from a renewable-resource economy based on tourism, agriculture and timber to an extractive resource economy," Gedicks said.

**FLEISHMAN
HILLARD***International Communications***WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1997 ■ THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE**

Mining bill has little bite: Duff

Associated Press

MADISON — The so-called mining moratorium bill that easily passed the state Senate in March and is awaiting action in the Assembly "does nothing, really," a Republican committee chairman said Tuesday.

The measure, which backers said was designed to stall the opening of a mine in northern Wisconsin, will be amended, said Rep. Marc Duff, chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee.

"I just felt we needed to end the myth that it actually did some thing," said Duff, R-New Berlin. "You can't keep giving people against the mine false hopes that this is going to do it. It does nothing, really."

Under the bill that senators passed, the state Department of Natural Resources could not approve Crandon Mining Co.'s project or any other metal ore mining operation without determining that

■ A sulfide ore mine, similar to the proposed Crandon mine, operated elsewhere in North America for at least 10 years without polluting ground or surface water.

■ Such a mine has been closed for 10 years with no sign of water pollution.

Based on the DNR's interpretation of the bill, the measure will provide no additional assurances that mining can be environmentally safe and it will not create a moratorium on mining, according to a July 8 memorandum to Duff from the Wisconsin Legislative Council.

"The DNR is bending over backwards to accommodate the mining company," Black said.

WISCONSIN

3B

• Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Plan requires insurance for mining

■ Some lawmakers want assurance mining damages will be paid for. Others say they shouldn't pollute at all.

By Mike Flaherty

Legislative reporter

Before mining companies can start digging for minerals in Wisconsin, they should buy insurance to cover the costs of the damages long after the mines are closed, several Assembly Republicans said Monday.

In press conferences around the state, GOP leaders said they're asking the state Department of

Natural Resources to create rules that would require the insurance policies — and expand the areas around mines covered by the insurance.

The measure is needed to bring the state's mining laws up to date so that Wisconsin's natural resources are protected, said Rep. Steve Freese, R-Dodgeville. "We're not going to allow the environment to be raped for one (mining) activity," he said.

DNR Secretary George Meyer said he supported the proposal and would present it to the DNR's board with a "favorable recommendation."

He said he didn't think the DNR had the authority to require liability insurance for pollution caused by mines. But he said he

thought his agency had the power to require a large escrow account that could be held for a "long, long term" to cover future pollution costs. The escrow account would serve the same purpose as insurance, he said.

Democrats were not impressed by the Republican proposal.

"This is like mopping up after the milk is spilled," said Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, the former chairman of the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee. The purpose of tough mining laws is to prevent pollution in the first place — not to put in motion programs to pay for the cleanup afterward.

"This is just an election-year gimmick to confuse the public. The Republicans have killed every effort at reforming mining laws."

Black said that when the Legislature was in Democratic hands, Gov. Tommy Thompson vetoed mining reforms sent to him by the Legislature. When the Senate was in Republican hands, it killed the measures sent to it by a Democratic Assembly, Black said. And this year, with Republicans controlling both houses, most mining legislation never even came to a vote, he said.

The debate is timely because the DNR is considering an application by Exxon to dig 55 million tons of zinc and copper from a mine it wants to build south of Crandon.

The DNR will review a draft environmental impact statement to be completed early next year before making a decision on the mining permit in the next few years.

Meyer said.

Proponents of the mine say it will create jobs and tax revenue for the state. Critics are opposed to the mine because they say it will pollute the nearby Wolf and Wisconsin Rivers.

Freese said the GOP proposal is a compromise that neither side will like because it "adds a layer of costs" for the mining companies — but doesn't do enough to appease critics "who are opposed to the mine at all costs."

Black responded sarcastically that the GOP proposal is backwards, focusing on the wrong solution. "Once the Wolf is polluted, all the king's horses and all the king's men won't be able to put it back the way it was."

"Democrats want to keep the pollution out in the first place."

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CLINTON
The Clinton Topper

SEP 21 1995

32

Wetlands are key ingredient of Wisconsin's environment

By Rep. Spencer Black

What key ingredient for clean drinking water, flood prevention, wildlife viewing, bountiful hunting and fishing seasons, protecting endangered species, and our strong tourism economy is being threatened in Wisconsin? The answer is wetlands. More than half of Wisconsin's wetlands have been destroyed in the last 150 years.

Historically, wetlands were a dominant feature of our state, due in large part to the impacts of

The Ice Age. As the last glaciers advanced and retreated through Wisconsin, they scoured out vast, poorly drained basins that became swamps, marshes, and bogs. In the early 1800's, wetlands covered roughly one-quarter of our state. Today, only half of our original wetlands remain, and these areas continue to be destroyed at an ever-increasing rate.

Wetlands play a vital role in our environment. They provide essential habitat for many species of fish, birds, mammals, and numerous rare and endangered species. Wetlands, among the most productive ecosystems on earth, provide habitat that supports much of the sport fishing, hunting, and trapping that is so important to the Wisconsin way of life. Wetlands are also necessary for much of our natural resource and tourism based economy.

Wetlands help prevent flood damage by acting as giant natural sponges. The major flooding in the summer of 1993 all too clearly highlighted the dangers of destroying wetlands along our rivers. During large rainfalls, the wetlands can soak up much excess water. Later, the wetlands can slowly release this water into surrounding rivers, lakes and groundwater aquifers. When we destroy these natural sponges, the flood waters quickly rise above river banks and cause severe damage to communities and the environment.

The ability of wetlands to trap and hold water also enables these areas to act as hidden drinking water reservoirs, recharging groundwater stores during dry spells. Wetlands along lakeshores help prevent shoreline erosion by buffering the wave action that wears away on the banks.

With their unique soils and dense, deep rooted vegetation, wetlands are nature's own pollution filtration system. Surface waters flowing through wetlands are cleansed as pollutants and excess nutrients from contaminated run-off are filtered out. Some communities in Wisconsin and around the country have even created artificial wetlands to treat wastewater at a lower cost to taxpayers than traditional mechanical sewage treatment systems. Resource economists have estimated that it would cost hundreds of billions of dollars to replace the pollution filtration function that our country's wetlands now provide us for free.

Despite growing awareness of the importance of wetlands to our environment, they are still being destroyed in Wisconsin and around the country.

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The Clark County Press

NOV 13 1996

32
At Issue: Our

Mother Nature bes

by Representative Spencer Black

The old saying--"mother Nature knows best" is normally right when we talk about our environment. This is especially true when we talk about controlling flooding rivers. Large, complex flood control dams and levees cost billions of dollars and are often not nearly as effective as Mother Nature's own simple flood control system--wetlands.

We have known for a long time that saving our remaining wetlands from destruction is important for many reasons. Wetlands are key wildlife habitat-- they filter run-off pollutants and they help to recharge ground water supplies. Now some scientists in the Midwest are saying that we should not only protect our wetlands in order to reduce flooding, we should recreate some of the wetlands we have already lost.

Wetlands are a natural part of Wisconsin's landscape. When the last glaciers retreated through our area during the last ice age, they carved out large, poorly drained basins that filled with water and became swamps, marshes and bogs. Two hundred years ago, wetlands covered almost one quarter of our state. Today, only half of our wetlands remain and these are threatened with destruction. In rapidly growing parts of the state, especially near Milwaukee, wetlands are facing even more pressure.

In addition to their other values, wetlands play a very important role in reducing floods. After the 1993 floods burst through levees and threatened to wash out many dams, some scientists started looking back

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The Clark County Press

NOV 26 1985

At Issue: Our Environment

Environmental Answers Start at Home

by Representative Spencer Black

If you are looking to save some money and do something good for the environment, the best place to start is right at home. Many simple home improvements to reduce energy and water use can end up paying big dividends for the environment, and quickly reward the homeowner with lower utility bills.

Most of us will fix an annoying drip from a leaky faucet or close the windows in the winter just because it is the right thing to do. Few of us connect these common sense improvements with bigger problems like air pollution, energy use or water shortage. These big problems, however, are the result of each of us making decisions about how to use energy and water in our daily lives.

Speaking of leaky faucets - consider this: a faucet dripping at the rate of one quart per hour adds up to six gallons a day or 2190 gallons per year. That wastes water and is money down the drain. A 50-cent washer can solve the problem, while a new replacement dripless faucet costs \$50 - \$100 and will pay for itself in one or two years.

A brick in the toilet tank also saves water - about 1500 gallons per year for a family of four. Because bricks can flake over time and clog up your pipes, a better choice is to fill a plastic soda bottle with water and submerge it into the tank.

Simple home remedies also produce big results when it comes to saving energy.

Installing one high-energy light bulb can eliminate the need to burn 570 pounds of coal at a power plant. This also prevents over 400 pounds of air pollutants from the power plant. Even better, a high-efficiency bulb can save you \$35 on your energy bills over the life of the bulb.

As we head into the heating season, it will be getting easier to feel drafty windows in your home. A one-sixteenth-inch gap around a three-by five-foot window lets in as much air as a one square foot hole in your wall. Energy experts estimate that tiny gaps around the doors and windows in a typical American house add up to a three by three foot hole. That's like leaving a window wide open in the middle of winter. A two dollar tube of caulk can stop these drafts and fix the problem.

It would make a big difference if we all cut down on our energy use for heating and cooling. We wouldn't need to burn a lot of coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear fuel and we could prevent a lot of air and other pollution. And to top it off, who would mind a smaller heating bill?

Your local utility is a good place to ask for help and advice on home improvements. Most utilities will have free home energy audit services, and many even offer a rebate to homeowners for making conservation investments. When it comes to protecting the environment and saving a few dollars, the answers start at home.

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EAU CLAIRE

Leader-Telegram

OCT 07 1996

Legislator urges voters to end erosion of environmental laws

By Joe Knight
Leader-Telegram staff

The November elections will determine whether the state continues a two-year trend of rolling back environmental safeguards or resumes a quarter-century of environmental leadership, said Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison.

Black, who has written several environmental bills, spoke to about 70 people at a meeting of the Sierra Club in Eau Claire last week.

"We are really at a crossroads when it comes to the environment," Black said.

Wisconsin traditionally has ranked among the top states for environmental quality, partly because of an independent DNR and the old public intervenor's office, he said.

He predicted the state's environ-

ment would decline without them.

Language in the last state budget moved the public intervenor out of the Attorney General's office and into the DNR. The public intervenor also lost its authority to bring lawsuits.

The DNR secretary and several top positions have been made positions directly appointed by the governor.

Black had introduced a bill to restore the DNR and public intervenor's office to their former status.

It was defeated by one vote in the state Assembly. That narrow margin emphasizes the importance of the upcoming elections, he said.

There were attempts in the Legislature over the past two years to exempt the Department of Transportation from environmental regulations, divert funding from the

Stewardship program and sell wild lands for development.

Because of public outcries, these efforts were defeated, he said, but there will be similar efforts to weaken environmental programs if voters don't elect more environmentally friendly legislators, he said.

"They just succeeded in getting half the job done," he said.

The congressional elections also are critical for the environment because the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Newt Gingrich, has been hostile to the environment, he said.

Congress has tried to weaken the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act and sell off major portions of National Parks, he said.

In most cases vetoes from President Clinton have prevented the gutting of federal environmental laws, Black said.

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The Clark County Press

JAN 31 1996

not like someone
32

Mining law a bad deal

by Representative Spencer
Black

"347 acres of forested land near Phoenix, Arizona for sale. Mountain view, surrounded by Coronado National Forest. Full of valuable minerals. Assessed at \$2.9 billion - MUST SELL for \$1,745. For more information, call Washington, DC and ask for Uncle Sam."

If you saw that ad in the newspaper, you would probably think it was a joke. Unfortunately, the deal described above is for real and the joke is on the American taxpayer. Because of an 1872 law, the U.S. government is forced to sell billions of dollars of land to mining companies, many of them foreign owned, for as little as \$2.50 per acre.

The culprit is the Mining Law of 1872. The law allows mining companies to buy federal lands for mining at 1872 prices. The law also allows the mining to be conducted with almost no environmental safeguards. As a result, polluted groundwater and

fouled rivers are the legacy of mining operations on the federal lands. However, the law remains the way it was written in 1872 because the mining companies, with all their lobbyists and campaign contributions, have been able to convince Congress to continue to allow this rip-off of the American taxpayer.

The 1872 Mining Law was written at a very different time in our nation's history. Right after the Civil War, the government was encouraging settlement and exploration of western lands. More than a century later, with the population of the West booming and the dangers and costs of environmental pollution

better understood, this mining law is a scandal.

Since the law was passed, over 3.2 million acres have been sold to mining companies for bargain basement prices. This land holds hundreds of billions of dollars worth of gold and other valuable minerals. Each year, over \$4 billion in minerals are taken from publicly owned lands that mining companies obtained under this law. Yet, the taxpayers don't receive one cent for these valuable minerals. No wonder the federal deficit is so big. Equally as troubling is the incredible destruction of wild lands and rivers out west that have resulted from the absence of any significant pollution controls.

For years, a coalition of taxpayer and environmental groups have fought to change this 124-year-old law. They have an ally in President Clinton who has been trying to reform this law and make the mining firms pay for the land -- not at 1872 prices, but at today's assessed prices. Even though there is strong pressure to reduce the deficit, Congress killed the 1994 reform proposal. As a result of the Congressional inaction, the giveaways continue. Almost 600 million acres of public land holding an estimated \$85 billion worth of minerals remain for sale for pennies. That mining will be carried out with sufficient safeguards to protect the environment.

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THE BANNER JOURNAL

At Issue: Our Environment

By Representative Spencer Black

Environment major issue next legislative session

Protecting our environment was a major issue in the recent elections. Wisconsin's newly elected Legislature will face several important environmental issues when it meets again in 1997.

Mining is sure to be a major legislative issue. EXXON's proposed Wolf River mine near Crandon is one of several potential mines in sulfide ore bodies in northern Wisconsin. A broad coalition of more than 60 conservation and environmental groups is fighting for a moratorium on sulfide mines until it can be shown that they will not pollute our rivers, lakes and drinking water. I will again propose the Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill which will prohibit the opening of a new mine in a sulfide ore body until a similar mine has been operated elsewhere for at least 10 years without causing significant environmental damage.

EXXON's proposed Wolf River mine will create Wisconsin's largest toxic waste dump. The tailings (mine waste) dump which will be located in the headwaters of the Wolf River will be 90 feet high and cover an area the size of 350 football fields. EXXON also is planning to build a 38 mile long pipeline across northern Wisconsin to dump up to a million gallons of wastewater a day in the Wisconsin River. EXXON cannot cite a single example of a mine in a sulfide ore body like the

Wolf River deposit that has not caused extensive pollution. The Mining Moratorium Bill is a common sense approach to prevent mining operations from polluting our drinking water, rivers and lakes.

Restoring our system of environmental protection will also be a top priority. Wisconsin's system of protecting our outdoors was devastated by the Legislature's last session. As a result, the Department of Natural Resources is now run by political patronage appointees and our environmental watchdogs, the Public Intervenor, have been eliminated. Now, the Governor can hand pick the DNR Secretary and can fire that appointee any time a decision to limit pollution displeases his supporters. The conservation Restoration Act will restore Aldo Leopold's system of a politically independent Department of Natural Resources and will restore the Office of the Public Intervenor.

The Legislature will also need to take action to stop other states from dumping their non-recycled garbage in Wisconsin. Last spring, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the part of Wisconsin's recycling law that bans the dumping of non-recycled waste from other states into Wisconsin landfills is unconstitutional. This could reduce the effectiveness of our recycling law. Our recycling law is working well - cutting the amount of waste going to

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SHARON
The Sharon Reporter

NOV 27 1986

Guest Perspective

Let's preserve our Ice Age heritage

By State Rep. Spencer Black
Although the snow in Wisconsin sometimes seems heavy, imagine what it would be like if our homes were buried under hundreds of feet of ice and snow!

During the last Ice Age, much of Wisconsin was covered by thick layers of ice called glaciers.

As the glaciers moved south and later retreated, they scoured and scraped the landscape. Moving about like giant bulldozers, the glaciers carried huge amounts of sand, gravel and rocks with them.

When they melted and began retreating north, they left their mark on Wisconsin's landscape forming things called eskers, kames, drumlins and moraines.

Moraines show how far south the glaciers advanced, and outline the glacier's ancient shape. If you look at

the rocks in the moraines, you may find rocks from Canada or the bottom of Lake Superior!

The glaciers stopped in Wisconsin, leaving Ice Age history right in our backyards to enjoy. One of the most beautiful moraines is found in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Kettle Moraine is a part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, a path for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

The Kettle Moraine is a 90-mile long moraine that was created over 14,000 years ago. Only 50 miles of the moraine is protected within the state forest's northern and southern units in Washington and Waushara counties.

Forty miles of the moraine, called the Middle Moraine, lies unprotected between them.

The two Kettle Moraine units may never be linked, and the Ice Age Na-

tional Scenic Trail may never be connected because the Middle Moraine is in danger from gravel mining and subdivision development.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now working to protect the remaining land between the Northern and Southern Kettle Moraine State Forests.

Almost half of the land is already owned and protected by state and local governments, or by conservation foundations. Work is being done to bring these scattered parcels of land under common management.

The remaining land is privately owned and lacks effective protection. The DNR is buying land from willing sellers and is accepting gifts of land in this middle moraine area.

Private conservation groups like the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation are also working together with the

state to protect the moraine.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,000-mile-long hiking trail through Wisconsin following the moraines.

From Potawatomi State Park in Door County, the trail runs south through the Kettle Moraine State Forest and down to Rock County, then veers north through Devil's Lake State Park and Langlade County, before turning west to Interstate Park in Polk County.

Hiking or skiing through the Kettle Moraine State Forest - or if you're adventurous enough, across the entire Ice Age Trail - is a great way to visit the moraines.

By hiking across them, we can experience some of our ice age history firsthand. It is hoped we will be able to protect this part of our ice age heritage for future generations to experience.

FROM

By Jerome F

WISCONSIN
Newspaper Association

P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705

Clipping Service Division

FREDERIC

Inter-County Leader

OCT 19 1996

At Issue: Our Environment

Safer waters need safety zone

by Rep. Spencer Black



Swimming or boating in one of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes is a great way for many of us to relax and enjoy our natural resources. As the leaves begin to change colors and the days get shorter, the 1996 summer boating season is almost over. Unfortunately, the news at the end of the boating season is not all good news.

Information about this year's boating accidents makes clear the need to improve Wisconsin's boating safety laws before we put our boats into the water next season. Between January 1 and September 1, 1996, 103 boats in the state were involved in accidents causing injury. Thirty-six of those boats involved in accidents were personal watercraft, commonly called jet skis. Although jet skis account for less than 3 percent of all boats registered in

Wisconsin, they were involved in 35 percent of all boating accidents with injuries during the 1996 boating season. These statistics were compiled from reports prepared by water safety field personnel.

These startling numbers show that a jet ski is 10 times more likely to be involved in an accident causing injury than other types of boats. With an accident rate much higher than other boats, it is clearer than the water in Lake Superior that Wisconsin needs to pass reasonable regulations to reduce boating accidents involving jet skis.

Before the next boating season begins, I will introduce a bill into the Legislature to require a 200-foot safety zone for jet skis on all of our state lakes. This proposal would require that jet skis travel at the slowest possible speed

within 200 feet of all shorelines in lakes throughout Wisconsin. This safety zone will make it safer for anglers, swimmers and other boaters to enjoy our lakes.

This safety zone will help to reduce the extremely high accident rate for jet skis. It will also help protect the environmental quality of our lakes. Because personal watercraft are highly maneuverable and can operate in very shallow water, they can travel fast in areas where most boats cannot go or must travel very slowly. This high speed travel close to shore harms fish spawning beds, increases lake shore erosion, and disturbs wildlife like loons and other waterfowl.

The 200-foot safety zone will also reduce the nuisance of jet skis experienced by many anglers, lakeshore home

owners and people enjoying beaches and parks along the water. All too often, instead of a happy day at the lake, people have encountered the noise and danger posed by jet skis coming too close to their property and their fishing and swimming areas. This reasonable regulation will reduce the annoyance from jet skis and increase safety for all.

Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes should be safe places for all of us to relax and have fun without worrying about accidents. This safety zone will protect our natural resources and cut down on boating accidents and injuries. Making sure that our lakes are safe for all users would make next year's boating season better than ever.

WISCONSIN
Newspaper Association

P.O. Box 5580
Madison, WI 53705

Clipping Service Division

OSHKOSH

The Oshkosh Northwestern

DEC 26 1996

from making the payments.

Mining Interests ready PR blitz

To the Editor:

Ready or not, Wisconsin residents soon will be exposed to many promises about the proposed Crandon mine — if you haven't been already.

Sources tell us that Exxon and Rio Algom, the two multi-billion dollar corporations that created Crandon Mining Co., are going to spend at least \$1 million in media ads in the next few months. This million or so is small potatoes to these two massive corporations. Don't be surprised to also see full-page ads in newspapers.

So why the big advertising blitz by Crandon Mining? State Rep. Spencer Black (Madison) plans to reintroduce the mining moratorium bill in January, which is making Crandon Mining officials nervous.

Exxon and Rio Algom wouldn't have to spend this million dollars for advertising if they could just give the people of Wisconsin the name of one metallic sulfide mine that has not caused pollution — anywhere in the world! But they cannot. Because all metallic sulfide mines have caused pollution — that's a fact.

One radio ad you might hear is a lady who took a 16-hour bus ride to Canada to check out a reclaimed mine. She said she saw a park

where children were playing; trees without a drooping leaf and water so pure and refreshing, she couldn't drink enough of it.

The ad (which is paid for by Crandon Mining Co.) doesn't say where she went in Canada. POW'R (Protect Our Wolf River) has found out that she visited the Elliot Lake area. She visited three mines, which were all uranium mines. These mines she visited, and other uranium mines, have contaminated 10 lakes and the Serpent River.

Guess who paid for this lady's bus trip to Elliot Lake, Canada? — that's right, Crandon Mining Co.

**Len Puhanz
POW'R (Protect Our Wolf River)
Shawano**

WAUSAU

Wausau Daily Herald

NOV 20 1996

Recycling committee looks for funding

Landfill tipping fee proposed to replace state grants in 1999

By Laura Ignarski
Wausau Daily Herald

Recycling programs should be funded directly by those who dump in landfills — such as manufacturers — when state aid runs out in 1999, a state lawmaker says.

"The cost of the recycling programs should be paid by those that create the waste," said state Rep. Spencer Black D-Madison, a member of the Special

Committee on the Future of Recycling, which met Tuesday at the Marathon County Health Department.

One solution to replace state money for recycling is to charge a "tipping fee" for each ton of material dumped in a landfill. The state-mandated recycling programs are partly funded by a surcharge on the income taxes of corporations, partnerships and other businesses.

The surcharge, which ends in 1999, turns into grants that the state sends to local agencies to help them meet the recycling mandate.

In Wausau, the state granted \$139,296 in 1996 to fund the recy-

cling program, said Maryanne Groat, finance director. The recycling program cost about \$347,000.

"The balance is funded through the general property tax levy," Groat said. "The city has not developed any concrete plans as to how to fund the program when the state funding is gone."

If the state were to stop funding the program completely, the cost would be about 9 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation, or about \$9 in property taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 house.

Putting the burden on businesses and other groups that dump large

amounts of waste into landfills would provide an incentive to produce more recyclable materials, Black said.

"We live in a system where businesses respond to economic incentives," he said.

If they had to pay a fee for using a non-recyclable type of plastic, Black said, businesses might choose a recyclable material, which reduces waste.

State Sen. Russell Decker D-Schofield, chairman of the committee, said that would be a key benefit of a tipping fee.

"It would put a burden on the people who take a lot of waste to dump," Decker said.

The committee is looking at other options, including:

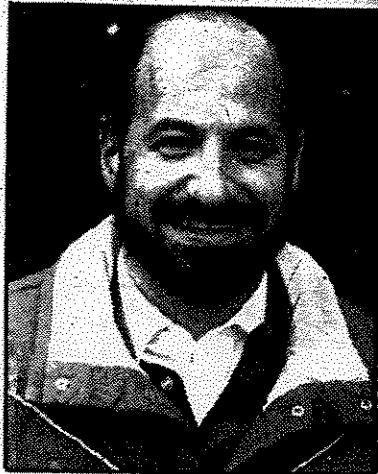
- Fees for disposal of solid materials.
- A fee on solid waste hauler operators.
- An advance disposal fee charged when a retailer purchases a product.
- A continuation of the surcharge on businesses.
- Using revenue from the general fund.

The committee will continue to study alternative recycling programs at its meeting on Nov. 17 in Madison.

OCT 10 1996

37
Page 6 - CLINTON TOPPER - October 10, 1996

Public pushes environmental protection



Spencer Black

Protecting our environment is a top priority for voters in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. After two years of congressional and state legislative attacks on laws to keep our air and water clean, the public is standing up and saying loud and clear that protecting our environment will be a priority for voters in the fall elections.

Opinion polls this spring and summer have all shown what many have said all along: when it comes to protecting our environment, the American public is way ahead of the politicians. With the election drawing near, many politicians are quickly

trying to catch up with the public's desire for a clean and safe environment.

A recent *Newsweek* poll showed that voters feel that protecting the environment ranks as the fourth most important issue facing the country today. Another poll sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation showed that 75% of voters feel that protecting the environment is a "high" priority issue. In the same poll, 59% of voters believe environmental laws don't go far enough to protect our natural resources. Similar results have been seen in many other polls.

Why the strong support for protecting the environment? The fight to protect our environment is big news as Congress has debated proposals to weaken the Clean Water Act, buried mining law reforms, threatened to kill the Endangered Species Act and discussed selling off National Parks. These polls show that the public has heard enough about rolling back environmental protections.

With this strong public support for environmental protection, it should be no surprise that candidates all over the country -- starting from President Clinton on down -- will talk at every campaign stop about protecting the environment. This strategy seems to be working. In a recent poll, President Clinton was considered better than Bob Dole at handling issues concerning the environment (51% - 19%).

Here in Wisconsin, the recent primary elections showed how environmental issues can help candidates of both major parties win elections. A coalition of conservation and citizen groups have asked candidates for the legislature to pledge to support a moratorium on sulfide mining in our northwoods until the technology can be proven to be safe for our rivers, lakes and drinking water supplies. Of the 21 primary elections, 17 of the candidates who had signed the mining moratorium pledge won the primary election. In only four races in the entire state did a candidate who signed the moratorium pledge get beaten by someone not committed to the mining moratorium.

Protecting our environment is not a partisan issue. Support for protecting our environment comes from people who identify themselves as Democrats as well as Republicans. In this fall's elections, the politicians who don't pay attention to the public's desire for a clean and safe environment will be out of work. For the sake of our environment, that's probably a good thing.

Proposed mine threatens river

Norman Maclean wrote a novel about it, Robert Redford and Brad Pitt made a movie about it, and now a giant mining company wants to dig a mine next to it.

Norman Maclean's novel, "A River Runs Through It," is a story about Mr. Maclean's childhood growing up alongside the Blackfoot River in west central Montana. The river ran through Mr. Maclean's life and was one of the strongest influences on his relationships with his family.

When Robert Redford's movie — which was based on the book — was released a few years ago, millions of people got their first glimpse of wild Montana and the beautiful free-flowing mountain rivers that Mr. Maclean described in his novel.

Today, another project is planned for alongside for Blackfoot River. Mining company giants Phelps Dodge and Canyon Resources Inc. are proposing a gigantic gold and silver mine that would be closer than 800 yards to the river's edge. The Blackfoot River is home to the native cutthroat and bull trout and is one of the attractions to a strong regional tourist economy.

The mining companies want to take 3.6 million tons of gold

ore from the mountains alongside the river. To get this gold ore, however, the mining companies will have to remove and crush hundreds of millions of tons of mountain.

More than 80 percent of the gold that is mined today is used for decoration and jewelry. To get a medium-weight wedding band that uses 1.5 ounces of gold, this proposed mine will need to dig and crush more than 75 tons of surrounding mountains.

When fully developed, the Blackfoot mine operation will cover almost 8 square miles of land. In the mine's wake will be an open hole, 1 mile long and a half-mile wide and up to 1,300 feet deep. After the gold is removed, the ground-up waste tailings rock will be left in mounds that stand more than 600 feet tall — higher than the Washington Monument.

Conservationists and many local citizens and businesses



in my opinion

By Spencer Black

that depend on tourists are working to oppose the mine, but unfortunately, they expect the state of Montana to approve the mine in the near future.

Although we have no mountains in Wisconsin, we also share the threat to one of our most loved wild rivers from a giant mine proposal. The Wisconsin mine threatens our Wolf River with acid mine pollution and could devastate a local tourist based economy.

Here in Wisconsin, hunters and anglers, Native Americans, senior citizens, environmentalists, church groups and tens of thousands of others are working together to pass the sulfide mining moratorium bill. This legislation will delay Exxon's proposal to open their Wolf River Mine until a similar sulfide ore mine has operated for at least 10 years without polluting rivers, lakes and drinking water supplies.

Since the minerals have been in the ground undisturbed for millions of years, waiting for another mine to operate for 10 years without pollution seems a pretty small wait.

Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, represents Wisconsin's 77th Assembly District.

SAVE THE WISCONSIN!

Over-Allocated or Over Polluted?

by Jim Wise, *Protect Our Wisconsin River (POWER), Tomahawk, WI*
In April the DNR announced that they will begin a two year project to determine why our segment of the Wisconsin River is "over-allocated" with biological oxygen demand (BOD). Over-allocated is DNR language for over-polluted.

The segment they will study is from Rhineland to the Grandmother Dam south of Tomahawk, or segment A. BOD represents organic material in the river that depletes oxygen in the river water as it degrades or is consumed by other organisms. The concentration of BOD in the surface water determines how much oxygen is depleted. Summertime levels of dissolved oxygen in the Wisconsin River occasionally drop below the standard of 5 parts per million (ppm). Healthy fish and other aquatic life in the river require a minimum of 5 ppm of dissolved oxygen.

The BOD load in the river is supposed to be reviewed every 5 years, but segment A has not been reviewed since 1981. In fact the monitors at Hat Rapids that would show BOD levels were disconnected in the spring of 1995 because of the Governor's budget cuts. Remember that it was the Spring of 1995 when Crandon Mining Company announced they would use this part of the river to dump their polluted mine wastewater. Their permit application indicated they will be adding additional BOD to the river. Because there was a lot of work done by concerned people downstream of Hat Rapids, it appears now that DNR will restart the monitors as part of their survey work.

While it is important that DNR is finally getting around to doing the BOD survey, it is noteworthy that in spite of all the laws, rules and good intentions, they have not been able to prevent this part of the Wisconsin River from being over polluted. They have assured us many times that in the case of the Crandon Mine permit, the laws prevent them from over polluting this river and that they cannot and will not allow it to happen.

When we listen to local DNR staff explain the reallocation review process we get the feeling that the survey work will be done properly by folks that live and work in the Northwoods. The problem is that the final policy decision on how much BOD the river can handle, and who gets to pollute it, will be made largely by Governor Thompson appointees in Madison. POWER will closely watch this process as it affects all of the industries and municipalities downstream where most of us

For more information, contact Jim Wise at POWER, P.O. Box 505, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-6015.

Here's the latest ballot information:

40 ballots received last week!

3,169 ballots have been received

48 voted for the mine and pipeline

384 voted for the mine, but against the pipeline

2,737 voted against the mine and the pipeline

Check out the Crandon Mine Editorial Campaign web site

www.shopperstopper.com

Ballot

Vote for only one!

1. I am in favor of permitting a copper mine at Crandon, Wisconsin and pumping the mining wastewater to the Wisconsin River.

Yes No

2. I am in favor of permitting a copper mine at Crandon, but am opposed to pumping mining wastewater to the Wisconsin River.

Yes No

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Signature: _____

Phone No.: _____

Send to:

Shopper Stopper

P.O. Box 280

Merrimac, WI 53561

(E-Mail:

bart@shopperstopper.com)

JUN 18 1997

99
Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I am writing because I believe the people of St. Croix County need to know about a statement made by the Assembly Environment Committee Chairman, Marc Duff, at the recent public hearing on Assembly Bill 70, the Mining Moratorium Bill. The meeting was held in Ladysmith, Wisc., on May 12, and lasted over seven years. 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, Wisc., is likely to pollute our lakes and ground water with sulfuric acid

Page 3

Central St. Croix

and heavy meats, to say nothing of its impact on the scenic beauty of our North woods. It's common knowledge that the mine would produce the largest toxic waste dump in the state, a "tailings dump" that would cover an area over 200 football fields in size and be as high as a 10-story building. Since the waste water from the mine would not meet standards for dumping into the nearby Wolf River, Exxon proposes to pump over a million gallons of water a day over to Rhineland and dump it into the Wisconsin River instead.

Tom Ward, a member of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, was one of many to speak at the hearings. 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's response, "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 Mandota 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 St. Croix County is not sacred. Would you want such a dump to be put next to your home? If your answer is, "NO," please contact your state representative to voice your support of Assembly Bill 70. And contact the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel, to request that the Bill be brought to a vote on the Assembly floor as soon as possible. Both can be reached at 1-800-361-9471.

Laura Furtman
Webster

FENIMORE
Times

JUN 19 1997

OPINION

37 Letters to the Editor: Mine will pollute

Editor:

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Before getting into the specifics by 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.

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Laura Furtman
Webster