

FLAMBEAU MINING CORPORATION

February 14, 1977

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Dr. Allan C. Buckholz
Minn. Dev.
Izaak Walton League of America
210 Ramar Building
111 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Dear Dr. Buckholz:

I wish to thank you for sending us a copy of your January 10, 1977 letter to the Corps of Engineers. I share with you many of the same concerns and comments expressed in your letter. On October 22, 1976 I transmitted our comments to the Corps (copy attached).

To give you some background on the Flambeau project, the deposit was discovered late in 1968. As the deposit was being drilled out, the company started conducting engineering, environmental and economic studies. Coordinating our environmental studies were two Minnesotans whom you and your League may know. Our chief coordinator was Jean Replinger who as a member of the Minnesota Environmental Education Council and now teaching at Southwestern State, Marshall, Minnesota, gave us a broad insight into the complexities of sampling and assessing environmental impact. Ms. Replinger is a native of Ladysmith, an area for which she has a strong affection, and therefore was keenly interested in advising the company on ways to avoid environmental degradation. Assisting her was Dr. James Ludwig who was, at the time of preparation of our impact report, teaching at Bemidji State College and also a member of the Education Council. The environmental studies resulted in a four-volume Preliminary Environmental Impact Report issued in June 1974. Following review, an Addendum was issued in February 1975.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources submitted their Preliminary Environmental Report on August 6, 1975 and after review, their Environmental Impact Statement in February 1976. Both the Wisconsin EIS and the Corps Draft EIS are an abridged edition of the original EIR with some additional data prepared by the WDNR.

Much of the original EIR data was omitted as were the results of the continuing environmental studies conducted since June 1974. These continuing studies are conducted by in-house scientists and by outside consultants with the results routinely forwarded to the appropriate state and/or federal agency. The program is being continuously updated with new technology resulting, in our opinion, in an excellent monitoring program with up to seven years of background data. Assisting us with the upcoming preconstruction, construction, operation and post-operation monitoring program will be Barr Engineering Company from Minneapolis who have been instrumental in putting together and running the monitoring program for AMAX's copper-nickel project.

cc: R. W. Shelling
E. O. Schell
4-21-77

cc: R. W. Shelling
3-4-77

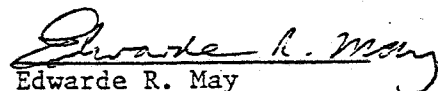
Dr. Allan C. Buckholz

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I apologize for not responding to your letter earlier and for not addressing each of your concerns specifically at this time but you will receive a detailed answer to each comment as soon as possible. I would also like to have the opportunity of meeting with you and members of the League at a time and place of your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,


Edward R. May
Project Geologist

ERM/dhc

Enclosure