

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON PROPOSED BULK SAMPLING ACTIVITY AND PREAPPLICATION DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MINING PROJECT AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Applicant: Gogebic Taconite, LLC, 402 Silver Street, Hurley, WI 54534

Location of Proposed Mining Operation: The proposed bulk sampling sites and potential mining site are located in the Town of Anderson, Iron County, Wisconsin and the Town of Morse in Ashland County, with the majority in Iron County.

Brief Description of Preapplication Description of Potential Mining Project:

On June 18, 2013, the Department received a preapplication notice of intent to file an application for a mining permit from Gogebic Taconite, LLC. Under s. 295.465, Wis. Stats., a preapplication notice is required at least 12 months before an application for a mining permit may be filed. The preapplication notice included a preapplication description of the potential mining project.

Brief Description of Bulk Sampling Plan and Required Approvals:

On June 18, 2013, the Department received a bulk sample plan from Gogebic Taconite, LLC., under s. 295.45, Wis. Stats. On July 2, 2013, the Department informed Gogebic Taconite, LLC, that a stormwater permit would be required for the proposed bulk sampling activity. The Department requested additional information to determine whether other approvals would also be required.

On July 30, 2013, the Department received additional information from the company on the proposed bulk sampling activity. For bulk sampling, the company has proposed to remove a total of 4,000 tons of rock. The rock would be removed from 4 or 5 sites using standard excavating equipment. Sampling could also involve some blasting activity. The sample material will then be loaded onto trucks for transport to an off-site facility for testing and analysis. After the bulk sampling activity is completed, each site will be revegetated.

Available Information:

Information submitted to the Department by Gogebic Taconite, LLC, including the proposed bulk sample plan and preapplication description of the proposed mining project, is available on the Department's web site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/mines/gogebic.html>.

The bulk sample plan and preapplication description of the proposed mining site may also be inspected at: the Hurley Public Library, 405 5th Ave. N., Hurley, Wisconsin 54534, (715) 561-5707, and at the Vaughn Public Library, 502 West Main Street, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806, (715) 682-7060.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

Public Informational Hearing:

The Department hereby gives notice that a public informational hearing has been scheduled for August 15, 2013. The hearing will be held from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Hurley High School, 5503 W. Range View Drive, Hurley, Wisconsin 54534. The hearing will be a public informational hearing where individuals can learn about the proposed bulk sampling activity and the preapplication description of the potential mining project.

At the beginning of the hearing at 10:00 am and again at 5:00 pm, the Department will provide a summary of the available bulk sampling information and the approvals identified by the Department for bulk sampling activity. The Department will also provide a summary of the steps that must be followed prior to the submission of a mining application for the potential mining project.

The Department will accept both written and oral comments at the hearing on the proposed bulk sampling activities and the preapplication description of the potential mining project. A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly way and will use procedures specified in s. NR 2.135, Wis. Adm. Code, for receiving oral comments. The hearing officer may put time limits on individual oral statements to ensure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Questions from members of the public may be submitted in writing at the hearing through the hearing officer. Department staff will not be cross-examined, but may respond to written questions as part of the hearing.

Written Comments:

Any member of the public may submit written comments on the proposed bulk sampling activity or the preapplication description of the potential mining project. Comments may be submitted by hand-delivery or U. S. mail to Larry Lynch at WDNR, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53707, or by e-mail to: DNRWAMINING-GOGELECTACONITE@Wisconsin.gov.

The comment period is thirty days from the date of the publication of this notice. The Department will review all comments that are received **on or before September 3, 2013**.

The Department will follow s. 295.45, Wis. Stats., in evaluating the approvals required for bulk sampling activities. The Department will follow s. 295.465, Wis. Stats., in assessing the preapplication description of the potential mining project and responding to the preapplication notice of intent to file a mining application.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin - August 1, 2013

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By Cathy Stepp
Cathy Stepp, Secretary *lh*

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