



May 24, 2013

Timothy J. Myers, Engineer
Gogebic Taconite, LLC
402 Silver Street
Hurley WI 54534

Subject: Exploration License Application – Request for Clarifying Information

Dear Mr. Myers:

The Department of Natural Resources is currently reviewing the replacement exploration license application submitted by Gogebic Taconite, LLC on May 16, 2013. In the course of conducting the review, department staff has identified a number of issues for which additional clarifying information is needed in order to facilitate completion of the review. Please address the following issues in a specific manner:

1. Submit documentation from the entities that own the land indicating that Gogebic Taconite, LLC has been granted right of entry for purposes of conducting the exploration activities. Also, include a statement from each landowner indicating their concurrence with the proposed reclamation procedures on the land and the intent to keep all access roads in place following completion of the exploration activities.
2. Specify which EZ-Mud product is proposed to be used in the drilling process. The list of DNR-approved drilling additives includes three different EZ-Mud drilling additives.
3. The application (p.4) indicates that drilling water could remain in the drilling site sumps for up to 30 days following drilling in order to allow dispersal of the water. Describe measures that will be taken to ensure the sumps do not overtop during this period if there are significant precipitation events during the time the sumps are open.
4. The application (p.4) proposes that the sump at the Collection Tank Central Location will have minimum dimensions of 40'x40'x4'. Please provide the estimated maximum dimensions of this sump. Also, specify how long water will be allowed to remain in the central sump before it is transported to a wastewater treatment facility.
5. Please describe any measures that will be taken to ensure the drilling water does not pose a threat to water resources. Include any protocols that will be followed in instances where the borehole penetrates geologic units that contain sulfide minerals in excess of regional background values or units that are known to contain higher sulfide values such as portions of the Tyler Formation and the Yale Member of the Ironwood Formation.
6. The application indicates the drillholes will be temporarily abandoned for some time prior to final grouting. Do you anticipate needing to re-enter all of the drilling sites with the drilling rig to complete the permanent abandonment or will you use more portable grouting equipment?
7. The application (p.6) describes a process for removal and stockpiling of topsoil if it is present at a given drilling site. Will the stockpiled material be stored within the footprint of the drilling site as depicted in the "Typical Site Plan" schematic included in the application? Provide additional detail describing how the topsoil will be stabilized or contained to minimize soil loss.
8. The application describes the access roads and anticipated road maintenance activities related to ensuring the roads are maintained in a passable condition. In addition to those measures prescribed in the

application, describe other routine erosion control measures, such as placement of silt fence along the road, which will be implemented in order to minimize sedimentation.

9. The access route to the proposed drilling sites along Access Road No. 3 is not clear. This is especially the case in the area near the drainageway that flows through the existing culvert as marked on the Site Map. Please provide a specific description of the route which will be used to travel between site 706-2 and the four drilling sites on Access Road No. 3. Will any of the trucks and equipment needed for the exploration activity enter the site from Moore Park Road?

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning these issues.

Sincerely,



Lawrence J. Lynch, P.G., Hydrogeologist
Water Use Section
Bureau of Drinking Water & Groundwater