



April 14, 2023

Ms. Molly Gardner  
Metallic Mining Coordinator  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**Subject: February 15, 2023 Notice of Intent to Drill Bend Deposit, Soo Line Mineral Parcel, Taylor County, WI (“NOI”)**

Dear Ms. Gardner,

This letter is in response to the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR or Department) letter to Green Light Wisconsin (GLW), dated March 7, 2023, commenting on and requesting information with respect to GLW’s NOI.

**WPDES – Wastewater**

GLW submitted to the Department an application for a general dewatering permit (Dewatering Operations – WI-0049344-5; Form 3400-232 (8/18) on April 7, 2023. Exploration field work outlined in GLW’s NOI will not commence until approval of this permit is granted.

**Waterways and Wetlands**

GLW confirms that no fill material will be discharged into the wetlands if a snow bridge is created for access to Drill Sites #1 and #2 and that no permit is required in this situation. It is also understood that it is not necessary to remove compacted ice and snow from wetland W01 once work on the above-mentioned drill sites is completed.

GLW has proposed that water for use as a drilling fluid will be collected from the North Branch of the Yellow River at the bridge located on the Yellow River Road north of the project area. Water will be pumped from the river directly from the bridge. The intake structure, consisting of a 2-3” hose and a double screen, will be lowered into the river from the bridge deck and placed within the water column, above the river bed, in the center portion of the river, away from the river banks.. GLW confirms that the intake structure will remain suspended within the water column and will not be placed on the bed of the river to ensure that there is no removal of bed material.

GLW will use a 2"-3" trash pump for pumping water from the North Branch of the Yellow River with a maximum flow rate of approximately 150 gallons/minute. The intake will include a double screen. An initial standard screen will be utilized to prevent debris floating within the water column from being pumped from the river. An additional screen, approximately 12" in diameter and 12" in length containing a maximum of 3/8" mesh, will be placed around the initial screen to minimize the suction pressure at the intake point. Additionally, the flow rate of the pump may be reduced to ensure that there is no disturbance to the river bed or damage to aquatic wildlife.

### **Stormwater – Erosion Control –**

GLW confirms that disturbance associated with access clearing, drill site preparation, sump excavation, and soil stockpiling will be kept under one acre.

GLW confirms that BMPs will be installed prior to field work in areas where disturbed and/or stockpiled soil/sediment has the potential to erode and migrate towards water features. Once installed, all BMPs will be inspected on a regular basis, but no less than once per week and after rain events of 1/2" or more, to ensure proper function. Inspections will continue until final stabilization of each disturb area, pursuant to the guidelines and activities set forth in the NOI.

### **Endangered Resources –**

GLW has discussed the results of the Endangered Resources Review (ERR) with the Department and confirms that all required actions will be followed as set out in the ERR report. GLW has also discussed recommended actions with the department and will implement such actions to the extent practical for the duration of the project.

### **Exploration Surety –**

GLW will increase the amount of the existing \$5,000.00 surety bond to \$50,000. GLW confirms that the \$50,000.00 surety bond will satisfy (1) the requirements for its Wisconsin exploration license, and (2) the reclamation costs for the proposed exploration work set forth in the NOI. Field work in the NOI will not take place until the department confirms receipt of the \$50,000.00 surety bond, which GLW anticipates providing to your office a minimum of two weeks prior to commencing with site work.

### **Drilling Fluid –**

GLW confirms that only department approved drilling muds and additives will be used during the program and that if products other than EZ-Mud and bentonite are planned to be used during the drilling project, GLW will notify the department prior to using such additives.

## **Drillhole and Sump Abandonment, Reclamation, and Site Restoration -**

GLW confirms that the quantity of cuttings generated will be tracked throughout the duration of the project on a 'hole by hole' basis. In instances where a sump is not constructed at a drill site, and where the cuttings are contained within a cuttings tank, GLW will document both the quantities of cuttings generated as well as the sump location where the cuttings are disposed of.

During abandonment of the sump, GLW will calculate the appropriate cement to cuttings ratio based on the total quantity of cuttings contained within the sump. For the purposes of calculating an appropriate mix ratio of cement to cuttings, GLW will calculate the total bedrock cuttings generated, on a solid rock basis (hole volume minus core volume), and will add a minimum of 2 94 lb. bags of Portland cement per 3 cubic feet of cuttings (to achieve an approximate mix of 3 parts cuttings to 1 part cement). During the abandonment of the sumps, GLW will monitor the cement/cuttings mixture to ensure proper solidification prior to backfilling.

GLW also confirms that the quantities of cuttings and cement, along with the locations of all sumps (by means of a handheld GPS along with sump dimensions) will be recorded and made available to the department.

If you have any further questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Eric Quigley  
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