

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF Modifying the Updated Monitoring Plan of Flambeau Mining Company for the Reclaimed Flambeau Mining Site, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE MONITORING PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to s. NR 132.11(4), Wis. Admin. Code, Flambeau Mining Company (FMC) has requested modification to the approved 1991 Updated Monitoring Plan (Monitoring Plan) for the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine, located near Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

FMC was granted a mining permit on January 14, 1991. As required by the permit, a long-term Monitoring Plan was furnished and subsequently approved by the Department. The Monitoring Plan specified the environmental monitoring requirements for the reclaimed mine site including the monitoring of groundwater quality and elevation both within the backfilled pit and outside the pit margins, site stabilization and subsidence, wetland function, and revegetation density over the reclaimed areas. Since the closure of the mine site in October 1998, FMC has submitted long-term monitoring results to the Department in accordance with the Monitoring Plan.

After evaluating the monitoring results, and assessment of the Monitoring Plan, FMC notified the Department of its requested modifications to the Monitoring Plan submitted to the Department on November 13, 2018 in accordance with s. NR 131.12(3)(a). The Department requested additional information which FMC provided on April 29, 2019. FMC requested to: 1) reduce groundwater monitoring frequency and parameters, including groundwater elevation, for wells located within the backfilled pit from quarterly to annual; 2) reduce groundwater monitoring frequency and parameters, including groundwater elevation, at intervention boundary wells, and elsewhere on the mine property from quarterly to annual; 3) remove the requirement for subsidence monitoring; 4) remove the requirement for aerial color infrared vegetation photography; and 5) remove wetland staff gauge monitoring at WT-5.

The Department has consistently reviewed monitoring results and has determined that the site remains in compliance with the approved Monitoring Plan. The Department considers the requested modifications to be not substantial and is proposing to approve the modifications to the subsidence, vegetation photography, and wetland staff gauge as requested. The Department is proposing to approve a reduction in groundwater monitoring parameters for all wells, and reduce the monitoring frequency from quarterly to biannual.

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 293.43, copies of the Request to Modify the Updated Monitoring Plan will be available for review at the Rusk County Community Library, 418 Corbett Ave W, Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Any interested person may submit written comments to the Department regarding the proposed modification to the Monitoring Plan. Comments should be sent to Zoe McManama, 518 W. Somo Ave., Tomahawk, WI 54487-1118. All comments received by members of the public no later than Monday July 8, 2019 will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. The Department will hold a public informational hearing at 2pm on June 20, 2019, at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Ladysmith Service Center located at N4103 Highway 27, Ladysmith, Wisconsin.