



Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wed. August 3, 2022, 10am CT

Everyone is invited to attend our open community virtual Zoom meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 10am CT. This is an opportunity for you to learn about risks to the community of the proposed Talon Metals mine in Aitkin County. August's meeting will focus on the fact that mining is only a small part of Minnesota's economy. Please bring your questions, concerns, and ideas. We will also share updates on other facets of our work to inform our neighbors and community. Thank you for signing up for our email newsletter.

If you believe nickel-sulfide mining is too risky in Aitkin County, Tamarack Water Alliance has yard signs with this messaging available. Your \$6 donation helps defray costs. Email waters@tamarackwateralliance.org to arrange pickup of your sign.

We hope you will share this information with others and keep in touch as we build a community that can protect water and health from the dangers of sulfide mining.

Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to sign up for the Tamarack Water Alliance [email newsletter](http://eepurl.com/hOboEb) (http://eepurl.com/hOboEb). June's newsletter will focus on Responsible Mining and a set of requirements that responsible mining entails.

Tamarack Talon Metals Mine Risks

We are NOT making this up. All of this information is published in the Talon Metals PEA, a lengthy 350 page document posted on their website. You can read it here: https://talonmetals.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Talon-Tamarack-PEA3_2021.pdf

Talon's marketing says nothing about these details that will deplete our aquifers, contaminate our water supplies, and make Tamarack a permanent toxic waste site.

- Talon plans to pump 2.3 million gallons of water a day out of our local aquifers. SOURCE: PEA p. 276.
- This dirty water may not be treated, yet will be contaminated with sulfide ore and dust. SOURCE: Talonmetals.com/commonly-asked-questions/ "Most modern mine water is not toxic."
- Additionally, a great deal of water will be needed for the first stage of mineral processing on site. SOURCE: PEA p. 248
- And where will they put all this contaminated water that they do not appear to want to filter?
- In 12 years after mining ceases, Talon plans to cover not remove the 82 ft high 75 acre high sulfide and cobalt contaminated tailings pile. SOURCE: PEA p. 264. Overtime the tailings pile will deteriorate and contaminate the surrounding area. SOURCE: pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23625128/. Do we want a permanent toxic waste storage facility in Tamarack?
- Real estate values will drop. Who wants to own property next to a toxic mine?
- Talon owns mineral rights to 32 square miles which will affect a large number property owners. Clearly this is a BIG project.
- The toxic "Mt. Talon" formed by the high sulfide tailings pile will be a new geologic feature, visible for 15-20 miles. It will be located on the highest ground around, with Horseshoe, Lake Minnewawa, Round Lake, and Big Sandy all downhill. SOURCE: en-gb.topographic-map.com/maps/ilbc/Aitkin-County/.
- Wind will blow the dust from the contaminated pile and mine ventilation shafts into the surrounding area, and dust from normal mining operations will contaminate the environment and pose human health risks.
- The large majority of jobs will go to skilled contractors (not employees) outside the area who will not have benefits. SOURCE: PEA p. 238.
- What happens when Talon leaves since it is a non-US company? What if they go bankrupt? Is our community left with a mess?

We hope you will share this information with others and keep in touch as we build a community that can protect water and health from the dangers of sulfide mining.

Mining Contributes Less Than 1% Of Minnesota's Economy - by Bob Tammen

Mining has a long history of environmental degradation and economic failure. In De Re Metallica published in 1556 Georgius Agricola observed that "Further, when the ores are washed, the water which has been used poisons the brooks and streams, and either destroys the fish or drive them away."

Adam Smith, patron saint of economists, observed in 1776 that "Projects of mining, instead of replacing the capital employed in them, together with the ordinary profits of stock, commonly absorb both capital and profit." The number of bankruptcies in the Minnesota mining industry would not have been a surprise to Adam Smith. In the recent past we've seen the failures of Magnetation, Mesabi Nugget, LTV (twice), Reserve, Essar, and the EVTAC Thunderbird mine.

When mining promoters talk about millions and billions of dollars in benefits from mining we should put those numbers in perspective. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, Minnesota has a \$412 billion economy. Mining contributes a little less than \$4 billion of that. Mining is less than 1% of Minnesota's economy.

Another factor to consider is that much of Minnesota's production of goods and services involves value added or renewable resources. Mining is an asset stripping activity that usually leaves collateral damage to the environment in Minnesota and ships our minerals out of state. To add insult to injury, mineral owners get to take a depletion allowance for the ore they ship.

Even countries much less developed than the United States have realized that it is not always wise to sell off natural resources. A few years ago I returned to Vietnam with my wife, Pat, and her sixteen year old niece, Vanessa. On a warm afternoon our driver took us to visit Marble Mountain south of Da Nang. While Pat & Vanessa were shopping amongst the marble statues and art work I sat on a marble bench in the shade and read a brochure about Marble Mountain. I learned that the villagers had realized that mining marble from their mountain would destroy their sacred site so they found a less valuable source for their marble. They sacrificed temporary income for long term quality of life.

We should follow their example and acknowledge that degrading our surface water, ground water, and wetlands for a little temporary income makes about as much sense as dynamiting a cathedral so we could create jobs salvaging bricks. One of Minnesota's greatest resources for carbon sequestration is our wetlands. While mining promoters generate Rube Goldberg proposals to gather carbon and pump it underground we already have a bounteous amount of carbon storage in Minnesota's wetlands and all we have to do is defend it.

To gain an understanding of jobs provided in Minnesota we can go to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development. (DEED) The May, 2022 employment report can be found at MNDEED-LMI-CES. It reports that MN has 2,932,883 total nonfarm jobs. Mining and logging are counted together for a total of 6,597. Less than three tenths of a percent.

To gain further understanding of mining economics the Mining Tax Guide published by the Minnesota Department of Revenue is a great resource. The 2021 issue lists employment at our six operating taconite plants as 3,562. For comparison, Saint Louis County, which has a majority of those mining jobs, has a total of over 90,000 jobs within the county. Mining is a very small part of Minnesota's income and employment.

For another example of what a future in mining looks like residents can take a little trip to the village of Manganese about 50 miles west of Tamarack. All that's left are some barren streets and a few forlorn chimneys. Manganese is a ghost town. Promoting mining for economic development is like putting wet wood on a dying campfire. There's not enough energy in the system to make it work.



"New mining is often at direct odds with the actions we need to take to address climate change. For example, in Minnesota, sulfide mining proposals would destroy wetlands, even though protecting wetlands is **one of the most effective climate strategies in our toolbox. Arguments that suggest we need to choose mining for clean energy metals at their expense are disingenuous, dangerous, and divisive.**

And, the metals we need for the clean energy transition are already above ground, but they're being sent to landfills and to other countries for recycling because of insufficient metal recycling infrastructure in the United States. If we bolster domestic recycling efforts, the so-called need for new metals drops."

Abby Rogerson, June 14, 2022, *Never Let a Good (Climate) Crisis Go To Waste: Greenwashing in the Mining Industry*, MCEA Duluth Office

Who We Are

Tamarack Water Alliance (tamarackwateralliance.org) is a group of local residents and landowners working together with others from across Minnesota to protect water and community health from the dangers of sulfide mining near our beloved lakes and wild rice beds, at the headwaters of the Kettle River and in the Mississippi River watershed.

A proposal by a foreign owned mining company to mine nickel and other metals near Tamarack in Aitkin County threatens the health of our communities. This kind of sulfide mining, especially in water-rich environments, has never been done without severe impacts to water and the health of those downstream. Mining here is also a threat to environmental justice and the long-term economic security of nearby native and rural communities.

We will be sending this monthly newsletter to keep you informed about this project, to share information and opportunities to act, and to invite you to gatherings where you can connect with others who share a passion for clean water and community health.

