



Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wed. July 6, 2022, 10am CT

Everyone is invited to attend our open community virtual Zoom meeting on Wednesday, July 6 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. We will focus on the topic of responsible mining and a set of requirements responsible mining entails. 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.

Tamarack Water Alliance Community Meet Up - Saturday. July 9, 2022, 2 to 4pm, Block North Brew Pub, Aitkin, MN

*All are welcome to our second community meet up. **Our guest speaker will be Paula Maccabee, Director of Water Legacy**, a non-profit dedicated to protecting the clean waters of Minnesota. <https://waterlegacy.org/> Maccabee will share information about the risks a nickel sulfide mine poses for our water rich environment. Bring your questions, concerns and ideas. Please share with neighbors, friends, and property owners in the area.*

If you believe nickel-sulfide mining is too risky in Aitkin County, Tamarack Water Alliance has yard signs with this messaging available for a \$6 donation. Those signs will be available at our meet-up.

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>). 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.

Responsible Mining

Mines have a huge impact on the state & local economy.

- Mines may employ a large percentage of the local residents.
- May get directly involved by financing local suppliers and so promoting local trade and growing the local economy.
- Mining operations also pay a significant amount of money to the state in taxes and royalties.
- In addition, mining operations have the potential to negatively impact the environment in ways that can severely affect the health of the community that may not have mitigations.
- These health impacts may not only be life impacting but may persist in perpetuity. Responsible mining operations address these issues in the following ways.

COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible mining includes support for local programs that include:

- Contributing to local and regional health and education related efforts including sponsorship of educational and sporting events, support for local medical facilities and the funding of children's activities and arts festivals.
- Environmental stewardship and wildlife projects,
- Climate change programs,

Responsible mining engages with local tribes to do a cultural assessment of affected land. Responsible mining includes open and honest communication between the mine and the community:

- What happens to the mine affects the community – a responsible mine provides information in a transparent manner, consulting with the local community on a regular basis.
- A responsible mine provides the opportunity for the community to review and comment on mining plans that affect the community.
- A responsible mine recognizes and respects the rights of indigenous communities and tribes that have a treaty stake in the mined area.
- A responsible mine supports long-term, sustainable economic development to help the community grow beyond the extraction economy.
- A responsible mine supports deliberate efforts to evaluate and be honest about the needs and uses for the minerals to be extracted and alternatives, like recycling.

Responsible mining endeavors to employ local labor and trades people wherever possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible mining ensures that air emissions are controlled to prevent the release of

toxic dust and other toxic emissions.

- Measures are taken to ensure that mine vent stacks filter out sulfates and other metal dust generated by subsurface mining operations.
- Measures are taken to ensure that toxic dust from the tailings pile is contained within the mining site and can be removed prior to closure.
- Measures are taken to ensure that other airborne emissions associated with metal processing do not contain toxic substances.
- Measures are taken to monitor air emissions across the site to ensure mitigations are working.
- Measures are taken to immediately correct problems found.
- Responsible mining ensures that water quality and quantity in the area are maintained to prevent local contamination and negative impacts on local aquifers.
- All water collected within the mining operation is filtered to be clean of all mine induced and toxic materials before release into the environment. Water released should be of the same or higher quality as the existing pre-mine water ecosystem.
- Water release does not damage existing wetland ecosystems.
- Water drawn from the aquifer should not affect aquifer levels including impacts on wetland, lake and well levels.
- Measures are taken to monitor water quality and aquifer impact across the site and surrounding areas to ensure that the water management regime is working properly.
- Measures are taken to immediately correct problems found.

Responsible mining ensures that mine closure restoration leaves the area as it was prior to mining.

- For underground mines – the mine must be filled in a way to ensure that toxic materials still exposed within the mine do not leach out into the local environment.
- All toxic mining materials will be removed from the property (surface) with no remaining tailings left on site and the area restored to a pre-mining state.
- Areas where vegetation was removed are replanted appropriate to pre-mining conditions.

Learn more about the concerns of the Talon Metals mine at <https://tamarackmine.org> and <https://tamarackwateralliance.org/>.

Download the most recent community concerns slide presentation <https://tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf>

View informative flyers and other resources:
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html>)



"The Anishinaabe universe contains a complex world of beings, above and below. That world is not known by Minnesota, or by multinational mining corporations, and those two worlds are about to collide.

The Talon mine could lay to waste the Sandy Lake Watershed, inundating it with sulfuric acid, sucking down the lake levels like those on shallow Lake Minnewawa, and contaminating the rich waters of the 1855 treaty territory, now known as Aitkin County.

...The fact is that the minerals the companies pursue may be obsolete in the battery market by the time this mine would be operational. In the aftermath, all we would have is a hole in the ground, contaminated water and a superfund site. That's not so green. "

**Winona Laduke, Reader,
author of June 15, 2022 column**

"Talon Mine: Search for Riches and Historic Sandy Lake", pp.32 -33

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.

