



Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wed. December 7, 2022, 10am CT

*Everyone is invited to attend our open community virtual Zoom meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 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. December's topic will be *Creating a Better World with Clean Water* presented by Waabishki Giiwedin Ikwe (White North Wind Woman) Tracey L. Wilkie.*

Wilke is a citizen of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota where she was raised. Tracey is a human rights activist and Water Protector. She spent her career working with youth and their families from across the world in national model site for criminal justice reform in Portland Oregon. Since returning to back to North Dakota nearly 4 years ago Tracey has ran for office, stood against Line 3, worked for ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. She is currently the chair of PAIMI Protection and Advocacy for Individual's with Mental Illness, serves on board of directors for Jeremiah Program and North Dakota Women's Network.

Some of Tracey's fondest childhood memories are learning how to swim in the beautiful lakes and rivers in Minnesota.

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 monthly Tamarack Water Alliance [email newsletter](http://eepurl.com/hOboEb) (<http://eepurl.com/hOboEb>).

Thanksgiving - The Price Paid By Native People by Waabishki Giiwedin Ikwe (White Wind Woman) Tracey L. Wilke Citizen of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa North Dakota Descendant of Chippewa/Ojibwa/Anishinaabe Minnesota

For many, this week's "Thanksgiving" holiday signifies bounty and togetherness. But for us, this same holiday — known as Thankstaking in our family and many other Native ones — symbolizes the price paid by Indigenous communities once the pilgrims set foot upon these shores. Thanksgiving origin story taught in grade school is nothing but a harmful myth meant to negate the realities of stolen land and the genocide of Native peoples. We can not move past our history without addressing our dark history because the taking from Indigenous people continues today with our fight for Mother Earth.

I'm Waabishki Giiwedin Ikwe (White North Wind Woman) Water Protector and Land Defender. Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa North Dakota, descendent of the Chippewa/Ojibwa/Anishinaabe in Minnesota and Turtle Island. Standing Rock awakened my ancestral teaching instilled in me as a child. It was time for me to leave my career in criminal justice and social work and take a stand for all of our environment and the people. Soon after my children and I had to leave our home and seek shelter due to the wild fires in Oregon brought on my climate change, twice. The first time the fire reached 1,000 feet of our residence.

I'm excited to be part of the Honor the Earth team and took a stand against Line 3. I'm grateful for all to have a role in Indigenous lead resistance. I spent summers swimming in the rivers and lakes in Minnesota, eating wild rice from Minnesota is part of our creation story as Anishinaabe people.

With Thursday being a holiday it's time to reflect on Indigenous Justice. Our people land are still being sacrificed for big corporations like Rio Tonto coming into our homelands without regard for water, land, people and culture. Rio Tonto is responsible for the proposed Talon Mine in Tamerack Minnesota and bringing their destruction to Mercer County North Dakota for a proposed plant. Both of which I do not agree with for many reasons. The Mercer County North Dakota site is within the "pollution zone" of native tribal lands, continuing the legacy of using tribal lands as toxic dumping grounds. Potentially 10's of millions of tons of tailings waste will be dumped at the site, creating a significant toxic waste disposal area.

As Waabishki Giiwedin Ikwe, White Wind Woman, part of my purpose is to fight for our treaties to be honored. We are all treaty people and with the upcoming holiday I asked that you please take time to do your research as we are all in this together, our future 7 generations deserve a better environment.

Thursday I will share a meal with friends from many cultures. Thursday is a day of mourning. We continue to teach and fully understand colonization and the full history of centuries of genocide, theft of land and oppression that continues today.

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 plans to pump up to 2.6 million gallons of water a day out of our local aquifers. (SOURCE: PEA p. 276). ***Even if filtered, this level of pumping will surely lower water levels substantially in our lakes and wetlands.*** And where do they put all this water? Certainly, even more water would need to be filtered and pumped if the mined out stopes (caverns) are not properly sealed

During mining operations, development rock and high sulfide ore storage areas would exist. Although these storage areas will hopefully be lined, we know from the Eagle Mine that such liners leak over time resulting in future contamination of the area.

Wind will blow the dust from the contaminated rock/ore storage areas and mine ventilation shafts and ore loading into the surrounding area. This dust will contaminate the environment and pose human health risks. There is also a risk of dust contamination from rail transport as well.

Learn more at tamarackwateralliance.org and tamarackmine.org. 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.



"Omaa Akiing The Land to Which We Belong

This Akiing, the land to which we belong, is full of life and it's full of water... The Anishinaabe signed 44 treaties with Europeans, and many with Dakota and Haudenosaunee neighbors. Treaties between nations were intended to provide assurances for our people and lands for the generations ahead, recognizing now a shared relationship...**one dish one spoon**...

...Treaty negotiators and capitalists pushed the Ojibwe so that the vast empires which soon became Kennecott, Anaconda, US Steel, Weyerhaeuser, and more could be created. This was no longer about agreements, and sharing, this was about greed...

...The wealth of the 1855 is in blueberries, wild rice, sturgeon and clams. Some of the greatest biodiversity in Minnesota is in this territory, including the highest quality water sheds, south of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, the epicenter of wild rice, and the epicenter of our people and history...

...The Anishinaabe maintain and exercise the right to harvest and protect that which the Creator gave us, indakiingimin. Our continued rights have been affirmed in the Courts, and in federal law, including the passage of PL 280. "

1855 Treaty Guide

Written by Winona LaDuke, Honor The Earth
https://indd.adobe.com/view/publication/89ad96dd-4831-4f6e-b3a3-69bb6eca3841/mbm3/publication-web-resources/pdf/1855_Treaty_Guide.pdf

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.

Review our community slide presentation,
(tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf)

Download seven informative flyers:
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html>)

- Talon Mine Risks,
- High Sulfide Mines Create Acid Mine Drainage,
- Nickel Not Needed for Future EV Batteries,
- Minnesota's Prime Wild Rice Lakes Under Threat,
- Minnesota Regulators Poor Record In Protecting The Environment,
- Responsible Mining
- Eagle Mine Environmental Report & Saving Our Meager Nickel Reserves

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.



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