

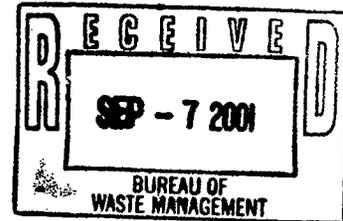
Flambeau Mining Company
N4100 Highway 27
Ladysmith, WI 54848
(715) 532-6690
FAX (715) 532-6885

**Kennecott
Minerals**

September 4, 2001

Mr. Lawrence J. Lynch
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Mine Reclamation Unit
Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
101 S. Webster Street, GEF II
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Notice of Completion
Flambeau Mining Company



Dear Mr. Lynch:

The Flambeau Mining Company (Flambeau) is hereby providing its Notice of Completion (NOC) of the surface reclamation of the Flambeau Mine site, excluding the 32-acre industrial outlot, that has been reclaimed for passive recreation and wildlife habitat. The surface reclamation of this 149-acre area was substantially completed during the years 1998 and 1999. More limited planting took place in 2000 and 2001 to complete the planting plan due to unavailability of planting stock in the preceding years. Monitoring during 2000 and the data reported in the 2000 Annual Reclamation Report (November 2000) documented that the performance criteria for surface reclamation have been met.

Section 5.11.4.8 of the original approved Reclamation Plan contained in Flambeau's Mine Permit Application (MPA), Foth & Van Dyke (December 1989) addresses the monitoring requirements and performance standards to be implemented on the reclaimed mine site. A document titled Surface Reclamation Ecological Monitoring Program (SREMP), Applied Ecological Services (December 1998) was submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to further clarify implementation methods and standards application.



Table 1 summarizes requirements and conditions for the NOC. Table 2 contains a summary of monitoring results for Percent Cover, Diversity/Density and Woody Survivorship that support Flambeau's NOC for Requirements 1 through 4 in Table 1. Data presented in Table 2 were taken from the 2000 Annual Reclamation Report.

Requirement 5, Table 1 regards the requirement for herbaceous biomass to be determined for the NOC. During the week of August 20, 2001, biomass samples were collected. Samples are in the process of drying and following the compilation of data, biomass data will be submitted to the WDNR.

Requirement 6, Table 1 pertains to the evaluation of Wildlife Habitat. Flambeau has been communicating with the WDNR on the methods of completing the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation. Species selected for the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation are savanna sparrow (grassland), great crested flycatcher (woodland), and tree swallow (wetland). Although not a requirement for NOC, the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, using monitoring data collected during 2000, will be submitted to the Department before November 15, 2001.

Conditions 1 and 2, Table 1 requires that the perimeter fence and electrical supply line to the west end of the former pit be removed as prescribed by the WDNR's July 30, 1998 Conditional Modification of the Mining Permit. The perimeter fence and the electrical supply were both removed during Spring 2001. During a routine site inspection on May 22, 2001, WDNR personnel observed that the electrical supply line had been removed and that the perimeter fence substantially removed. Subsequent to the WDNR inspection, the perimeter fence removal was completed during June 2001. During the week of August 20, 2001, WDNR personnel were again on site to observe vegetation monitoring and the condition of the site and had the opportunity to observe that fence removal was complete.

Additional conditions not related to this NOC were prescribed in the WDNR's July 30, 1998 Conditional Modification of Mining Permit letter. Condition 3 required that "(t)he interior workings of the water treatment plant (WTP) shall be dismantled and removed and the discharge pipeline will be plugged as part of site reclamation. The water treatment building may be left in place for possible alternative use." Section 2.1, 1999 Annual Report, Flambeau (January 2000) reported that the dismantling and removal of the WTP process equipment was complete by March 1999. Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3, 1998 Annual Report, Flambeau (January 1999) illustrates the locations of concrete plugs installed in the WTP's pipelines including the discharge pipeline.

Condition 4, states "(i)f the portion of the site covered by the lease agreement with the LCIDC has not been put to an acceptable alternative use by the end of 2004, the site shall be reclaimed in a manner consistent with reclamation of the remainder of the mining site. Any demolition waste resulting from such reclamation shall disposed of in a properly licensed solid waste facility." Section 2.1 of the 1999 Annual Report discusses the reuse of the former administration building as the WDNR Ladysmith Service Center. In addition, the LCIDC began renovation of the former WTP building with plans for reuse

Table 1. Requirements & Conditions for Notice of Completion (NOC).

	Requirements	Source
1	Percent Cover – 70 percent cover averaged over the site at 90 percent statistical confidence as total cover (vertical projection of plant parts) by species.	MPA, Section 5.11.4.8
2	Diversity – Frequency of occurrence by species for terrestrial and aquatic vegetation; similarity of standing crop to original mixture shall consist of no less than 80 percent of the initially planted species at 90 percent statistical confidence; minimum of 15 planted species per community type, except wetlands which shall have a minimum of 12 planted species.	MPA, Section 5.11.4.8
3	Survivorship of Woody Plant Stock – At NOC and again at the COC no less than 80 percent of the initially planted species must survive in a similar proportion to the initial planting.	MPA, Section 5.11.4.8
4	Wetland and Biofilter Vegetation – Frequency of occurrence by species for aquatic vegetation; species similarity of standing crop to initial planting will be no less than 80 percent at 90 percent statistical confidence; density (stem counts, or estimated stem counts depending on the species) by species of standing crop will be no less than 80 percent at 90 percent statistical confidence to the initial planting.	MPA, Section 5.11.4.8
5	Biomass – Total above ground herbaceous biomass determined twice, once for NOC and once for the COC.	MPA, Section 5.11.4.8
6	Wildlife Habitat – Habitat evaluation procedure (HEP) conducted on reclaimed wetland and terrestrial communities; evaluation procedure initiates two years after reclamation begins (Year 2000) and conducted once per year for three years thereafter.	MPA, Section 5.11.4.8
	Conditions	Source
1	Perimeter Fence - The perimeter fence shall be removed prior to completion of reclamation activities. Site reclamation will not be considered complete until the fence has been removed.	Conditional Approval of Modification of the Mining Permit, July 30, 1998, WDNR.
2	Electrical Supply - The electrical supply line to the west end of the former pit shall be removed as part of the site reclamation. Site reclamation will not be considered complete until the supply line has been removed.	Conditional Approval of Modification of the Mining Permit, July 30, 1998, WDNR.

MPA (December 1989) with clarification and further definition provided by SREMP (December 1998).

Table 2. Results of Monitoring the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Site in Year 2000.¹

	Total Cover (%)	Planted Native Species (#)	Diversity ² (%)	Wetland Density (%)	Tree Species Survival (%)
Performance Standard	70	15/15/12³	80	80	80
Community					
Grassland	95.9	15/6 ⁴	88.2	NA	NA ⁵
Woodland	97.6	25/10	100	NA	100 ⁶
Wetland	100.0	32/35	82.1	100 ⁷	NA
Industrial Outlot	95.7	NA	NA	NA	NA

¹ Source: 2000 Annual Reclamation Report, Flambeau (November 2000).

² As compared to Target Planted Species.

³ Min. 15 planted native species each in grassland and woodland; and min. 12 planted native species in wetland.

⁴ # Target Planted Species Found/# Enhancement Planted Species Found

⁵ NA = Not Applicable

⁶ In the 2000 Annual Reclamation Report, Table 11 presented individual tree survival rather than tree species survival.

⁷ Wetland density, stem count, is greater in 2000 than when initially planted.

by the WDNR and Xcel Energy (formerly Northern States Power). Section 2.4 of the 2000 Annual Report (January 2001) reports that during 2000 the WDNR and Xcel Energy took occupancy of the former WTP.

Condition 5 required that “(t)he primary method of maintaining grassland vegetation on the site shall be through a program of prescribed burning as provided in the approved Reclamation Plan. Burning shall be conducted on an as needed basis as determined and recommended by Flambeau Mining Company’s ecological consultant. The first burn shall occur no more than four years after planting. Subsequent burns will be conducted as directed by the ecological consultant but, at a minimum shall occur at least every three to five years. The period of prescribed burning shall continue for ten years after the initial burn...” Section 6.3, 2000 Annual Reclamation Report, Flambeau (November 2000) describes the first prescribed burn conducted on the reclaimed site in April 2000. Each year one third of the reclaimed mine site excluding woodlands will be burned on a three-year rotation through the ten-year burn period.

Condition 6 states that “(t)he proposed changes to the vegetation and wildlife monitoring and evaluation procedures are not approved as part of this modification. The procedures and success criteria specified in the Reclamation Plan and Mining Permit remain in force.” Monitoring of the surface reclamation began in late summer 1998 and was in accordance with the approved procedures found in the MPA. The SREMP submitted to the WDNR in December 1998 is consistent with the approved monitoring procedures and success criteria in Section 5.11.4.8 of the MPA. Subsequent monitoring of surface reclamation has been conducted according to the approved procedures in the MPA and SREMP.

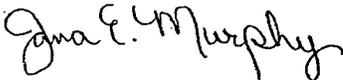
Mr. Lawrence J. Lynch
September 4, 2001
Page 5

Flambeau has met all of the requirements for the NOC. The surface reclamation of the reclaimed mine site has been a success as evidenced by the extensive monitoring of the site as presented in Flambeau's Annual Reclamation Reports. The 2000 Annual Reclamation Report submitted to the WDNR in November 2000 included monitoring data supporting Flambeau's NOC. The 149-acre area reclaimed for wildlife habitat and passive recreation exceeds the minimum requirements for cover, diversity, density and tree species survival. Collection of biomass samples for NOC has been completed. The conditions of the 1998 approval of modification of the mining permit have been met.

Flambeau is requesting WDNR approval of the NOC in a timely fashion in accordance with Condition 17, Part 3 of the Mining Permit. The approval of the NOC will initiate the 4-year period of extended responsibility that will be followed by the Certificate of Completion when Flambeau shows that the reclaimed site meets the success criteria at that time.

Thank you for your prompt review of this information. If you or your staff has any questions, please call me at 715-532-6690.

Sincerely,



Jana E. Murphy
Environmental & Reclamation Manager

Cc: Al Christianson, City of Ladysmith
Fred Fox, KMC
Jim Hutchison, Foth & Van Dyke
Ken Markart, WDNR
Tom Portle, WDNR
Thure Osuldsen, Rusk Co.
Tom Riegel, Town of Grant
Bill Stoll, Applied Ecological Services
CeCe Tesky, Rusk Co. Zoning