

Notice of Public Informational Hearing on proposal to issue Certificate of Completion of Reclamation for the Industrial Outlot Portion of Reclaimed Flambeau Mine near Ladysmith, Rusk County

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announces that it will hold a public informational hearing on Flambeau Mining Company's request for issuance of Certification of Completion of Reclamation for the Industrial Outlot portion of its reclaimed mine near Ladysmith and a draft revised mining permit proposed by the DNR. In accordance with sections 293.63(1) and 293.43(2m)(b) and (3m), Wis. Stats., the DNR is seeking public comment and feedback on the requested certification and the draft revised mining permit.

Hearing Information

Date: July 6, 2022

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Appearances at the Hearing

The public has the opportunity to testify at the hearing. The hearing will be held virtually, which can be accessed by computer or phone. To attend the hearing by computer, pre-register on the DNR's Reclaimed Flambeau Mine project webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Mines/Flambeau.html>. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged if you plan to provide spoken comments during the hearing. When you register, you will be asked to provide your name and contact information, as well as indicate whether you wish to provide oral testimony at the hearing. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting via your computer. To call into the hearing, use one of the following toll-free numbers: 1-833-548-0276 or 1-833-548-0282. When prompted on the phone, enter the following conference ID: 895 4691 3232. Additional instructions concerning participation will be provided during the hearing.

Members of the public who wish to provide testimony in-person may do so at the DNR's Ladysmith Service Center, N4103 State Highway 27, Ladysmith, WI 54848-9309.

Background

Flambeau Mining Company was issued a mining permit and other necessary permits to operate an open pit copper mine just south of Ladysmith in early 1991. Following a two-year construction period, Flambeau Mining Company began ore shipments from the mining site in 1993 and continued ore production and shipping for more than four years. Site reclamation, including backfilling of the pit, was substantially completed by the end of 1999. Flambeau Mining Company was issued a certificate of completion of reclamation for 149 acres of the 181-acre mining site in 2007. The remaining 32 acres, referred to as the industrial outlot, includes an area for which the original reclamation plan was modified in 1998 to allow alternate uses of the project buildings and adjacent areas. The site currently includes a DNR Service Center, Xcel Energy's power line maintenance shop and an equestrian trailhead.

Flambeau Mining Company has submitted a petition to the DNR requesting issuance of a Certificate of Completion of Reclamation for the industrial outlot portion of the mining site. The petition states that Flambeau Mining Company has fulfilled its duties under the modified reclamation plan as related to the industrial outlot; namely providing for alternative uses of the approximately 32 acres. As such, Flambeau

Mining Company maintains that it satisfies the statutory requirements related to issuance of a certificate of completion of reclamation.

The DNR has made a preliminary determination that Flambeau Mining Company has met its obligations under the approved reclamation plan, as modified in 1998, and that the certificate of completion covering the industrial outlot portion of the mining site should be issued in accordance with applicable laws and rules. The DNR has also made a preliminary finding that issuance of a certificate of completion of reclamation for the industrial outlot at this time is consistent with relevant provisions of the Stipulation and Order issued in 2007 related to issuance of a certificate of completion of reclamation of 149 acres of the mining site. In addition, the DNR is proposing to issue a revised mining permit which will delineate the ongoing obligations of Flambeau Mining Company including site monitoring and maintenance, surface water management, compliance with applicable groundwater standards, annual reporting, and financial assurance requirements.

Availability of Materials

The petition submitted by Flambeau Mining Company, the DNR's preliminary decision document and other related materials may be viewed here: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Mines/Flambeau.html> Paper copies of the petition and DNR's preliminary decision document are available upon request at the DNR's Ladysmith Service Center, N4103 State Highway 27, Ladysmith, WI 54848-9309.

Accessibility

For the hearing or visually impaired, non-English speakers, or those with other personal circumstances which might make communication at the meeting/hearing difficult, DNR will, to the maximum extent possible and with reasonable advance notice, provide aids including an interpreter, or a non-English, large-print, or recorded version of hearing documents. To access these resources, please contact the email address or phone number listed below as soon as possible.

Submittal of Written Comments

Comments regarding the requested Certification of Completion of Reclamation and revised mining permit must be received by the DNR on or before July 21, 2022. Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, E-mail, or through the internet and will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing. **Written comments and any questions on the proposed certification and revised mining permit should be submitted to:**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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