



Nicolet Minerals

a Rio Algom company

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August 28, 2003

Melissa DeVetter
Crandon Project Manager
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

WisPolitics.com

Re: Processing of Crandon Mine Application

Dear Ms. DeVetter:

This letter is to make clear that Nicolet Minerals Company ("NMC") requests continued processing of its Mining Permit Application that is on file with the Department. In this regard, the Department should continue processing all pending applications and approvals for the Crandon Mine Project. DNR should also continue working on the limited remaining items necessary to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS").

As you are aware, NMC requested a stay of the approval process in a letter dated May 29, 2003. However, despite that request the DNR and United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") continued with the permitting process.

Likewise, NMC also continued actively working on the application since May 29th. For example, NMC continued talking with the DNR and its consultant, Fred Brackebusch, concerning technical issues associated with the application. On July 28, 2003, NMC filed a response to the DNR's May 21, 2003 letter on paste backfill matters. NMC also continued working on questions concerning the December 1998 Wis. Stats. § 293.50 Compliance Demonstration and anticipates filing a supplement in the near future.

Given recent discussions with the DNR addressing the issues that initially triggered our request for a stay, we are now withdrawing our request, notwithstanding and recognizing

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the fact that both the DNR and the Corps continued with the permitting process. We look forward to working with the WDNR and USACE on this matter. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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Gordon R. Connor
Project Manager

cc: Elizabeth Kluesner (via facsimile transmission and US Mail)
Charles Hammer, Esq. (via facsimile transmission and US Mail)
Stephen V. Donohue – Foth & Van Dyke (via facsimile transmission and US Mail)
Robert Whiting – ACOE (via US Mail)
Ken Markart - WDNR (via US Mail)
Larry Lynch - WDNR (via US Mail)
Dan Cozza – EPA (via US Mail)
Erhard Huettl – Chairperson, Forest County (via US Mail)
Gary Bradley – Mayor, City of Crandon (via US Mail)
Al Savoie – Chairperson, Town of Lincoln (via US Mail)
Chuck Sleeter – Chairperson, Town of Nashville (via US Mail)
Sandra Rachal – Chairperson, Sokaogon Chippewa (via US Mail)
Harold Frank – Chairperson, Forest County Potawatomi (via US Mail)
Joan Delabreau – Chairperson, Menominee (via US Mail)