



Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10am CT

Hello from the Tamarack Water Alliance! If you are new to our email list we welcome you. Local residents who volunteer with Tamarack Water Alliance compile and send this monthly newsletter to share updates, invitations, and informational articles.

Everyone is invited to attend our open community virtual Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 10am CT. Topic: Miners Look At Mining. Bob Tammen, Steelworker/IBEW (Retired) and Mike Maleska, Retired Tacconite Miner/Union Representative** will give a boots-on-the-ground look at mining in Minnesota. Topics covered include the economics and employment numbers, and the reality of weak environmental laws that legally allow a permitted mine to impair a popular downstream lake.

Download Tamarack Water Alliance fact sheets/flyers [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers)
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers>)

Sign-Up To Receive Updates from the DNR on Talon Metals Environmental Impact Statement here [here](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html) (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html>)

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.

Volunteer with the Tamarack Water Alliance. Send us an [email](mailto:waters@tamarackwateralliance.org) at waters@tamarackwateralliance.org.

Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to [sign up for the monthly Tamarack Water Alliance email](http://eepurl.com/hOboEb) newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/hOboEb>.

Miners Take A Look At Mining

Bob Tammen, Steelworker/IBEW (Retired)

"All water has a perfect memory and is forever trying to get back to where it was." That quote from Toni Morrison is probably more poetry than science but I believe it's a powerful way of thinking about the water that blesses us in Minnesota and about our duty to protect that water.

There's a divide near Hibbing, Minnesota where a drop of water has a choice of three different watersheds. It might head North towards Hudson Bay, South and East towards Lake Superior, or South and West into the Mississippi River watershed. We know that some of our water starts to evaporate immediately after a rain. Some moves miles every day in our streams and rivers, some might move only a few feet a year in our fractured bedrock. Clean water is becoming an increasingly valuable commodity and our stewardship is important to us and to our fellow human beings downstream. We know that mining is degrading water in all three of our watersheds and we have every right to be skeptical about new mining proposals when the state of Minnesota has not honored goals of non-degradation written into statute. (103C.005)

My wife Pat and I spend a lot of time on Birch Lake about ten miles south of Ely. Every year we check water quality on the stream that runs from the Dunka mining site into Bob Bay of Birch Lake and every year that water is degraded. The Dunka mine was closed in 1994. If the State of Minnesota can't clean up an iron mining site in thirty years why should we believe they'll be able to regulate a mine in the wetlands at Tamarack. We have good science that demonstrates that our existing mines are killing wild rice and methylating mercury.

The mining industry has a long history of degrading water and not suffering any consequences. If you go online you can find a picture of a mining promoters "minerals

baby." It's a picture of a baby in a diaper with a list of 15 minerals, metals, and fuels that an American baby will consume in its lifetime for a total of 3.07 million pounds. What's missing from the picture is water. To mining corporations, water is an impediment to permitting and they will ignore it if possible.

We shouldn't be misled by claims of a high-grade ore body. We have a history in the iron mining industry. Modern mining equipment will make short work of the high-grade ore and normal economics will promote the exploitation of low-grade ore with the required protective tariffs, tax breaks, and weakened environmental regulations to protect the jobs created by the high-grade ore.

The State of Minnesota has done a pitiful job of protecting our public water. Let's not ignore reality. Mining is still a wetland killer and an energy pig.



RIO TINTO MADAGASCAR MINE MAY FACE LAWSUIT OVER POLLUTION CLAIMS - Mining company hit with accusation it contaminated waterways with harmful levels of uranium and lead in Madagascar.

“Whilst Rio Tinto extracts large profits from its mining operations in Madagascar, our clients’ case is that they and other local families are being forced to consume water which is contaminated with harmful heavy metals. In bringing this case, our clients are seeking accountability and justice for the damage that has been caused to their local environment and their health,” Paul Dowling, Leigh Day’s lead partner on the case, said.

*Betsy Reed, The Guardian, April 4, 2024
Excerpted from Rio Tinto Madagascar’s Mine May Face
Lawsuit Over Pollution Claims [here](#)*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/apr/04/rio-tintos-madagascar-mine-may-face-lawsuit-over-pollution-claims>

Who We Are

Tamarack Water Alliance 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. Visit our website [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/index.html) (https://tamarackwateralliance.org/index.html)

A proposal by a foreign owned mining company, Talon Metals/Rio Tinto 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](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf) (tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf) and download [informative flyers](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html) (tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html):

- Talon Mine Risks,
- Geology of Aitkin County,

- 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,
- 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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