

TAMARACK WATER ALLIANCE

Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting **Wednesday, March 5, 2025 10am CT**

TOPIC: Protecting Our Federal Lands from Toxic Mining

PRESENTER: Marc Fink, Attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity

This presentation will feature Marc Fink, attorney with the *Center of Biological Diversity* who will cover his work across the United States to protect our federal public lands from toxic mining. This will include a summary and update of both the PolyMet and Twin Metals litigation, and mining proposals in Arizona and Alaska, with active ongoing litigation in Oak Flat, Arizona.

REGISTER FOR THE MEETING AND RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK [here](#)

(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16>) *All welcome.*

NEW FACT SHEETS:

[Is There Really A Talon - Tesla Supply Agreement?](#)

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TalonTesla.pdf>)

[Rio Tinto: A History of Corruption](#) - updated

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/RioTinto.pdf>)

[Copper & The Green Economy](#)

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/CopperGreenEconomy.pdf>)

VIEW Previous Tamarack Water Alliance Zoom Presentations [here](#)

(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#info>)

DOWNLOAD Additional Tamarack Water Alliance fact sheets/flyers/presentations [here](#)

(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers>)

[DONATE to Tamarack Water Alliance:](#) (<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html>)

Your donation goes to support our community educational activities which include tabling at community festivals and parades, participation in other community events, targeted speaking engagements with interested local organizations, monthly informational public Zoom calls and an associated email newsletter, website and social media, letter writing campaigns and articles in local

news outlets, interviews with media, and other community outreach and canvassing. Tamarack Water Alliance is a Minnesota non-profit. We are not certified as a federal non-profit (e.g. 501c3).

Sign-Up To Receive Updates from the DNR on Talon Metals Environmental Impact Statement [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)

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

Sign-up for the Tamarack Water Alliance monthly email newsletter at (http://eepurl.com/hOboEb).

Bad Actors in Northeastern Minnesota - Foreign Mining Companies with History of Deception, Pollution, and Natural Resource Destruction

In their conflictual role to both support economic development and to enforce environmental policies, the DNR has done a poor job vetting a number of foreign copper-nickel sulfide mining companies in northeastern Minnesota. These “bad actor” companies would massively harm the regions and the state’s economy, which thrives in tourism and outdoor recreation. This outdoor recreation economy valued at \$16 billion is dependent to a great extent on Minnesota’s treasure chest of clean water. In contrast, mining’s share is only 0.5% of Minnesota’s GDP. Cleanup of the toxic mess that these companies leave behind costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars (consider the many Superfund sites in the area).

Bad Actors That Threaten the BWCA

The ‘bad actor’ companies that threaten the wilderness of the Boundary Waters include NewRange Copper Nickel (jointly owned by Polymet which is owned by a Swiss based mining and commodities giant Glencore and Teck a Canadian owned mining corporation), and Twin Metals (subsidiary of the Chilean conglomerate Antofagasta.) As just one example, in August 2024, Federal prosecutors in Switzerland found Glencore’s international unit “criminally liable” and ordered the commodities giant to pay over \$150 million in fines and compensation.

Sulfide Mining Creates Acid Mine Drainage

Sulfide mining is a bad idea in northeastern Minnesota. There is too much at risk. A sulfide mine has never operated in Minnesota and has never been done anywhere on earth without polluting in perpetuity. Acid mine drainage occurs, when sulfide ore (nickel or copper) meets air and water. It is a long, slow process over time that can kill all biological life and is impossible to fully clean up.

Proposed Sulfide Mining in Aitkin County - Risk to Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, Twin Cities, Downstream Communities & Lake Superior

Further south of the BWCA in Aitkin County, Talon Metals/Rio Tinto, are in the early stages of environmental review for an underground nickel high sulfide mine that would wreak environmental destruction on a series of inland lakes, wetlands, and rare peatlands. This rural vacation paradise is filled with thousands of family cabins and lake homes that have been passed down for many generations. This area is also home to 1855 Treaty Territory protected by Federal law that provides the rights to hunt, fish, and gather for the Anishinaabe people.

Aitkin County also contains the headwaters of the Mississippi River and St. Croix Rivers which would threaten the water purity of the Twin Cities and many communities downstream including Cromwell, Kettle River, Moose Lake, Wrenshall, Esko, the Twin Ports and Lake Superior. Also at risk are Savannah Portage State Park and Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge and many prized wild rice lakes in the region. Toxic heavy metal dust from the mine vent stacks would be blown across wetlands, forests and pollute the St. Louis River which flows by Savannah Portage State park, into Lake Superior.

Talon Metals/Rio Tinto each has a history of deception, pollution, and disregard for environmental catastrophes.

Talons Deceptive Marketing “Agreement” with Tesla

Talon has engaged in deceptive marketing with repeated public messaging that they have an agreement with Tesla to provide nickel for EV batteries. Yet, what they tell their investors is different. In their November 14, 2024 document to investors on Sedar.com (a required Canadian national securities filing system, Management’s Discussion and Analysis, there are a number of key conditions that need to be met in order for Talon and Tesla to reach a supply agreement. These include:

- Talon earning a 60% interest in the Tamarack North Project (they have not done this yet.)
- Talon commencing commercial production at the Tamarack North Project -they note later that production should start prior to Jan 1st 2026 (so this year ... 2025 ... which is clearly impossible).
- The parties completing negotiations and executing detailed supply terms and conditions.

This in essence says there is no supply / out take agreement at present. It still must be negotiated assuming Talon is in production this year. Yet the Talon new mine plan indicates they won’t have production until 2029 at the earliest. This is a marketing lie with intent to deceive the public. Do we want this type of company in Minnesota?

<https://www.sedarplus.ca/csa-party/records/document.html?id=e474af18cde2046e058b9ddef7e93f498fd780c00db38ddbc0dd7f664cbe92f4>

Talon’s Refusal to Address Community Concerns

Tamarack Water Alliance has met with Talon Metals staff a number of times and they have not

addressed our serious concerns. Their new mine plan of December 2024 still does not address any of the serious concerns:

- Serious water issues which include pumping 2.3 million gallons of water out of the aquifer without any analysis of the effects on lake levels, wells, and wetlands. Evidently, this water pumping estimate was based on 4 drill holes somewhere in the region, maybe not even in the mine area itself. Talon seems to have no idea exactly how much water must be pumped or why and has no plan to find out or mitigate this water issue.
- No plan to filter vented mine exhaust for toxic materials that will obviously be present and will blow across the landscape creating human health risks and environmental damage.
- Foundation damage and noise pollution resulting from continuous blasting underground.
- No liners underneath the work areas and storage piles which will cause soil contamination and be difficult to clean up later if ever.
- Rail transport across Minnesota of high sulfide waste rock that will leak contaminants across the state.

Yet they somehow claim to be environmentally friendly ... more deceptive marketing.

Rio Tinto's History of Pollution & Corruption

Situated in the background is Talon's bad actor partner with a long, long history of fines, corruption and pollution. Learn more about the 145 records of Rio Tinto's misdeeds, fines and corruption at

<https://violationtracker.goodjobsfirst.org/parent/rio-tinto>

<https://violationtracker.goodjobsfirst.org/parent/rio-tinto>.

Here's a few of the more recent Rio Tinto fines and corruption charges where Rio Tinto got caught.

- January 2025: Rio Tinto was sentenced by the Court of Québec to pay fines totaling \$2 million after pleading guilty to eight counts of violating the Fisheries Act and the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations. (Short hand: Rio Tinto polluted the water big time.)
- April 2024: Rio Tinto is facing a likely lawsuit on behalf of residents of villages near a Madagascar mine as villagers accuse Rio Tinto of contaminating the waterways and lakes with harmful levels of uranium and lead, which pose a serious risk to human health. (<https://theintercept.com/2024/04/03/madagascar-rio-tinto-mine-water-contamination/>)
- November 17, 2023: Rio Tinto to pay \$28 million fine to settle US SEC fraud case Rio Tinto deceived investors about the value of Rio Tinto Coal Mozambique (RTCM) (<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/rio-tinto-pay-28-mln-fine-us-sec-settlement-2023-11-17/>)
- March 6, 2023: US SEC announced charges against Rio Tinto for violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The company has agreed to pay a \$15 million civil penalty to settle the SEC's charges (<https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2023-46>)

In addition Rio Tinto is engaged in a serious campaign to destroy the Jadar Valley in Serbia with a lithium mine. Read more here:

- <https://serbia-business.eu/rio-tintos-lithium-mine-project-faces-growing-resistance-amid-secret-deals-and-controversial-practices/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqQjGD7Jw-k>
- <https://www.afr.com/world/europe/inside-rio-tinto-s-all-out-war-to-unlock-serbia-s-lithium-riches-20241215-p5kygg>

Minnesota Needs Protection from Bad Actors

What is needed is strong protection for Minnesotans from Bad Actors to keep corrupt companies out of Minnesota. Our clean water needs protection from the notorious international mining conglomerates who have no regard for Minnesota's environment. Why must we use taxpayer dollars to clean up the mess they leave?



Why Should We Trust Anything Claimed By Talon Metals?

Tom Anderson, MSEE

In essence ... there is no supply agreement (with Tesla), simply an agreement to attempt to negotiate a supply agreement....Talon makes all kinds of claims about how safe and environmentally responsible it is, but with no evidence. Talon seems to be all talk.

Minnesota should better vet foreign mining companies prior to mineral-lease and permitting

requests to provide some confidence that the company is not just a marketing effort intent on deceiving our citizens."

Read entire column: Duluth News Tribune, Feb. 22, 2025, Why Should We Trust Anything Claimed by Talon Metals, Tom Anderson, MSEE

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/columns/local-view-why-should-we-trust-anything-claimed-by-talon-metals>

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
- Is There Really A Talon Tesla Supply Agreement? (no)
- Rio Tinto: A History of Corruption
- Green Bridge Metals -Canadian proposed sulfide mine near Duluth seeks to acquire battery rich mineral assets
- Copper and The Green Economy
- Prove It First!

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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