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Water Over Nickel is an initiative led by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to protect Minnesota's people, water, environment and cultural sites from the negative impacts of nickel mining.

Our efforts are grounded in our commitment to preserve the natural environment and water resources for generations to come.

We partner with like-minded organizations to raise collective awareness of the risks associated with the Tamarack Mine, a nickel mine proposed by Talon Metals Corp, and to ensure indigenous voices and concerns about the impact of nickel mining on native communities will be heard and acknowledged.

OUR ASK

The proposed Tamarack Mine poses significant risks to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, as well as the Mississippi River and St. Croix watersheds.

We call on state and federal leaders and regulators to prioritize clean water over nickel mining.

CORE ISSUES

The proposed Tamarack Mine poses significant risks to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe communities, water, fish and Manoomin (wild rice).

It also poses a risk to Minnesota's Mississippi River and St. Croix watersheds and surrounding populations.

Talon Metals, an international mining conglomerate, is positioning its nickel mine as an urgent solution to electric vehicle production demand. But we believe we can advance a green economy without relying on practices that threaten one of our world's most precious resources: *clean water*.

We are focused on the following core issues:

- Cultural Impact
- Environmental Risks
- Nickel Mining Alternatives

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 The proposed Tamarack Mine is located just 1.3 miles from Round Lake and the homes of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community members, and near Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe cultural sites, including Rice Lake and Sandy Lake.**
- 2 The EPA identifies metal mining as the most toxic industry in America.** (Earthworks.org)
- 3 54% of the energy transition minerals globally are located on or near Indigenous Peoples' lands.** (Nature Sustainability)
- 4 Many abandoned mines have a legacy of pollution that continues to contaminate water, cause ongoing health problems for Indigenous communities, harm wildlife and habitat, and permanently scar natural landscapes.** (University of Colorado Boulder)
- 5 Cleaning up these mines is estimated to cost billions of dollars, an expense that is often left to the government and taxpayers.** (U.S. Government Accountability Office)

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WHAT IS WATER OVER NICKEL?

Water Over Nickel is an initiative by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to protect our people, made up of seven communities, our natural resources and our cultural sites from the negative impacts of nickel mining. Our efforts are grounded in our commitment to preserve Minnesota's natural environment and water resources for generations to come. We call on state and federal officials to prioritize clean water over nickel mining.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED TAMARACK MINE?

The proposed Tamarack Mine site is within miles of homes of the Mille Lacs Band community and cultural sites, including Rice Lake and Sandy Lake. The environmental impacts of the proposed mine will add yet another stress to the natural environment, Manoomin (wild rice), medicinal plants, and cultural resources that are struggling to survive and adapt to the rapidly changing climate.

Nickel mining presents a significant threat to the environment. The practice has a consistent track record of impairing water quality in water-rich environments, like the area surrounding the proposed Tamarack Mine site. In nickel mining, metals and material waste are taken from the ground and exposed to water. This can create sulfuric acid, which has the same chemical position as battery acid and may result in acid mine drainage that would affect not only surface and groundwater supplies, but also aquatic life, plant life and more.

The proposed nickel mine poses a significant threat to Minnesota's natural resources and watersheds. The watershed surrounding the proposed Tamarack Mine flows into the Mississippi River and St. Croix watersheds which puts critical drinking water sources and habitats at risk as well.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE MINNESOTA DNR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS?

In June of 2023, Talon metals submitted the Tamarack Mine draft environmental assessment worksheet to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This represents the beginning of a long environmental review process.

The Band is committed to coordinating closely with the State of Minnesota to conduct a thorough evaluation of the potential impacts and ensure that our land, water, wild rice, and people are protected. As a sovereign nation, the Mille Lacs Band must have an equal voice in this process and is entitled to equal protection.

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