



May 4, 2023

Dan Colton, CEO/President  
Green Light Wisconsin  
2 East Mifflin Street, Suite 600  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Colton,

Pursuant to s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR or department) has reviewed your Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct nonferrous metallic mineral exploration, dated February 15, 2023, and supplemental information provided by letter dated April 14, 2023. The NOI and supplemental information letter describe the proposed exploration program at the Bend deposit within the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest. The exploration activity would take place on the Soo Line mineral parcel in the NW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 35 (T33N, R2W), in Taylor County.

The enclosed letter is the department's approval for activities pertaining to the complete NOI, consisting of the NOI submittal dated February 15, 2023, and the letter dated April 14, 2023. The attached approval lists the conditions which must be followed, so please read the document carefully to be fully aware of what is expected of you and this project.

This approval authorizes the exploration activities described in the NOI and supplemental information letter. Your next step will be to notify me of when you intend to initiate the program. If you have any questions, please call me at 715-292-4911, or email me at [molly.gardner@wisconsin.gov](mailto:molly.gardner@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

Molly Gardner  
Metallic Mining Coordinator

cc: Kyle Noonan, Taylor County  
Megan Luick, USFS  
Bill Sande, USACE  
Ben Callan, WDNR  
Phil Bower, WDNR

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This is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR or department) metallic mineral exploration approval in response to the Notice of Intent (NOI) dated February 15, 2023, and supplemental information letter dated April 14, 2023, from Green Light Wisconsin (GLW), a subsidiary of Green Light Metals, for authority to conduct a drill campaign, located in Westboro Township, Taylor County, Wisconsin. For purposes of this approval, the NOI shall consist of the submittal dated February 15, 2023, and the follow-up letter dated April 14, 2023.

GLW is hereby granted approval under s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and s. NR 130.109(4), Wis. Adm. Code, to drill up to 8 drillholes totaling up to 7,190 feet from 6 drill sites in the spring/summer of 2023 and/or winter of 2023/24, subject to the following conditions:

### **APPROVAL**

#### **General Conditions**

1. All activities must be completed as described in the NOI and in compliance with Chapter 293, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to nonferrous metallic mineral exploration.
2. You must notify Metallic Mining Coordinator Molly Gardner (email [molly.gardner@wisconsin.gov](mailto:molly.gardner@wisconsin.gov), or phone 715-292-4911) at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of drilling any exploration drillhole and shall specify the parcel on which the drillhole will be located and the anticipated date on which drilling will begin.
3. You must notify Molly Gardner at least 24 hours prior to permanently abandoning a drillhole.
4. You shall submit clear, labeled photographs to Molly Gardner documenting the following activities authorized by this approval:
  - a. BMP placement including installation methods
  - b. All access routes before and after construction
  - c. Each drilling site before and after clearing
  - d. Constructed sumps before lining, after filling, and during termination process
  - e. Representation of water withdrawal
  - f. Drill rig set up on each site
  - g. Stabilized drilling sites
  - h. Reclaimed access roads
5. The project must be completed per the timeline listed in the NOI dated February 15, 2023.
6. The NOI will remain in effect for one year from the date the department approves the notice. If you wish to alter the project or NOI conditions, you must first obtain written approval from the department as provided in s. NR 130.109(5), Wis. Adm. Code.
7. In accordance with s. 293.21(3)(b), Stats. and s. NR 130.105(2)(b)3, Wis. Adm. Code, you must submit an updated surety bond with a value of \$50,000.00.

**Dewatering Activities Conditions** – *in addition to conditions above*

8. Dewatering of the excavated work areas shall be conducted in accordance with the standards of the applicable general permit under Wisconsin's Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) and the department approved Technical Standard 1061 found at:  
[https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormWater/documents/Dewatering\\_1061.pdf](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormWater/documents/Dewatering_1061.pdf).
9. At no time shall dewatering activities discharge directly to wetlands or waterways.

**Endangered Resources Conditions** – *in addition to conditions above*

10. All project activities shall be conducted in accordance with the avoidance and minimizations measures for rare species as indicated in the Endangered Resources Review.

**Wetland and Waterway Conditions** – *in addition to conditions above*

11. If snow is placed in Wetland W01 to facilitate equipment access, the snow and/or ice shall not be mechanically removed.
12. Withdrawal of surface water from the North Branch of the Yellow River shall not occur during a state drought declaration.

**Erosion Control and Revegetation Conditions** – *in addition to conditions above*

13. Construction shall be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize erosion and siltation into surface waters and as specified in plans and procedures that are part of or approved pursuant to this approval. All erosion control measures must meet or exceed the department approved technical standards and best management practices (BMPs) found at:  
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stormwater/standards>.
14. BMPs must be installed prior to disturbance. BMPs must be inspected on a weekly basis, and after rain events of ½-inch or more and shall be maintained in good working condition.
15. Temporary stabilization activities shall commence when land disturbing construction activities have temporarily ceased and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days.
16. Final stabilization and reclamation activities shall commence when land disturbing activities cease on any portion of the site even though final stabilization and reclamation may be delayed due to seasonal conditions.
17. Appropriate erosion control measures must be in-place and effective during every phase of this project and at the end of each working day.
18. The removal of vegetative cover and exposure of bare ground must be restricted to the minimum necessary for construction. Areas where soil is exposed must be protected from erosion by seeding and mulching, sodding, diversion of surface runoff, installation of straw bales or silt screens, construction of settling basins, or similar methods as soon as possible after removal of the original ground cover as described by department technical standards.

19. Site stabilization between October 1 and April 15 requires seeding and mulching (with weed-free mulch or non-synthetic matting), or another appropriate stabilization technique/method.
20. You shall provide the department access to erosion and sediment control inspection monitoring reports until the project is complete and the site is appropriately stabilized.

**Sump and Cuttings Conditions** - *in addition to conditions above*

21. The quantity of cuttings generated for each drillhole and the disposition of all cuttings must be accurately tracked. As stated in the NOI, a minimum of two 94 lb. bags of Portland cement shall be added to every 3 cubic feet of cuttings.
22. The precise location of drilling sumps must be recorded and reported as required under s. NR 130.111(2), Wis. Adm. Code.
23. Sump excavation must be documented with photographs before installing the liner to confirm that the groundwater was not encountered.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Bend Copper-Gold Deposit is located approximately 19 miles north-northwest of the city of Medford in Taylor County, within the Chequamegon National Forest. The deposit is mostly copper-bearing sulfides with significant gold and minor amounts of silver.
2. The deposit was originally discovered in 1986 and drilled in the early 1990s by the Jump River Joint Venture and again in 2012 by Aquila Resources, LLC. On February 21, 2022, the department issued a Certification of Completion for the satisfactory termination of Aquila's 2012 drilling sites and authorized the termination of the associated surety bond. Aquila Resources announced the sale of their Bend and Reef assets to Green Light Wisconsin (GLW) in July 2021.
3. The deposit includes a parcel of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) surface estate called the "Soo Line 40" for which the Soo Line Railroad Company is managing on behalf of Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) who continues to hold deeded rights to the private mineral estate.
4. GLW holds a valid nonferrous metallic mineral exploration license (#16964) issued in accordance with s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code, and which will remain in effect through June 30, 2023.
5. On June 13, 2022, GLW submitted a Plan of Operation (POO) to the USFS for exploration drilling on the Soo Line 40 in the winter of 2022/2023. Following comments from the USFS, GLW replied with an updated POO on September 15, 2022. The revised POO is still under review until the WDNR makes a decision on the NOI.
6. GLW submitted a NOI for exploration drilling to the WDNR on September 23, 2022. GLW proposed plans to conduct operations during the winter of 2022/2023 with an emphasis on being completed under frozen conditions to limit impact.

7. After detailed review, on October 14, 2022, the WDNR responded to GLW with a letter specifying additional information necessary for the submission to be determined complete.
8. On November 30, 2022, GLW submitted a revised NOI for exploration drilling. The WDNR reviewed the revised exploration plan and responded with a second Additional Information request by letter to GLW, dated December 16, 2022, specifying additional information necessary for the submission to be determined complete.
9. On February 17, 2023, GLW submitted a second revised NOI for exploration drilling to take place in summer 2023 or winter 2023/24. This NOI superseded all previous NOI submittals. The WDNR reviewed the exploration plan and responded with a letter on March 7, 2023. The WDNR requested GLW provide two pieces of additional information and informed GLW of the necessary NPDES dewatering permit.
10. On April 14, 2023, after close of business, GLW submitted a supplemental information letter in response to the department's request for additional information. The letter included all requested information for a complete NOI submission per s. NR 130.109(1), Wis. Adm. Code.
11. Two wetlands were delineated in the project area in a report dated September 20, 2022, by Merjent. Project activities may include spanning Wetland W01 with a clear span bridge or placing snow in the roadside depression to create a snow bridge. Placing snow or ice is not considered a discharge of fill.
12. On April 7, 2023, GLW submitted an application through the online WAMs system seeking coverage under a WPDES General Permit for dewatering activities.
13. An Endangered Resources Review submitted November 30, 2022, resulted in 1 required action and 3 recommended actions. The required action shall be implemented.
14. GLW completed a cultural and historic Review with the USFS. The project is not expected to impact any known archaeological or historic resources.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Pursuant to s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., GLW holds a valid nonferrous metallic mineral exploration license.
2. Pursuant to s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and s. NR 130.109, Wis. Adm. Code, GLW has submitted a notification of intent to conduct nonferrous metallic mineral exploration.
3. The department has authority under s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code, to issue an approval for the construction, implementation, and reclamation of this project as described in the NOI.
4. The department has determined that the NOI submitted by GLW and as conditioned by this approval complies with the requirements of s. 293.21, Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code.

5. Pursuant to s. 283.35, Wis. Stats., and s. NR 205.08(1)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, GLW must obtain a valid WPDES dewatering general permit prior to commencing exploration activities.
6. The NOI activities described will not result in a discharge of fill material to wetlands. As such, no permit authorization is required under s. 281.36, Wis. Stats.
7. Permit coverage under ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, is not required since total land disturbance is less than one acre. Although, the project must meet requirements in section NR 151.105, Wis. Adm. Code, for construction sites less than 1-acre.
8. A ch. 30 permit is not required to withdraw water from the North Branch of the Yellow River. The withdrawal will not involve removal of bed material or the placement of a structure on the bed.

### **NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS**

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review department decisions shall be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with section NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with section NR 2.03, Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

Dated at Department Headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin on 5/4/2023.

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
For the Secretary

By 

Molly Gardner  
Metallic Mining Coordinator