



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FLAMBEAU MINING COMPANY SAYS CLAIMS ARE WITHOUT MERIT
AND WILL BE VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED**

COMPANY VOWS AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE BASED ON FACTS AND SCIENCE

Company will seek to recover legal costs from opponents under frivolous claim statutes

LADYSMITH, WI -- The Flambeau Mining Company (FMC) today announced it will vigorously defend its Ladysmith mine project against a threatened lawsuit by long-time mining opponents.

“We are disappointed by the repetitive and very old nature of these unfounded claims and will vigorously defend our project with the facts and science. The Ladysmith mine was done well from start to finish, and we have the record to prove it,” said Jana Murphy, environmental and reclamation manager for the Flambeau Mining Project. “These opponents want to unfairly and inaccurately tarnish this project to meet their broader anti-mining agenda. That approach might get some attention, but the facts show this project has a strong environmental record, and we will make that point aggressively in court if needed.”

Longtime opponents issued a news release in June announcing their intent to file a citizen lawsuit against the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the company, alleging the project is not meeting regulatory standards and failing to conduct proper oversight.

In its written response to the claims, FMC stated that the threat to sue the state and the company demonstrates that some will complain “no matter what level of regulation has or will occur, and no matter what Flambeau has done to meet and exceed the stringent regulatory and legal requirements.”

Murphy said that FMC will ask that opponents be required to pay for the company’s attorneys’ fees under Wisconsin’s frivolous claim statutes if and when the matter proceeds to court.

“This mining project was done well and brought many benefits to the community, and today the site is a reclaimed nature area that is an ecological and community asset for Rusk County,” said Murphy. “That is what we want the legacy to be and that is what we will protect with a vigorous defense against these ongoing and baseless allegations.”

The Flambeau Mine, just south of Ladysmith, Wis., operated from 1993 to 1997 and produced more than 181,000 tons of copper as well as gold and silver. The mine site, which spans more than 180 acres, has since been reclaimed and today is a nature area that hosts public events that include hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, river fishing and more. For more information on the reclaimed Flambeau Mine, visit www.flambeaumine.com.

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