



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Jana Murphy, (715) 532-6690, ext. 2
Kris Naidl, (414) 276-6237

PUBLIC HEARINGS MAY 16 & 17 REGARDING FLAMBEAU MINE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Public Hearings Are Next Procedural Step in COC Process

LADYSMITH, Wis. - Flambeau Mining Company today announced that the public hearing schedule has been set regarding the company's petition for a Certificate of Completion (COC). The Administrative Law Judge overseeing the COC process scheduled two days of public hearings – May 16 and May 17 – to further learn of the public's comments regarding the Flambeau Mining Company's reclamation efforts. Hearings will be held at 2 – 5 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. until completion on May 16. On May 17, the hearing will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude when all present speakers have been accommodated. All of the hearings will be held at the Rusk County Courthouse, and all members of the general public are invited to attend and speak at the public hearings.

“The Company is pleased that the dates have been set and that there will be several opportunities for the public to share with the judge how they use the site and to offer their feedback on the site's reclamation efforts,” said Jana Murphy, environmental manager of the site. “We also anticipate opponents, many who have long criticized the mine or who are from outside our community, to be vocal at these hearings. We are also hopeful, that many of our community supporters will attend and share with the judge their observations and opinions about the Company's extensive reclamation efforts, the creation of a flourishing biodiverse habitat and how the former mine has become an outstanding nature resource for public use.”

In addition to the public hearing schedule, the judge also set forth a detailed schedule for additional proceedings relating to the COC petition. Those proceedings will result in a contested case hearing being held May 30 – 31 and June 1 and 4 in Ladysmith to allow witnesses and experts from the company and opposing parties to testify. Registered opposing parties are Northern Thunder; Sierra Club; Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; Rusk County Citizens Action Group; and, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, all of which opposed the mine during its permitting stage. Following the contested case hearing, the judge will rule on Flambeau Mining Company's request for a COC.

“We are pleased that more than four dozen local community members have written to the state sharing how they utilize the site and expressing their supportive opinions about the reclamation done at the site. We are very appreciative of their support,” added Murphy.

Editors Note:

The Flambeau Mining Company filed its COC petition with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in January 2007. Upon granting the COC, the State of Wisconsin may then release up to 80 percent of the \$11 million reclamation bond, which the Flambeau Mining Company began posting prior to construction of the mine. This is because the law requires that even if the WDNR finds the reclamation 100 percent complete, at least 20 percent of the reclamation bond must be kept in place for 20 years. In addition to those retained funds, the Flambeau Mining Company also has a separate bond in place to address the long-term care of the site, which will continue for decades.

The Flambeau Mining Company successfully reclaimed the mine site following active mining, which ended in 1997. That reclamation effort resulted in the establishment of the 150-acre recreation and nature area that is open to the public for events, hiking, bird watching, river fishing and more. The reclaimed site features more than 250 native plant species, including prairie grasses, wetland plants and wildflowers. Abundant wildlife also call the reclaimed site home, including more than 45 species of birds, 20 species of butterflies, several amphibian species, deer and other wildlife. Additional features of the reclaimed site include educational signs on the walking trails to share the history and significance of the site and five miles of horseback riding trails along the Flambeau River that are accessible from the site.

The Flambeau Mine operated from 1993 to 1997 and produced more than 181,000 tons of copper, as well as gold and silver. The mine met or surpassed all environmental regulations and permit conditions, provided more than 70 safe and family-supporting jobs for local residents, and supported long-term economic development. In addition, it protected the environment and the Flambeau River, and enhanced community and educational resources through a \$500,000 contribution to build the Rusk County Community Library. The Flambeau Mining and Reclamation project was the first and only effort to date to be approved and operated under Wisconsin's stringent mining standards. Those standards were established under the State's Comprehensive Mining Law and additional regulations. For more information on the reclaimed Flambeau Mine, visit www.flambeaumine.com.

-###-