

Quick and Easy Guide to Understanding Wisconsin's Iron (Ferrous) Mining Permit Process

{ Information taken from Wisconsin Chapter 295,
Subchapter III on Ferrous Metallic Mining

1. Exploration License

No person may engage in exploration (or contract exploration) without an annual license from WI DNR.

DNR has 10 business days to accept an application for exploration and issue exploration OR give notice that exploration will have substantial and irreparable adverse impact on environment or present substantial risk of injury to public health and welfare. If DNR does not comply within 10 days, the application is approved.



2. Local Impact Committee Designated

After an exploration license is issued any county, town, village, city, or tribal government likely to be substantially affected by potential or proposed mining may designate or establish a committee to communicate with the DNR and the applicant.

3. Bulk Sampling

DNR has 14 days to identify all approvals, waivers, exemptions, or exceptions to approvals that the applicant must adhere to.

The 30th day after submission, the application is considered complete if no action by DNR.



4. Pre-Application Intent

DNR shall hold a public informational hearing within 30 days after date of publication.

Applicant shall notify DNR and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) of intent to file an application for a mining permit. This does not trigger an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the USACE.

Within 60 days of meeting, the DNR will provide info of potential impacts to endangered, rare, or threatened species, historical and cultural resources, or any other impacts that the mine may have.

Final Step of Wisconsin Mining Permit Process

5. Application

Applicant may specify a deadline for app to be acted on by DNR as long as it is more than 420 days after the application is administratively complete.

Triggers Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by USACE and DNR. At the USACE's discretion, this may be created together or separate. It is at the USACE discretion to take longer for mining permitting than the DNR.

Application must include following: mining plan, reclamation, mining waste feasibility study and plan of operation, evidence that applicant has applied or will apply for necessary permits, any info that concerns any felony convictions for violation of a law for the protection of the natural environment due to mining in the US, and any notice of bankruptcy or dissolution of the applicant due to failure to reclaim a mining site in the US.

- ↳ To read the legislation for the mining process in its entirety, please see:
 - ↳ <http://docs.legis.wi.gov/statutes/statutes/295/>
- ↳ To learn about SB1 and how this process differs from the mining permit process before 2013:
 - ↳ <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/proposals/sb1/>
- ↳ To follow Gogebic Taconite's ferrous mining application materials, please see:
 - ↳ <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/mines/gogebic.html>
- ↳ Other links:
 - ↳ <http://www.savethewatersedge.com/>
 - ↳ <http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/tribal-news/mining-update>
 - ↳ <http://www.lic.wisc.edu/glifwc/web/mining/>

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