

Mining Policy

The “Back Forty” project / mine site in Ohio is about 1,087 acres located near the Menominee River, which flows into Lake Michigan. The facility is located within 150 feet of the Menominee River. It appears that this project is being pursued by a foreign firm and a mining permit is being pursued by “Great Lakes Exploration, Inc.” It is a polymetallic sulfide mining operation, but the actual identification of which mineral will be mined has not been established.

Mining and other extraction operations have evolved utilizing new technologies and increased sizes in equipment. The impact to the environment of these operations has been vague and undetermined in some cases. We must be vigilant in protecting our nation’s natural resources. It is about the “Outdoors” and the legacy for our future generations.

Sulfide mining is not the mining of sulfide, but the mining of minerals / elements that are in combination with sulfides. More accurately, polymetallic sulfide mining, is a process that produces metals such as gold, silver, and zinc from ore that is mined from pits or underground excavations. The ore is further processed by various operations in large open pits resulting in large volumes of extremely toxic waste, which must be safely stored and contained until it can be adequately treated to be safely discharged. These large pits can contain large volumes of highly contaminated water and present a clear and present danger to surrounding areas and watersheds.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention July 21, 2021, calls on the appropriate levels of government to require a thorough environmental impact study to be conducted as a condition of issuing a permit for any mining operation. Such study must fully and publicly disclose the scope of the project and potential impacts on natural resources and public health. If the scope of the project would change following issuance of the initial or any subsequent mining permit(s), the proposed changes must be subject to additional environmental impact studies before the scope of the project could change.

Further resolved, the permit must include a full mine decommissioning plan and require, as a condition of permit issuance, that the entity to which a permit is issued demonstrates it has reserved adequate funding to implement the decommissioning plan when mining operations cease. The entity issued the mining permit shall be barred from evading its financial responsibility for decommissioning costs through bankruptcy proceedings.