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Opponents of UP mine take steps to halt project

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The Associated Press

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP) — Opponents of a new nickel and copper mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula that won approval from state environmental regulators are taking steps to halt the project.

The Mining Journal of Marquette reports the National Wildlife Federation, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Huron Mountain Club and Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve said Friday they filed a contested case petition and lawsuit against the state.

The state Department of Environmental Quality this month said it was granting permits sought by Kennecott Minerals Co. to operate the mine in northern Marquette County.

The DEQ says its decision was correct.

A state administrative rules judge will hear the lawsuit, which was filed in Ingham County, and the petition.