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For more information:
Kris Naidl – (414) 276-6237

Jana Murphy, environmental and reclamation manager for the Flambeau Mining Company, today issued the following statement regarding a lawsuit expected to be filed by mine opponents:

“We received notice that several long-time mine opponents planned to file a lawsuit against our company as well as against the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. We are disappointed that the same issues by the same individuals are again being raised when we have addressed them very thoroughly with facts and science, aimed to work cooperatively with opponents through continued monitoring and communication and, most importantly, have and continue to ensure that the environment is protected, the site is monitored and that long-term care plans are in place for the site. While we just received the notice of claim, at first glimpse the claims being made appear to be similar to past claims that have been and continue to be without merit.

“The reclaimed Flambeau Mine has been held up as an example by many groups here in Wisconsin and truly across the globe in reference to other mining projects and that continues today even as other mining projects are being discussed. That is because the facts are clear that the Flambeau Mine is a positive example of how such mining can be done while closely following every rule and regulation, protecting the environment and significantly benefiting the community and local economy. Opponents may not like that, but it is the truth, and we will again vigorously defend our mining project, its reclamation and the protections the project has provided to the environment.

“During mining operations and throughout the reclamation process, to today as a reclaimed site, the Flambeau Mine has adhered to every regulation and Wisconsin’s stringent mining laws. The project has a strong environmental record and continues that commitment today with its completely reclaimed site and the industrial area on the site.

“The mine has also been a huge benefit to the local community and economy. Certainly there were the jobs it provided while in operation, but more importantly, because of the local communities’ foresight, it used the economic benefits of the mine to create long-term economic growth for the community. Today, even though the mine has been closed for more than a decade, there are companies and jobs in the community because of the mine.

“This project will continue to be used as an example as other mining projects, laws and related issues continue to be discussed. We understand and embrace that and certainly aim to provide the facts and answer questions on the Flambeau Mine. It is a project we are proud of from its original planning through today.”

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