Sacred Lands

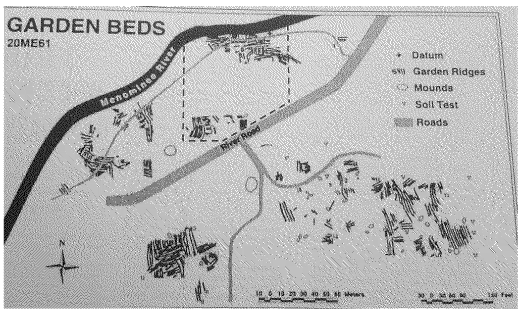
The creation story of the Menominee Indian tribe takes place at the mouth of the Menominee River. The Menominee Tribe's history is unique because their origin or creation lies a mere 60 miles east of their present Indian Reservation in Keshena, WI. The Menominee ceded over 10 million acres of land to the United States government in a federal treaty. They did not cede away the right to continue to hunt, gather, and ceremonially use the land of their ancestors.

The EPA, a federal agency, granted the state of Michigan authority to grant mining permits on a state level. This creates an issue with the recognition of the treaties that were signed decades ago.

The mine site and footprint encroach on the 60 Islands Prehistoric Menominee Village Archeological Complex, which extends 3 miles on each side of the Menominee River in both Wisconsin and Michigan.

The proposed mine threatens to desecrate ancestral sites such as:

- Visible burial mounds, raised agricultural beds, food caches, ceremonial sites, dance rings, and village settlement.
- There are 5 sites listed as eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- 8 sites are potentially eligible for NRHP, 6 of which are adjacent to the pit
- 10 unevaluated sites, 2 are adjacent to mine facilities
- The Menominee Nation has made a Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act Claim -Confirmed
- There have been 2 archaeological studies done in the past, more studies should be done to preserve the cultural heritage and history of the Menominee Nation



Noback40.org

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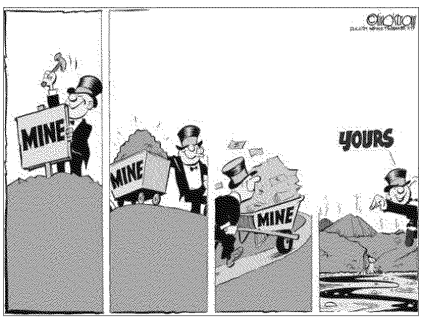


Email: savethemenomineeriver@gmail.com

Save the Menominee River - Stop the Back Forty Mine
Protectors of the Menominee River
Citizens Against the Back Forty Mine

Save the MeNOMINEe River

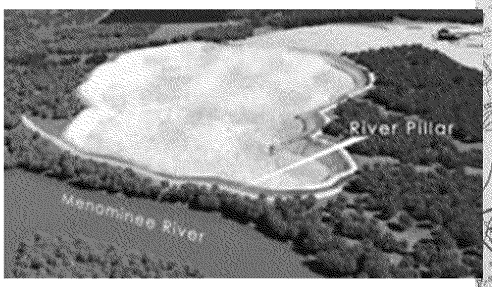
...and Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and OUR water.

For us, our children, our future generations and all our relations.

#NOBACK40
#SAVETHEMENOMINEERIVER

Threatening our River

- Aquila Resources, a Canadian Mining Company is pursuing mining permits in Stephenson, MI
  - Permits granted: Mining 632, Air Quality
  - Permits pending: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Wetlands - upcoming public hearing with MDEQ and public comment period (date to be announced)
- They seek to mine copper, gold, and zinc from an open pit sulfide mine they call the BACK 40
- The permits state the life of the mine will be 7 years, while their investors are being told 16 years with the final 8 being an underground mine
- 83 acres wide (3,615,480 square feet) - or -
  - Two Lambeau Stadium complexes wide
- 750 feet deep - or -
  - Two Statue of Liberty deep
- A mere 50 YARDS from the edge of the Menominee River, which flows into the Green Bay of Lake Michigan
- When crushed sulfide rocks and particles interact with oxygen and water, they create sulfuric acid—the same caustic substance used in car batteries
- Sulfuric acid dissolves rock and leaches out toxic heavy metals, the substance is commonly called Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)
- Unlike most iron mining, sulfide mining pitlakes contaminate water bodies, as acid and metal leaches indefinitely along the pit walls into aquifers and rivers



Above: Rendering of proposed mine site encroaching on the banks of our beautiful Menominee River.

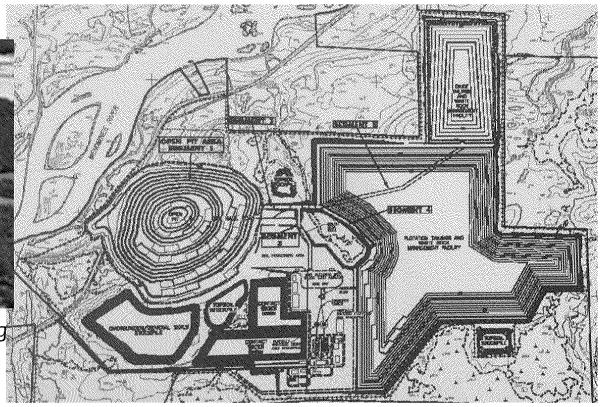
Right: Map of mine submitted in permits.

Risking our Water

- Eastern U.S. has nearly 4,500 miles of streams polluted from mines
- Western U.S. has nearly 10,000 miles of waterways polluted by 20-50,000 mines still generating AMD
- In 2010, the metal mining industry was responsible for 41% of all toxins released into the environment

Sulfide Mines pollute up to 27 billion gallons of fresh water per year in the U.S. and will do so in perpetuity

- Sulfide mining has a near-perfect track record of creating pollution. Mining companies are unable to point to ONE sulfide mine that has EVER been developed, operated, and closed without producing polluted drainage.
  - "When asked to point to a mine that has NEVER polluted, Joe Maki of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) confessed "I cannot."
- Cyanide will be used on site because of the "low grade" of the ore. Due to it's highly poisonous nature, cyanide has been banned from many countries and territories, and also the states of Montana & Wisconsin
- In 1988 alone, overall cleanup cost of AMD was estimated at $30 billion
- Taxpayers are left paying for the cleanup after foreign mining companies have vacated and filed for bankruptcy
- "Upon mine closure, 65 million tons of waste rock and tailings will be backfilled into the pit where they will remain a festering timebomb of pollution and hazardous waste."



Wildlife

- Waste discharge threatens aquatic life and freshwater fisheries, the threat has not been fully evaluated.
- Serious lack of population statistics of endangered mussels, clams, snail, and macro/micro invertebrate
- In the last century, 99% of the population of 250 MILLION year old species of Lake Sturgeon have been killed off. Of the remaining 1%, half (0.5%) live in the Menominee River, an ideal spawning and breeding habitat
- The Shakey Lakes Savannah is the MOST intact and diverse area of pine and oak barrens in Northern Michigan, and also includes intermittent wetlands
- Formerly 30 million acres, all that remains is 0.02% of oak savannahs in Michigan, it is one of the rarest landscapes
- Endangered species and Species of Special Concern in the savannah area include: Dwarf Milkweed, Vasey's Rush, Hill Thistle, Torrey's Bulrush, Prairie Birdfoot, Bald Eagle, American Burying Beetle, Long Eared Bat.
- Diversion of the wetlands could also disrupt streams which irrigate the state protected Carney Fen wetlands, where over 50 native orchid species and thousands of other plants have been saved from highway construction.
- Leachate from the mining process have proven highly elevated levels of: arsenic, sulfide, lead, manganese, copper sulfate, iron, mercury - all of which are detrimental to plants, animals, aquatic life, and humans, even at slightly elevated levels
  - These pollutants cause symptoms that can lead to failure of respiratory system, nervous system, brain heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. Can cause cancer, and the kind of nerve damage seen in Parkinson's
- The Back 40 is designed by Foth, the same group that designed the Flambeau Mine, which Aquila has touted as an example of a 'successful' mine, although high levels of water contamination have been detected years after its closure.

Visit this link for full details on how Back 40 would be far worse.

https://flambeaumineexposed2.wordpress.com/back-forty/