



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

Office of the Chief Executive

Virgil Wind
Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Via U.S. Mail

November 4, 2024

Henri van Rooyen
Chief Executive Officer
165 Warren Street
Tamarack, MN 55787

Re: Tamarack Mine

Dear Mr. Rooyen:

Thank you for your letter of September 24 requesting a meeting. I appreciate you reaching out in my new role as the Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. As you know, the Band's point person on this issue continues to be my Commissioner of Natural Resources, Mr. Kelly Applegate. I am willing to join with him in meeting you, at a future coordinated date.

Our concerns remain centered on the danger nickel mining poses for our watersheds, and the resources it would impact, including the traditional life ways and cultural practices of the people of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe that depend upon these sacred resources. Our sacred manoomin (wild rice), fish, birds, and all other living things in our region rely on clean and sufficient levels of surface and ground water.

What you describe in your letter as "the natural environment we all cherish" is, in fact, essential to our very way of life. The Mille Lacs Band will be here on these lands forever, and it is our responsibility to protect this land and water for the future generations, so they may safely drink the water, and harvest the foods and medicines as we have always done. I will be interested to hear your description of how Talon Metals proposed efforts to extract nickel at Tamarack will not risk our future.

Commissioner Applegate will work with you to coordinate a meeting time.

Miigwech,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Virgil Wind", is written over a horizontal line.

Virgil Wind
Chief Executive