



For Immediate Release  
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### **Jauch Calls for G-TAC's Apology**

*G-TAC's incompetence, not DNR, is holding up bulk sampling application*

Northern Wisconsin State Senator Bob Jauch (D.Poplar) is calling upon G-TAC President Bill Williams to publicly apologize for misinformed statements that the Wisconsin DNR is holding up a bulk sampling application. Williams is quoted in the Ironwood Daily Globe that "the company is still waiting to hear word from DNR before the company can begin bulk sampling at the proposed iron ore mining site."

"Mr. Williams remarks are blatant falsehoods that result in spreading blame to the DNR staff when in fact the DNR is awaiting additional information from the company regarding the bulk sampling and stormwater application," Jauch said. "It appears as though Mr. Williams is grossly misinformed about GTAC's application or is fixated on blaming the regulatory agency to disguise Gogebic's own mistakes."

Last Thursday DNR Waste and Materials Management Director Ann Coakley informed the Ashland County Mining Impact Committee that the DNR was awaiting a response from the company regarding specific bulk sampling locations, adjustments to roads so they don't interfere with wetlands, and changes to their stormwater permit.

"I have spoken with Ms. Coakley and the DNR has not received the information they have requested because she has learned that the company hasn't sent it to the DNR. It is pretty difficult for the DNR staff to evaluate an application when the company can't figure out the location of roads, bulk sampling sites, or the manner in which the rock will be removed," Jauch said. "I would suggest that Mr. Williams accept responsibility for the incompetent behavior of the company regarding the application instead of making these false accusations."

Earlier this summer Gogebic Taconite submitted a 19 page application to use explosives to conduct bulk sampling. In response, DNR sent a 3 page letter informing the company that the application was so incomplete that the staff could not adequately respond. The company provided a 119 page response and indicated that they would no longer use explosives. The DNR has asked for additional information to that response but has not officially heard from the company. Apparently, the company is changing the number and locations of their bulk sampling activity.

"For over 3 years Gogebic Taconite demanded 'certainty' in the regulatory process including specific timelines for the agency to respond. Yet it is the company that has submitted inaccurate and inadequate information that makes it almost impossible for the regulators to do their jobs. Every time this company has made a mistake they blame it on somebody else. It is time Mr. Williams publicly explain that Gogebic has no one to blame but themselves."

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