



Forest County Potawatomi Community

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Wisconsin Citizens Still Oppose Mine Only 28% support mine

Crandon, WI: Opposition to the proposed Crandon Mine in Northern Wisconsin still runs high with Wisconsin residents. According to a January 2003 poll commissioned by the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC), citizens statewide still oppose a sulfide mine in Northern Wisconsin by almost 2 to 1.

These results are consistent with a June 2001 poll where opposition to a sulfide mine in Northern Wisconsin was 2 to 1. More than 54% of those polled in January 2003 oppose a sulfide mine, while only 28% support it.

The poll also indicates more than 64% of Wisconsin residents agreed, while only 26% disagreed, that the state should not issue permits for mines that will forever need to pump and treat water in order to prevent groundwater pollution. It is expected that the pumping and treatment of water would have to be conducted on a perpetual basis at the proposed Crandon Mine to avoid significant groundwater pollution.

The scientific and random telephone poll, by Chamberlain Research Consultants, covered 600 Wisconsin residents during the end of January 2003. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.97 percentage points.

“We are pleased to see the strong opposition of citizens to a mine in Northern Wisconsin has not wavered,” said Jeff Crawford, FCPC Attorney General.

The latest poll also showed the opposition to a mine is higher in the Green Bay and Fox Valley area. For instance, while more than 54% of residents statewide oppose a sulfide mine in Northern Wisconsin, almost 60% of residents in the Green Bay/Appleton media market oppose the mine.

(more)

“Wisconsin’s citizens of all ages, political parties, incomes, religions, occupations and geographic regions have made it clear that they oppose mining in Northern Wisconsin,” stated FCPC Chairman Gus Frank. “We are grateful for the continued citizen concern about protecting Northern Wisconsin. We hope that the leaders of Wisconsin will listen to their constituents and take appropriate action.”

The January 2003 poll also showed that residents still support a ban on the use of cyanide in mining by more than 2 to 1, (61.2% in favor, 24.5% opposed) and the support is higher in the Green Bay/Appleton media market (65.1% in favor, 23.3%).

Another legislative proposal – to require metallic mines to meet the same groundwater and hazardous waste standards as other industries – got overwhelming support in a late November 2002, WisPolitics.com poll. Residents supported that concept by an 11 to 1 margin (88% to 8%). Currently, mining companies do not have to comply with the same groundwater and hazardous waste laws as other industries.

The November WisPolitics poll also showed that 81% of those polled are in favor of requiring a mine applicant to provide an example of a mine that has operated safely in a similar environment. Current law may not require that model mines be from environments similar to the area of wetlands, streams and groundwater of Northern Wisconsin. In fact, model mines were proposed from frozen tundra and deserts, drastically different regions than Wisconsin’s Northwoods.

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