

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
AQUILA RESOURCES BACK FORTY PROJECT
NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND HEARING

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is holding a consolidated public hearing on **June 25, 2019, from 5:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M CDT** at the Stephenson High School gymnasium, W526 Division Street, Stephenson, Michigan 49887, on the Aquila Resources Back Forty Mine project. Aquila Resources, Incorporated (Inc.) is proposing to develop an open pit polymetallic gold, zinc, and copper mine and associated beneficiation and storage facilities.

Address of applicant: Aquila Resources, Inc.
 E807 Gerue Street
 Stephenson, MI 49887

Location of mining area: Sections 1, 11, and 12 in T35N, R29W; Sections 4 through 8 in T35N, R28W; Section 33 in T36N, R28W; Lake Township, Menominee County, Michigan.

The purpose of the hearing is to secure the views of interested persons concerning the following:

- (1) **Application for permit HNK-5X9D-9HC0S under Part 315, Dam Safety of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA)**, by Mr. David Anderson, Aquila Resources, Inc. The applicant proposes to construct a tailings management facility and a contact water basin in association with the Back Forty Project mine. The hearing will be held pursuant to Section 324.31511.3 of Part 315 of the NREPA.

The Part 315 application is available for review on EGLE's Web site at: <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/>, or at the EGLE, Water Resource Division, Marquette District Office, 1504 West Washington Street, Marquette, MI, 49855, or by calling 517 284 5567. **The Part 315 public hearing record will remain open for ten days after the public hearing date, closing on Friday, July 5, 2019.** Any written comments to be submitted for the public hearing record must be received at this address on or before the close of the record.

- (2) **The proposed conditional approval of Permit to Install (PTI) Application Number 205-15A under Part 55 of NREPA.** It has been preliminarily determined that the installation and operation of the mining and ore processing facility will not violate any of EGLE's rules nor the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

The Air Quality Division (AQD) will accept comments on this proposed action from May 23 to July 23, 2019. Send AQD PTI written comments to Ms. Annette Switzer, Permit Section Manager, EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan, 48909-7760. Comments may also be submitted from the webpage <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/cwerp.shtml> (click on "Submit Comment" under the Aquila Resources Inc., PTI Application No. 205-15A listing). All statements received by July 23, 2019 will be considered by the decision maker prior to final permit action. Copies of PTI related documents are also available on the AQD webpage; at the Marquette District Office, 1504 West Washington Street, Marquette, MI 49855; at the AQD Central Office, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933; at the Menominee County Public Library, S319 Railroad St, Stephenson, MI 49887; or you may request a copy be mailed to you by calling 517-284-6793. The PTI application and related correspondence are on the website at: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/AppsOfInterest.shtml>

- (3) **The proposed decision to grant, with conditions, a request submitted by Aquila Resources Inc. to amend Mining Permit MP 01 2016, issued under Part 632, Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining (Part 632), of the NREPA.**

The Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division (OGMD) will accept comments on this proposed decision from May 23 to July 23, 2019. Send Part 632 Mining Permit Amendment proposed decision written comments to Back Forty Project, EGLE/OGMD, 1504 West Washington Street, Marquette, MI 49855, or E-mail to EGLE-Mining-Comments@michigan.gov with "Back Forty Mining Permit" as the subject. Comments applicable to the proposed decision received by July 23, 2019 will be considered prior to making a final decision. Application materials may be reviewed at the Menominee County Public Library, S319 Railroad St, Stephenson, MI 49887, the EGLE Marquette District Office, or on the EGLE Mining website at https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3311_18442-359902--,00.html

For more information, contact the EGLE, OGMD, Melanie Humphrey, Gwinn Field Office, 906-250-7564, humphreym@michigan.gov; or Mark Snow, Permitting and Technical Services Section Manager, 517-230-8233, snowm@michigan.gov.

Hearing participants will be asked to fill out an attendance card and indicate intent to speak before entering the hearing area. Following opening remarks at the start of the hearing, participants will be called to speak in the order of cards received. Speaker presentations will be limited to three minutes. Written comments will also be accepted at the hearing. The hearing will not be a legal proceeding, witnesses will not be sworn, and there will be no cross examination. During the hearing, EGLE technical staff will be available outside the hearing room to answer questions regarding EGLE's reviews and proposed actions.

Individuals needing accommodations for effective participation at the hearing should contact Tina Coluccio, 906-228-4524 one week in advance of the hearing date to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.