

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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January 29, 2026

Eric Quigley, Director of Exploration
GreenLight Metals
220 W Washington St, Suite 310
Marquette, MI 49855
(sent electronically)

Subject: Notice of Intent for Exploration Drilling Conditional Approval

Dear Eric Quigley:

Pursuant to s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR or department) has reviewed your Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct nonferrous metallic mineral exploration, dated December 2, 2025, and the supplemental information letter, dated January 8, 2026. The NOI and supplemental information letter describe the proposed exploration program at the Bend deposit within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The exploration activity would take place on the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel in the NW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 35 (T33N, R2W), in Taylor County.

The enclosed document is the department's conditional approval for activities pertaining to the complete NOI, consisting of the NOI submittal dated December 2, 2025, and the letter dated January 8, 2026. The approval lists the conditions which must be followed, so please read the document carefully to be fully aware of what is expected of Green Light Wisconsin and this project.

This approval authorizes the exploration activities described in the NOI and supplemental information letter. Your next steps will be to provide documentation of an updated bond and notification at least 48 hours prior to the intended initiation of the program. If you have any questions, please contact me at (715) 292-4911 or at molly.gardner@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

Molly Gardner

Molly Gardner, CPG
Metallic Mining Coordinator

cc: Kyle Noonan, Taylor County
Megan Luick, USFS
Bill Sande, USACE
Greg Pils, WDNR
Kyle McLaughlin, WDNR

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Metallic Mineral Exploration
APPROVAL**

This is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR or department) metallic mineral exploration approval in response to the Notice of Intent (NOI) dated December 2, 2025, and supplemental information letter dated January 8, 2026, from Green Light Wisconsin (GLW), a subsidiary of Green Light Metals, for authority to conduct a second drill campaign on the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel, located in Westboro Township, Taylor County, Wisconsin. For purposes of this approval, the NOI shall consist of the submittal dated December 2, 2025, and the follow-up letter dated January 8, 2026.

GLW is hereby granted approval under s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and s. NR 130.109(4), Wis. Adm. Code, to drill up to 20 drillholes totaling up to 23,000 linear feet from up to 15 drill sites on the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel, subject to the following conditions:

APPROVAL

General Conditions

1. All activities must be completed as described in the NOI and in compliance with Chapter 293, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to nonferrous metallic mineral exploration.
2. GLW must notify Metallic Mining Coordinator Molly Gardner (email molly.gardner@wisconsin.gov, or phone 715-292-4911) at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of drilling any exploration drillhole and shall specify the drill site on which the drillhole will be located, the planned azimuth and inclination, the targeted depth of the drillhole, and the anticipated date on which drilling will begin.
3. GLW must notify Molly Gardner at least 24 hours prior to permanently abandoning a drillhole.
4. GLW shall submit clear, labeled photographs to Molly Gardner documenting the following activities authorized by this approval:
 - a. BMP placement including installation methods
 - b. All access routes before and after construction
 - c. Each drilling site before and after clearing
 - d. Constructed sumps before lining, after filling, and during termination process
 - e. Representation of water withdrawal
 - f. Drill rig set up on each site
 - g. Stabilized drilling sites
 - h. Reclaimed access roads
5. The project must be completed per the timeline listed in the NOI dated December 2, 2026.
6. The NOI will remain in effect for one year from the date the department approves the notice. If you wish to alter the project or NOI conditions, you must first obtain written approval from the department as provided in s. NR 130.109(5), Wis. Adm. Code.

7. The department may conduct routine compliance evaluations to ensure operations proceed in accordance with all department permitting and approval requirements.
8. In accordance with s. 293.21(3)(b), Stats. and s. NR 130.105(2)(b)3, Wis. Adm. Code, GLW must submit an updated surety bond with a value of \$185,000.00 before commencing exploration.

Dewatering Activities Conditions – *in addition to conditions above*

9. Dewatering of the excavated work areas shall be conducted in accordance with the standards of the applicable general permit under Wisconsin's Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) and the department approved Technical Standard 1061 found at:
https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormWater/documents/Dewatering_1061.pdf.
10. At no time shall dewatering activities discharge directly to wetlands or waterways.

Endangered Resources Conditions – *in addition to conditions above*

11. All project activities shall be conducted in accordance with the avoidance and minimizations measures for rare species as indicated in the Endangered Resources Review.

Wetland and Waterway Conditions – *in addition to conditions above*

12. The work (access, drilling, abandonment) associated with drill sites SL-16, SL-17, and SL-18 will require a wetland permit under s. 281.36, Wis. Stats. Onsite work that will not result in a discharge of fill material to wetlands may commence prior to the issuance of a wetland permit.
13. For staging of materials onsite, areas of standing water shall be avoided.
14. Withdrawal of surface water from the North Branch of the Yellow River shall not occur during a state drought declaration.
15. Utilization of surface water for exploration or abandonment must be done in accordance with s. 86.17, Wis. Stats. The placement of an intake structure on the bed of the waterway subject to s. 30.12, Wis. Stats., authority is not authorized.

Erosion Control and Revegetation Conditions – *in addition to conditions above*

16. GLW is required to maintain coverage under a construction site stormwater permit under ch. 283, Wis. Stats., through the duration of exploration and abandonment activities.
17. Construction shall be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize erosion and siltation into surface waters and as specified in plans and procedures that are part of or approved pursuant to this approval. All erosion control measures must meet or exceed the department approved technical standards and best management practices (BMPs) found at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stormwater/standards>.

18. Temporary stabilization activities shall commence when land disturbing construction activities have temporarily ceased and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days.
19. Final stabilization and reclamation activities shall commence when land disturbing activities cease on any portion of the site even though final stabilization and reclamation may be delayed due to seasonal conditions.
20. The removal of vegetative cover and exposure of bare ground must be restricted to the minimum necessary for construction. Areas where soil is exposed must be protected from erosion by seeding and mulching, sodding, diversion of surface runoff, installation of straw bales or silt screens, construction of settling basins, or similar methods as soon as possible after removal of the original ground cover as described by department technical standards.
21. Site stabilization between October 1 and April 15 requires seeding and mulching (with weed-free mulch or non-synthetic matting), or another appropriate stabilization method.

Sump and Cuttings Conditions - *in addition to conditions above*

22. The quantity of cuttings generated for each drillhole and the disposition of all cuttings must be accurately tracked. A minimum of two 94 lb bags of Portland cement shall be added to every 3 cubic feet of cuttings during abandonment of lined sumps.
23. The abandonment of unlined sumps shall be done in accordance with s. NR 130.110(2)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, with accurate tracking of geologic material containing 50 feet or less of metallic sulfide-bearing rock. The documentation shall be made available onsite to the department.
24. The precise location of sumps must be recorded and reported as required under s. NR 130.111(2), Wis. Adm. Code.
25. Sump excavation must be documented with photographs before either installing the liner or adding material to an unlined sump to confirm that the groundwater was not encountered.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Bend Copper-Gold Deposit is located approximately 19 miles north-northwest of the city of Medford in Taylor County, within the Chequamegon National Forest. The deposit is mostly copper-bearing sulfides with significant gold and minor amounts of silver.
2. The deposit was originally discovered in 1986 and drilled in the early 1990s by the Jump River Joint Venture and again in 2012 by Aquila Resources, LLC. In 2022, the department issued a Certification of Completion for the satisfactory termination of Aquila's 2012 drilling sites and authorized the termination of the associated surety bond. Aquila Resources announced the sale of their Bend and Reef assets to Green Light Wisconsin (GLW) in July 2021.

3. The deposit includes a parcel of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) surface estate called the “Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel” for which the Soo Line Railroad Company is managing on behalf of Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) who continues to hold deeded rights to the private mineral estate.
4. GLW holds a valid nonferrous metallic mineral exploration license (#16964) issued in accordance with s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code, and which will remain in effect through June 30, 2026.
5. In 2022, GLW submitted a Plan of Operation (POO) to the USFS for exploration drilling on the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel followed by a Notice of Intent (NOI) for exploration drilling to the department.
6. In 2025, after multiple additional information requests, GLW received all approvals and permits to conduct exploration drilling at the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel from the department and the USFS.
7. Site work commenced in June 2025. GLW drilled 6 drillholes on 3 drill sites. Three of the holes and all 3 associated sumps were permanently abandoned by September 2, 2025. Three holes remain temporarily abandoned.
8. In September 2025, GLW contracted a Wisconsin-assured wetland delineation for the proposed project area. DNR conducted a site visit and confirmed the delineation methods.
9. On December 2, 2025, WDNR received a second NOI for exploration drilling on the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel. The same application was submitted to the USFS as a Plan of Operation. The POO is still under review until the WDNR makes a decision on the NOI.
10. After detailed review, on December 23, 2025, the WDNR responded to GLW with a letter specifying additional information necessary for the submission to be determined complete and to determine which additional permits must be obtained or amended.
11. On January 8, 2026, after close of business, GLW submitted a supplemental information letter in response to the department’s request for additional information. The letter included all requested information for a complete NOI submission, per s. NR 130.109(1), Wis. Adm. Code.
12. An Endangered Resources Review submitted November 30, 2022, and renewed most recently on April 18, 2025, resulted in 1 required action and 3 recommended actions. The required action shall be implemented.
13. On May 10, 2023, GLW received coverage under a WPDES General Permit for dewatering activities on the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel. On January 26, 2026, an amendment was issued to cover the dewatering discharges associated with the 2026 Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel project.
14. On February 4, 2025, the department issued a construction site storm water permit for activities on the Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel. On January 28, 2026, an amendment was issued for activities associated with the 2026 Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel project. The amendment excludes the activities proposed in the NOI associated with drill sites SL-16, SL-17, and SL-18.
15. GLW completed a cultural and historic review with the USFS. The WDNR conducted a separate cultural and historic review. The project is not expected to impact any known archaeological or historic resources.

16. Work that will result in a discharge of fill material to a wetland will require a wetland permit. The department has not received a wetland permit application from GLW for the 2026 Bend Soo Line Mineral Parcel project.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., GLW holds a valid nonferrous metallic mineral exploration license.
2. Pursuant to s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and s. NR 130.109, Wis. Adm. Code, GLW has submitted a notification of intent to conduct nonferrous metallic mineral exploration.
3. The department has authority under s. 293.21, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code, to issue an approval for the construction, implementation, and reclamation of this project as described in the NOI.
4. The department has determined that the NOI submitted by GLW and as conditioned by this approval complies with the requirements of s. 293.21, Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 130, Wis. Adm. Code.
5. Pursuant to s. 283.35, Wis. Stats., and s. NR 205.08(1)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, GLW must obtain a valid WPDES dewatering general permit prior to commencing exploration activities.
6. Pursuant to ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, for land disturbance totaling more than one acre for all planned work at the Bend Site, a valid construction site storm water permit must be obtained prior to commencing exploration activities.
7. Pursuant to s. 281.36, Wis. Stats., GLW must obtain a wetland permit for activities that will result in a discharge of fill material to wetlands prior to initiating such work.
8. The department has determined that the wetland ditch along Yellow River Road meets the exemption for an actively maintained roadside ditch under s. 103.06(4)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.
9. A ch. 30, Wis. Stats., permit is not required to withdraw water from the North Branch of the Yellow River. The withdrawal will not involve removal of bed material or the placement of a structure on the bed.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review department decisions shall be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with section NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with section NR 2.03, Wis. Adm.

Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

Dated at Department Headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin on 1/29/2026.

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For the Secretary

By 

Molly Gardner, CPG
Metallic Mining Coordinator