

Public hearing

town of Lake Tomahawk at 7845 Lake Cumard Rd. I am a Retired Registered Professional Engineer. My name is Edeen Leasdorf. I live in Oneida County. I am here to comment on the proposed draft.

Just four years ago, in 2015, a flood of thick yellow wastewater sludge from the long abandoned Gold King Mine in Silverton Colorado made headlines, as it flowed down the Animas River toward the Navajo nation, farmland, and the Colorado river. Three million gallons of mine waste water and tailings containing cadmium, lead, arsenic, iron, copper, zinc, and other heavy metals, all flowed into the Colorado and San Juan Rivers...affecting four states. Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.

It is ironic that the damage was actually caused by the EPA. And it is sad and reprehensible that the farmers and Navajo nation that were affected by the toxic Mine spill are still litigating in court against the government for financial compensation.

The reason that I mention this incident here today is because of my concern for a potential duplication in the state of Wisconsin. A spill of toxic mine waste water in Oneida County in the Willow Flowage watershed, (where the proposed Lynn mine site is located), would go directly down into the Wisconsin River, and down the Mississippi river until it reached the Atlantic. Many states south of Wisconsin would obviously be affected.

think this committee should be applauded for its goals. Their goal of protecting and enhancing the wetlands and surface water quality is of tantamount importance for Oneida County. I feel that all actions taken by this committee should be made with this goal in mind.

However I am very concerned about the lack of language mentioning active and preventative measures regarding lining in Oneida County. When it comes to preventing damage from waste water in the mining process, I see only passive, watch-and-see-what-happens language in the five-year plan under Item A, on page 42.

For instance, I am concerned about the fact that the Willow Run flowage is designated as an Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Water by the State of Wisconsin. These designations require Wisconsin to adopt an anti-degradation policy that is designed to prevent any lowering of water quality, especially in those waters having significant biological or cultural value. I see no language in the five-year goal plan to institute this protection in Oneida County.

I see that this committee recognizes the extreme susceptibility of groundwater contamination in Oneida County. I see they reflect their knowledge of groundwater being very difficult to purify and taking many years to clean

itself up after the contamination. Yet, I see no language in the five-year plan to institute protection of groundwater from potential mine waste water contamination in Oneida County.

I see the committees recognition of areas of critical environmental sensitivity such as wetlands. My concern is that most known areas of critical environmental sensitivity in Oneida County are managed and regulated at the federal, state and county levels. My concern is that, due to act 134 passed in December 2017, Oneida County may lack the staffing, the finances, and legal methods of local control over controlling damage from outside industry to our wetlands and groundwater.

Case in point would be the environmental protection agency. The EPA is the agency of the federal government responsible for carrying out our nations pollution control laws. It provides technical and financial assistance to reduce and control air, water, and land pollution.

Just ask the people in Durango Colorado about the effectiveness of the EPA. Just ask all the people along the Animas River about the effectiveness of the EPA.

History tends to repeat it self time and time again, unless individual communities learn from mistakes of others.

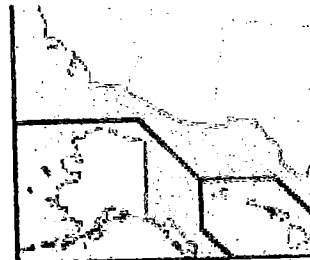
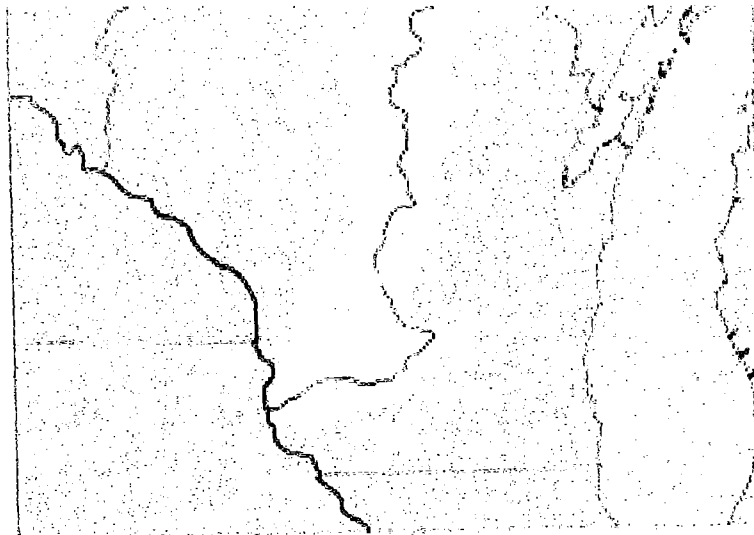
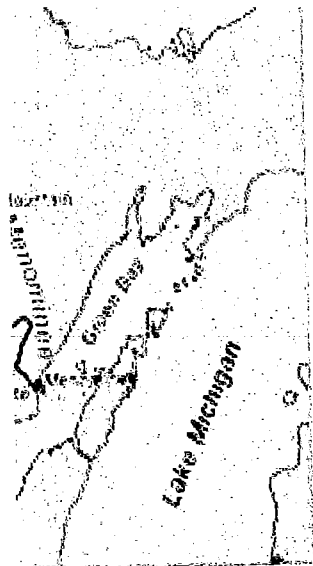
In closing, I want to thank this committee for all the hard work

nd environmentally protective goals it has set for it self. My biggest concern, however, is that the committee lacks the tools it needs to implement adequate environmental protection in Oneida County. It needs to fight hard to gain those tools. I think that with more education in our community, we will wake up more people and we will all be able to fight for protecting our rivers, lakes and streams....the reason that we all live here, and the reason our tourism economy is near a \$3 million dollar a year industry.

ileen Lonsdorf

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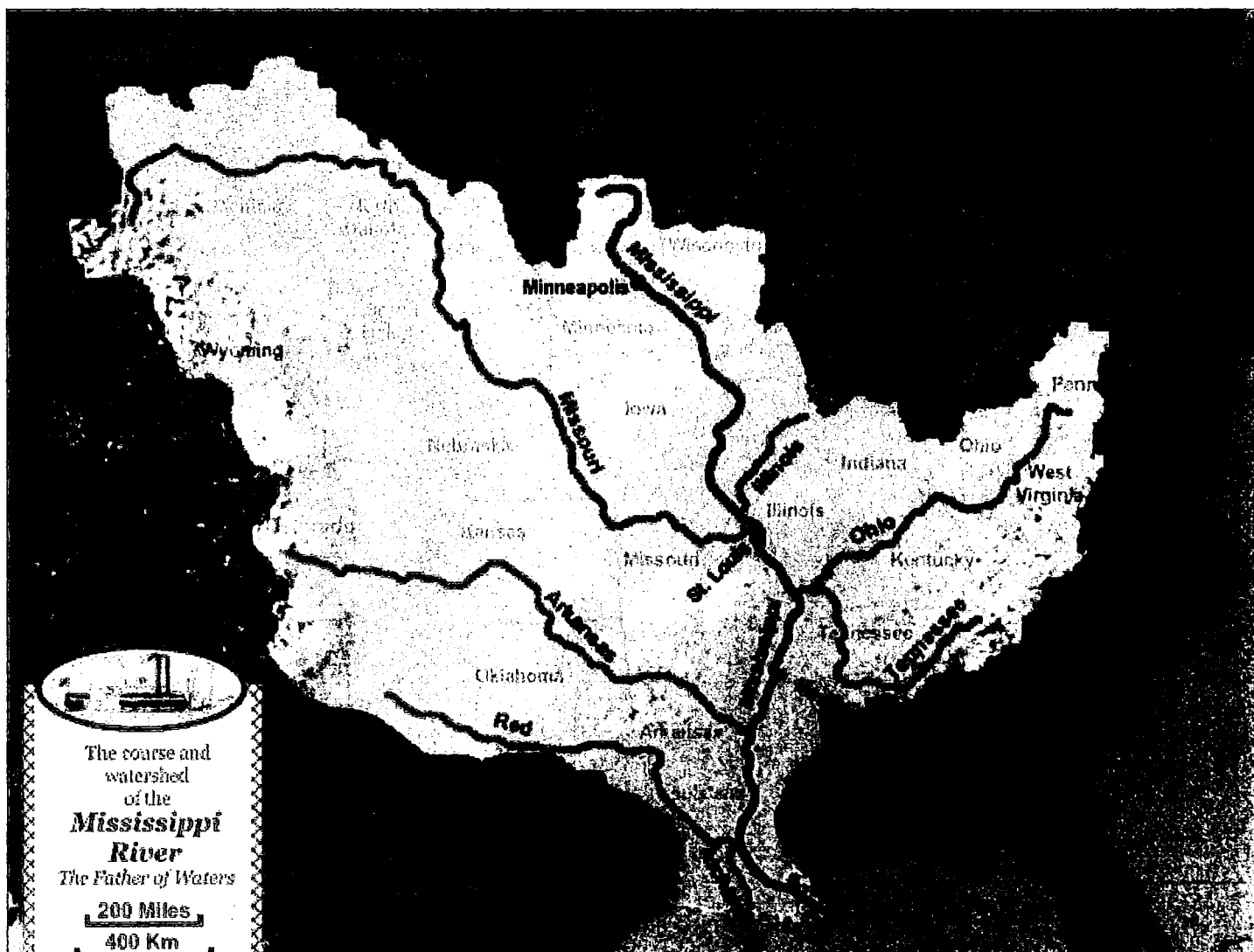
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