

Is there an orebody? Legally there needs to be clear evidence of the size, shape and grade of a mineral deposit which can be mined at a profit. That has yet to be shown. Very recently it has come to light that 233 diamond-drill holes have been drilled and cored over the past 50 years to explore the deposit - but we have not yet seen the results. Apparently US Steel/LaPointe chose not to develop a mine. It is not unlikely that GTac has the cores and the data.

There is growing evidence that the presence of pyritic (sulfurous) Tyler shale on the north wall of an open pit, to be dumped as wasterock on surface, will generate acid drainage. That may be the reason for trying to exempt iron mining from the acid drainage issue. I believe that without that exemption there can be no open pit. If the original 426 were passed into law, with insufficient protection for waters and wetlands, mining costs would be reduced very significantly - so making profitability more probable.

Does the present mining law preclude profitable taconite mining in Wisconsin? No, it does not. It may well be possible, and better, to mine underground, without disturbing the troublesome shale, without disturbing the surface landscape, the surface waters or the groundwater significantly. The key then is to assemble and to study, even superficially, the geodata.

Sincerely,

Jack Parker, (Mining Engineer, Geologist) February 27, 2012  
(Comments have been edited)