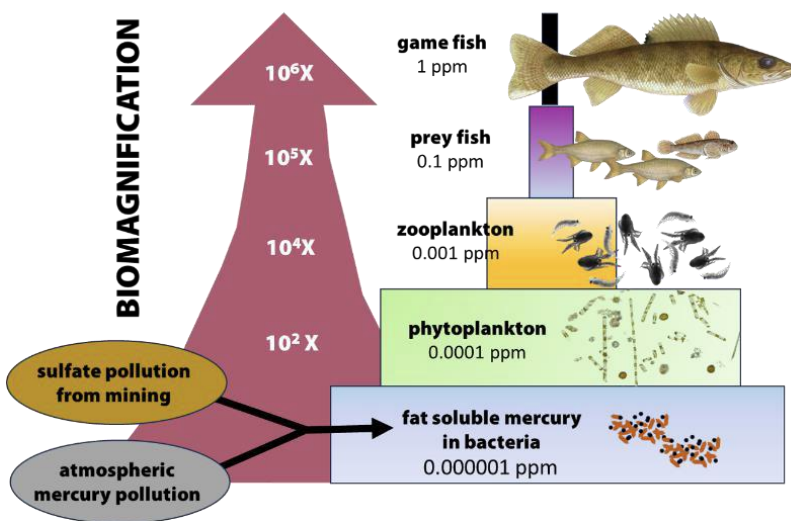


## TALON METALS NICKEL MINE: THREATS & FACTS

### High-Risk from Talon Sulfide Ore Chemistry

- Talon would mine a “massive sulfide unit” to obtain nickel and other ores.
- Sulfide, nickel, and other heavy metals would be released to air and water by mine blasting and crushing.
- Aitkin County, where the proposed mine would be located, is one of the world’s most abundant “wild rice baskets.”
- Minnesotans come from across the state to harvest wild rice in naturally low sulfate lakes downstream of the proposed mine, including Big Sandy Lake.
- Increased sulfate in mine discharge to water could decimate wild rice.
- Fish tissue methylmercury in Big Sandy Lake already violates state standards set to protect the developing brains of fetuses, infants, and children.
- Even a small sulfate increase would increase mercury release, methylation, and toxic bioaccumulation in fish downstream of the mine, including Big Sandy Lake.

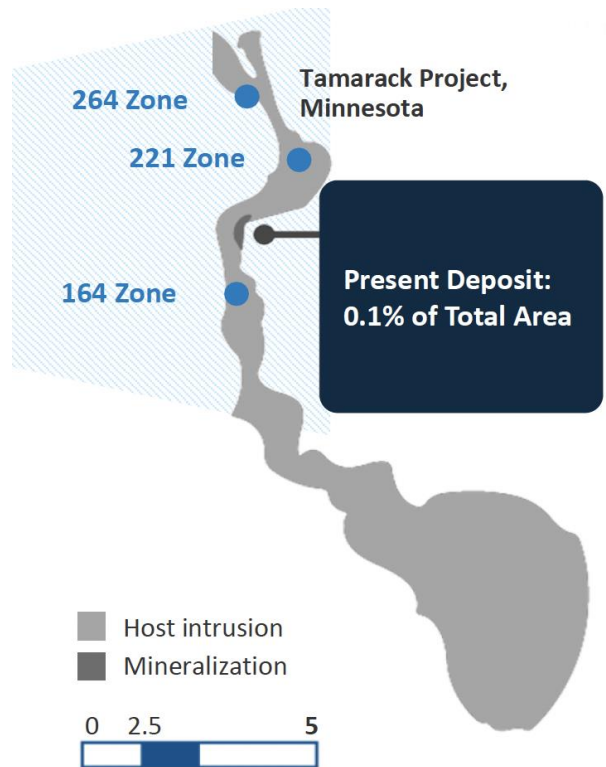


### Impairment from Talon Mine Dewatering

- The Talon site may be the wettest site ever proposed for a nickel sulfide ore mine. Groundwater is less than a foot from the surface on 77% of the site.
- Talon would build its mine tunnel in a bog, estimating up to 3.6 million gallons per day of dewatering just for this construction.
- Talon mine site bedrock is fractured, and Talon estimates peak mine inflow/ dewatering at up to 1,600 gallons per minute (2.3 million gallons per day).
- Even the huge PolyMet mine, with three pits and 228 million total tons of ore (Talon would mine 8.2 million tons) estimated peak mine inflow of 870 gallons per minute.
- Area wetlands, peatlands, and shallow wild rice lakes would be impaired by dewatering.
- Drying and rewetting in wetlands and peatlands would further increase mercury methylation and contamination of fish.

## Talon Mine Bait-and-Switch?

- Talon controls 31,000 acres of mineral leases, which Talon claims is a “district scale” mineral resource.
- The proposal Talon submitted to Minnesota DNR would mine only 225 acres: less than one-tenth of 1% of the mineral deposit.
- DNR has taken Talon’s “proposal” at face value to limit environmental review.
- Minnesota’s DNR has allowed many mine expansions and **never** required a new environmental impact statement (EIS).



## Weak Regulation of Mining in Minnesota

- Minnesota mining rules require plans for ore processing and tailings disposal.
- But Talon has produced no plan for tailings disposal. Its concept for processing ore is in R&D, and has never been used at commercial scale.
- Talon claims waste rock and ore will be transported 475 miles to North Dakota for processing. But Talon hasn’t shown this (unprecedented) plan is feasible.
- Talon Metals ore and mine waste could be stranded in Minnesota.
- Talon and Rio Tinto have drilled more than 554 drill borings in the Tamarack Intrusive Complex and have dumped drilling wastes in unlined sumps.
- No Minnesota agency has required Talon to test pollutants seeping into groundwater, let alone to stop contamination.

### Take Action

**Sign the petition** requiring the whole truth in environmental review of the Talon Metals mine proposal.

**Join the movement** [www.WaterLegacy.org](http://www.WaterLegacy.org) to protect water, wild rice, fish, health, and justice from sulfide ore mining pollution and destruction.

