



Upcoming Events

May 8 FOLK Steering Committee meeting at the Soldan home on Cemetery Rd. Please contact Ted Soldan for details at 906.334.2794

Update on Kennecott Eagle Mine Permit

As of April of this year, we were preparing for the imminent DEQ public meetings for the Kennecott Eagle Mine project. The DEQ abruptly cancelled the hearings a few days before they were to be held. Two fact sheets have just become available from The National Wildlife Federation (TNWF) that explain what happened, and outlines several problems with Kennecott's application. Both fact sheets are available on our web site:

http://www.folkup.org/nwf_factsheet1.pdf
http://www.folkup.org/nwf_factsheet2.pdf

TNWF uncovered documents that had been omitted from the public record that were critical of Kennecott's mine plan. The documents indicated the mine roof could collapse. Since the proposed mine is directly below the Salmon Trout Creek River, subsidence could cause long term catastrophic ecological problems. Once this omission was pointed out to DEQ Director Steve Chester, he postponed the public meetings indefinitely, and ordered a third-party investigation of the DEQ's handling of the mining permit.

Some of the major problems with the mining permit are:

- *Subsidence* (partial or full collapse of the mine)
- *Acid mine drainage*, which occurs when sulfide ores come in contact with air or water.
- *Air pollution* from the 50-foot tall stack that will ventilate the mine. Predictions are that 20 tons of dust containing sulfides and metals will vent to the atmosphere and spread for miles over the countryside each year.
- *Noise* from mining and rock crushing in the area.
- *Transporting* the ore will involve 80 huge truck trips per day on the region's roads. Besides the effects of these large trucks on the roads, no assessment has been made of the ore dust that will disperse from the ore carried in these trucks.

UPPCO Impoundments Call to Action

The conversion UPPCO's impoundments from wilderness lakes to developed lakes has moved a giant step closer in the past few weeks. If you would like to help block this process (and your help is desperately needed) the time for action is right now.

UPPCO recently released the draft Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) for their Upper Peninsula impoundments. Shortly after this announcement, public meetings were held to present the documents and allow for limited public input. Having fulfilled this part of their obligation, they are now allowing until **May 21, 2007** for concerned citizens to send comments to them regarding the draft SMPs.

The SMPs are available on UPPCO's web page <http://www.uppco.com> Click on the "land sale" link and scroll down. If you do not have access to the web and would like a copy of the SMPs, send a letter requesting a copy to UPPCO at:

Upper Peninsula Power Company
attn: Janet Wolfe
600 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

...or call Janet Wolfe at UPPCO, 906.483.4528. She'll need to know which impoundment SMP (Prickett or Bond Falls/Victoria) you'd like. UPPCO has also sent copies to local libraries.

FOLK has been involved with this process from the beginning. We petitioned for a seat on the "focus group" that UPPCO convened to allow input from the community while developing these SMPs. We were denied participation after repeated requests. We were finally allowed to serve as an alternate for the UPEC (Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition) seat. This allowed us to receive communications from UPPCO as the process developed. (continued)



FOLK

FOLK, formed in 1989, was established to oppose the siting of any paper/pulp mill in Keweenaw Bay. FOLK continues to promote a healthy environment in the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Lake Superior Watershed. By joining FOLK, you support this goal.

July/August 2004

(Please Print) Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Date _____

- Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10 \$ _____
- Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5 \$ _____
- Organization (Annual) - \$35 \$ _____
- Check here if you want acknowledgement or renewal.** \$ _____
- I would like to contribute to FOLK's Educational Fund. \$ _____
- Additional Contributions: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Send to: FOLK · PO Box 213 · L'Anse, Michigan 49946

UPPCO Impoundments (continued)

There was a great deal of frustration among many of the environmentally oriented members of this focus group. We had very little opportunity to express our opinions, or to discuss the issues during the meetings. It seemed to many of us as though UPPCO was more interested in going through the motions, rather than gathering public input.

After the focus group meetings ended, UPPCO staff worked to produce the SMPs for the Upper Peninsula impoundments. On March 19, the SMPs were released to the public on the UPPCO web page. Members and alternates of the focus group received theirs in paper form in the mail shortly after that. Also on March 19, UPPCO announced that the public meetings to discuss the SMPS would be held in 10 days! This allowed us very little time to publicize these important meetings, submit letters to the editor at local newspapers, or otherwise spread the word. FOLK members were represented at the two meetings regarding the impoundments in the western UP; Bond Falls/Victoria and Prickett.

The format of these meetings again frustrated many of the participants. People with comments and questions were not allowed to speak. Instead, they were required to write on provided 5x7 cards while the meeting was in progress. These cards were picked up and delivered to the moderator, who read the question aloud. The moderator and UPPCO staff were able to choose which cards to read, and in what order. An UPPCO representative then tried to answer the question, but the questioner had no opportunity to clarify the question, or ask follow-up questions unless they filled out another card.

Wilderness lakefront areas of the Keweenaw are being sold and developed at an alarming rate. With enough will and public support, damage to the wilderness aspects of the UPPCO impoundments can be limited. Please consider writing to FERC and expressing your views. Sample letters are available at the FOLK web page: <http://www.folkup.org> Your letter should be mailed to:

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20515

Please save your good rummage sale items for the upcoming FOLK rummage sale to be held tentatively Aug.25

FOLK Web Page Facelift

FOLK's web page has been completely redesigned and updated. If you haven't visited recently you might be surprised by what you see. <http://www.folkup.org> The steering committee has spent a significant amount of effort getting the web page to this point, but we see this as only the first step. We're very interested in your input, so please check it out and let us know what you think.

We've also deleted the old email address folk@folkup.org. This account was receiving so much spam that it was almost impossible to find the legitimate email mixed in. So we've put new instructions for emailing us on the web page. Once that address becomes known to the spammers, we may be forced to change it again. If you try emailing us and your message bounces, please check back at the web site to see if it has changed.

Membership Information

We're gratified by the enthusiastic response we've received from members following our annual dues appeal. Numerous encouraging messages were included along with checks for your annual renewal. Thanks to all of you! One of the notes contained a request that we not share or sell our membership lists with any other organization. FOLK's policy is that we NEVER share name, address, phone number, or email addresses with anyone, period.

Please check your mailing label to be sure we updated your renewal date properly. If not, let us know so we can fix it. Also, if you have moved or plan to in the near future, kindly let us know so we can update our records. And if you know of anyone you think might be interested in receiving our newsletter on a trial basis, send us their name/address information and we'll put them on our list.

Friends of the Land of Keweenaw
PO Box 213
L'Anse, Michigan 49946
www.folkup.org

Return Service Requested

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