

RESOLUTION

54-87

Resolution offered by ~~Supervisor~~ FORESTRY AND OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin, That

1 WHEREAS, the Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee has had many
2 requests over the past several years in which mineral leasing companies have expressed
3 a desire to explore and mine on Oneida County Forest lands, and
4 WHEREAS, it has been the policy of the Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee not
5 to enter into any exploration and mining agreements, and
6 WHEREAS, it is now felt by the Committee that ample guidelines have been formulated
7 and sufficient laws have ^{been} passed to insure safe and sensible extraction of metallic
8 minerals, and
9 WHEREAS, the Committee has studied the situation and drawn on the advice and exper-
10 ience of experts in the field, so

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the attached policy statement be approved by the
12 Oneida County Board of Supervisors and adopted as the official policy for the Oneida
13 County Forest, and
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the County Board direct the Forestry and Outdoor Recrea-
15 tion Committee to proceed with implementation of this policy and to report back to
16 the Board when a mining and prospecting lease agreement is ready for approval.

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W. S. Lovestrand
Clcko J. Neidette
Thomas D. Rudolph
James Busch

Dated this 5 day of June 19 87

Offered and passage moved by _____ Supervisor

Seconded by Pat Stafford Supervisor

ONEIDA COUNTY METALLIC ORE PROSPECTING & MINING POLICY

It is the policy of the Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee to enter into mineral prospecting and mining leases for lands in the County Forest. This will be done in a competitive bid system with one mile square blocks (sections) being the size areas used for nominations and bidding. Some areas will not be offered for mining leases such as recreational areas, sensitive lands, historical sites, etc. The Committee will hold informational meetings prior to entering into any mining agreements to assess public reaction. The County will use the royalty payment as the bid variable and the acreage payment will be fixed. This will share the risk with the mineral company and give the County the highest income from the mine if a mineable deposit is found. A royalty payment consisting of net smelter return plus net proceeds will be used in an effort to allow even low grade ore to be mined, thereby attempting to fully utilize the resource and extend the life of the mine. Acreage rental and bonus money will not be accepted as advance royalty payments.

Since the mineral deposit is a non-renewable resource, portions of the income will be put in a trust fund or other use that will benefit future generations.

Based on Attorney General opinions which support County ownership of mineral rights and due to lack of evidence that other mineral rights claimants exist, the County will lease the mineral rights confident that severed mineral rights, even if they should exist, can be dealt with through lease wording which would place the burden of dealing with these claimants with the mining company.

Any lease the County would enter into would prevent the mining of uranium or other fissionable metals. A mining lease would exclude sand, gravel, gas, and oil. These resources would be dealt with separately.

ONEIDA COUNTY METALLIC ORE PROSPECTING & MINING POLICY

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Since environmental protection is a Department of Natural Resources responsibility, the County will work closely with that agency and the mining company to see that all guide lines and laws are adhered to. If strip mining can be done along with a mining company financed program of reforestation and revegetation to prevent erosion and other adverse environmental damage, then it should be allowed.