

METALLIC MINERAL EXPLORATION IN WISCONSIN

Summary of 1980 Activity

This brochure is the first in a series of annual summaries of metallic mineral exploration in Wisconsin. Included in this and subsequent summaries are statistical reviews of exploration activity, highlights of the year's activity, and reviews of legislative actions affecting exploration.

Please send comments to Thomas J. Evans, Mineral Resources Section, Geological and Natural History Survey, 1815 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 (608-262-4125).

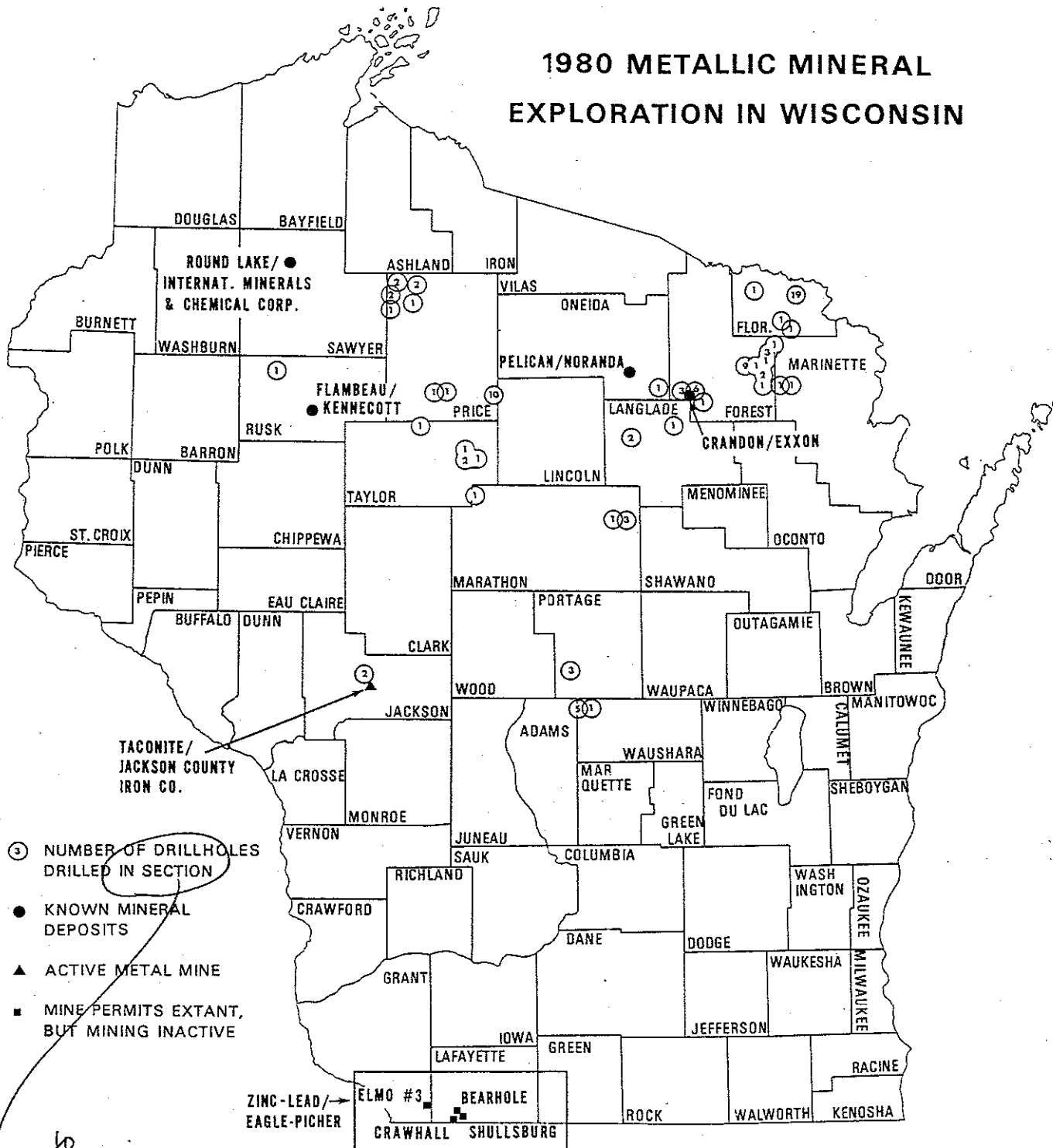
HIGHLIGHTS OF 1980 ACTIVITY

Non-ferrous base metal targets continued to be the prime focus of metallic mineral exploration in Wisconsin in 1980. Uranium exploration occurred in three diverse geologic settings by three different companies. The total number of holes drilled was up in 1980 as compared to 1979. The 1981 activity level is not now expected to be as high as in this past year (see comments below for U.S. Steel and Minatome).

Two major events affecting exploration occurred in the regulatory area. Late in the year, the statute providing for the submittal of certain geologic information from metallic mineral exploration to the State Geologist was declared unconstitutional. The suit was brought by Noranda Exploration, Inc. in 1979 with testimony heard in the Oneida Circuit Court in early 1980. Judge Timothy Vocke of the Vilas Circuit Court heard the case and rendered his judgment on December 18. This decision is being appealed by the State. The suit was also entered into by E.K. Lehmann and Associates in the spring of 1980. The law is still in effect for other exploration companies, pending appeal.

Uranium exploration was a second focus of activity in 1980 with the creation of a Legislative Council Mining Committee Subcommittee on Uranium Exploration Safety, chaired by State Senator Tim Cullen. Under the direction of this subcommittee a comprehensive radiation monitoring program for uranium exploration drillholes was initiated by the Radiation Protection Section of the Department of Health and Social Services. To date, two drillholes have been included in this monitoring effort. The future of the current monitoring program is in doubt as a result of budgetary constraints. A bill was introduced in the State Senate in early 1981 calling for a 7-year uranium mining moratorium. A proposed bill seeking to define uranium exploration and provide for continuing monitoring of some kind was under preliminary consideration.

1980 METALLIC MINERAL EXPLORATION IN WISCONSIN



(All Data from Public Records: Drillhole Abandonment Reports Submitted to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

1980 EXPLORATION ACTIVITY & COMPANY SUMMARY

Company	Drillholes	Bedrock Footage	Total Footage
AMAX Exploration, Inc	3	862	1,239
American Copper and Nickel Co., Inc.	12	4,850	6,163
E.K. Lehmann and Associates	19	9,739	12,072
Exxon Minerals Co., USA	12	9,192.8	11,061.8
Kerr-McGee Resources Corporation	7	1,746	2,724
Minatome Corporation	19	2,261.5	2,385.5
Mineral Sciences Division, UOP, Inc.	14	8,416	9,891
Noranda Exploration, Inc.	3	1,635	1,803
U.S. Steel Corporation	9	501	2,223
TOTAL	98	39,203.3	49,562.3

AMAX Exploration, Inc. drilled three holes toward the latter part of the year. Two holes were in northwest Price County and the third was located in north-central Taylor County.

American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc. completed a total of 12 holes in Taylor, Marathon, and Langlade Counties.

E.K. Lehmann and Associates of Wisconsin, Inc. drilled 19 holes in northwestern Price County, Rusk County, and southeastern Price County. The southeast Price County drilling includes ten drillholes in one section.

Exxon Minerals Co., USA continued its drilling related to the Crandon project including, out of ten drillholes, seven holes from which were taken large-diameter cores for bench-scale and pilot plant testing and evaluation. Two other drillholes--unrelated to the Crandon project--were completed: one in eastern Forest County and another in northern Florence County.

Kerr-McGee Corporation explored for base metals in northeastern Forest County (five drillholes) and completed two holes for uranium on county forest land in southern Florence County. These two uranium drillholes were completed in concert with a monitoring program established by the Subcommittee on Uranium Exploration Safety. A total of seven holes was planned for the Florence County uranium project.

Minatome Corporation completed its exploration for uranium in association with iron formation units south of Florence. The 19 holes in 1980 brought the total drilling in this section to 48.

Mineral Sciences Div., UOP completed 14 holes (including nine in one section) in eastern Forest County and western Marinette County. This exploration program, financed in part by Amoco, has been an on-going effort since 1978.

Noranda Exploration, Inc. drilled two holes in Jackson County and a single hole in Oneida County in an area several miles southeast of their Pelican deposit, a small zinc-copper massive sulfide orebody.

U.S. Steel Corporation drilled nine holes in search of uranium in northwestern Waushara and southern Portage Counties. The effort was not successful in locating uranium mineralization and the entire set of data and cuttings has been publicly released to the State Geologist.

Make this a geographic (county) summary and leave off specific company reference.

METALLIC MINERAL EXPLORATION LICENSEES

In accordance with s. 144.832(2), Stats., and NR 130.05, Wis. Administrative Code, companies involved in metallic mineral exploration must secure a license from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This license entitles the company to explore (drill) for metallic minerals in Wisconsin subject to providing notice prior to commencement of drilling and to following specified procedures for drillhole abandonment. The licensees for 1980 are listed below. Exploration licenses are renewable on July 1 of each year--an asterisk (*) indicates a company holding a license in the first half of 1980, but not renewing the license after July 1st for the 1980-1981 year.

License		License	
<u>No.</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Company</u>
1	Exxon Minerals Co., U.S.A.	10	AMAX Exploration, Inc.
2	Western Nuclear, Inc.	11	Mineral Sciences Division, UOP, Inc.
3	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	12	Inspiration Development Co.
5	E.K. Lehmann & Associates of Wisconsin, Inc.	*13	Eagle-Picher Industries, Inc.
6	Central Wisconsin Joint Venture	14	Duval Corporation
7	St. Joe American Corporation	15	Minatome Corporation
9	American Copper and Nickel Co., Inc.	*16	U.S. Steel Corporation
		17	Kerr-McGee Corporation

WLEX
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION
Geological and Natural History Survey
1815 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706