



For Immediate Release

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New North Company Named Best Small Company to Work For in the Country Berlin-Based Badger Mining Corporation Wins Top Honors

APPLETON, Friday, July 14, 2006 – New North, Inc. is excited to announce that Badger Mining Corporation (www.badgerminingcorp.com) has been named one of “The Best Small and Medium Companies to Work For in America.” The Berlin, Wisconsin-based company won top honors in the small-size company category, beating 136 other small companies that qualified to participate.

“Once again, the New North region is receiving national recognition for being one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family,” said Jerry Murphy, executive director of the New North, Inc. “Badger Mining’s ranking only reinforces what we already know: that the New North has outstanding companies that treat their employees well.”

Badger Mining and the other companies that made the top 25 received high marks for having low turnover rates, providing employee development training, and being flexible with time off. The 50 best small and medium-size companies named have an average turnover rate of 11 percent, offer an average of 41 hours of training each year to employees, and give employees an average of 28 paid days off after one year of employment.

At Badger Mining, the turnover rate is just *4 percent* and there is no limit to paid time off.

Badger Mining’s award is the latest recognition for companies in the New North region. This week, Appleton was named one of the top 150 affordable places to live in the country by Forbes Magazine, and in May, Oshkosh was named one of the top “50 Smart Places to Live” in the country by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine. Earlier this year, four companies headquartered in the New North – WPS Resources, Oshkosh Truck, The Manitowoc Company, and Banta Corporation – were also recognized as among the top 1,000 corporations in the country by Fortune Magazine.

“We are very pleased by the continued national recognition the New North region is receiving,” Murphy said. “We are proud of Badger Mining and the positive impact the company is having on the community and its employees.”

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Badger Mining Corporation is a privately-held, family-owned international corporation that manufactures industrial silica sand, limestone, and other aggregates. The company's roots go back over 100 years to the turn of the century, when the forefathers of Badger Mining began mining industrial silica and bank sand in the Berlin area in the early 1900's.

New North, Inc. is a regional collaboration effort focused on promoting regional cooperation and economic development in an 18-county region in Northeast Wisconsin. The 18 counties included in the New North are Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Waupaca, Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Marinette, Door, Kewaunee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Florence, Menominee, and Waushara.

To find out more information about the New North, Inc., please visit our website at www.thenewnorth.com.