

COURAGEOUS CITIZENS RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTIONS ABOUT AN EXPANDED FRAC SAND MINE IN THE TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY. READ THEIR COMMENTARIES! KUDOS TO THESE PEOPLE FOR ALLOWING THEIR MESSAGES TO BE PRINTED IN THIS FRAC SAND SENTINEL.



*.....keeping  
watch on the  
industry*

Issue: # 132  
Date: APRIL 5, 2017



**On March 18, 2017, a hearing regarding expansion of the Hi Crush mine in the Town of Bridge Creek was held. Citizens were allowed to give input. Following are statements made by 3**

**citizens who agreed to have their comments published. Many thanks go to these competent individuals who have studied the concerns and issues brought by this industry to small communities and towns in the state of Wisconsin. Their work should be an encouragement to others to get involved in their own local issues for the health, safety and welfare of all the citizens who are impacted by frac sand facilities. Pollution knows no boundaries in the frac sand industry and it is important that governmental officials learn more about protecting their local residents and those who live far from the areas where there is an abundance of sandstone "free" for the taking.**

**March 18, 2017 My name is Jane Justesen and I am a resident of the City of Augusta. Although I do not live in Bridge Creek, I have been an active observer with the development of the sand mines in our area. I am certain that the employees of Hi Crush are familiar with my observations of their blasting. I have documented the blasting's since they began in 2013 and ended in November, 2015. The videos of the blasting's were made into a video and were part of an exhibit at the Heyde Art Center in Chippewa Falls last fall. I would be happy to email a copy of it to you if you would like to see the effect that the blasting has had on the area. The Wisconsin State Historical Society has**

requested this video and the other photograph's that I have recorded. I have more questions than comments regarding the mining of this new 40 acres.

- It is my understanding that the sand located off of RR was of poor quality and so the mining operation returned to the area off of Hwy M. Thus, why would these 40 acres be of any significance in the overall operation?
- The revised mining agreement included a clause that no mining would occur within a mile of any schools, public or private. There is an Amish school located directly across the road from this acquired 40 acres. I do not estimate distance well but it is approximately 125 yards. There is also a school on Hwy M that is 1.6 miles from the new acres by road but less than a mile across country. With the winds in the right direction, this school will also be affected.
- I spoke with the teacher of that school today and she reported that when the blasting was occurring and if it was a windy day, the window sills would have a thick layer of sand on the sills. They were also aware of vibrations at the time of the blasts.
- Will additional wells or high capacity wells be required?
- There is an air monitor located on the west

side of the dry plant. Will additional air monitors be installed at the wet plant and at the new 40 acres? Does anyone receive the results of this air monitoring? If not, why not? If there is nothing to be afraid of in the air why are the results not shared with the town board?

- Kruger Road is located immediately adjacent to these 40 acres. Does Hi Crush have a plan to mine these 40 acres and then haul the sand to the railroad which is 0.8 miles from the 40 acres?
- If hauling is in the plan, what will be done to improve the road as it is entirely sand and winds through several wetlands?
- What will be done to protect the neighbors who live adjacent to this mine site? Lights, noise, vibration, air, and their well water? There are 2 homes directly across from the mine on Hwy M whose well water quality deteriorates with the return of blasting. How many of you would want your families to drink water that is brown in color? Their water has shown an increase in many minerals over the past 3 years.
- Will the addition of these 40 acres increase the equalized valuation of our school district so that our state aid will be even further reduced?
- When Hi Crush met with community members

they told us that the loaded train cars would only be sent out during the day. From my observations, train cars are sent out at all hours of the day. As many as 8 trains travel through our community during the night. We used to be able to sleep at night uninterrupted by the trains.

- Will additional lights be placed at this new site? Nearby neighbors were finally able to get a good night's sleep when the plant was idle. They may not be here to tell you that in person but they will tell you if you ask. The town board has an obligation to protect those living adjacent and near these additional acres.

Address to Hi-Crush at Bridge Creek Town Public Hearing  
March 18, 2017

**EVERY LIVING THING IS DEPENDENT UPON FRESH AIR, CLEAN WATER AND FOOD SOURCE. THE SAND MINING PROCESS IMPERILS ALL THREE. For the past five years every living thing in Bridge Creek has been affected by the mining process and now Hi-Crush is asking our local government to expand and to continue consuming the basic necessities of life. I SAY**

**NO.**

**I say no because Hi-Crush Mine:**

**depletes our ground water faster than nature can replenish it;**

**cannot and does not control nor ensure the air quality around the mine;**

**sand particulates are not captured and over time impact health;**

**blasting the hill sides impacts the stability of homes, wells and peace of mind;**

**destroys the ecosystem;**

**reclamation of the land to return to productive crop land has not been demonstrated;**

**Hi-Crush has not been forth coming to local government regarding its business plan for expansion on contiguous land; I SAY NO TO EXPANSION BECAUSE:**

**I AM CONCERNED THAT THIS SAND MINING:**

**will drive people and other living things away from the land due to its nuisances;**

**perils of blasting, trains night and day, loud conveyors, fugitive sand particulates;**

that private wells will collapse and property values will continue to devalue as the mine expands due to blasting, noise and transport methods;

*that the history of Hi-Crush's disregard for following the rules will continue with no regard to the impact on every living thing (ie: hi-capacity well violation, fugitive sand for one year when not in operation, etc).*

that nothing will grow of any value on this land for decades.

**I SAY NO TO EXPANSION BECAUSE: EVERY LIVING THING IS IN RELATIONSHIP TO EACH OTHER AND THE EARTH. IF BASIC NEEDS FOR LIFE ARE CONTINUOUSLY IMPERILED FROM OVER USE, OUR LIVES, THAT OF OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE IMPERILED TOO. CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE. THEY HAVE NO VALUES NOR ETHICS AND CONTINUE TO SEEK OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION. LOGIC DOES NOT ALLOW CITIZENS TO TRUST THE JUDGEMENT OF CORPORATIONS THAT WILL NEVER BE HUMAN. MONEY IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE BASIC NEEDS OF EVERY LIVING THING.**

**Christine Yellowthunder**

**Resident, tax payer, land owner in the Town of**

## Bridge Creek

### Hi-Crush Application Hearing March 18, 2017

By Carol Peuse

I have concerns about the application that Hi-Crush has presented to the Bridge Creek Town Board for approval of the additional 40 acre parcel that the representative from Hi-Crush at the Bridge Creek special meeting on January 21, 2017 referred to as section 4A. The Bridge Creek Town Board requested a new complete application for section 4A. In accordance with the new Metallic Mine Operator's Licenses ordinance that was approved by the Bridge Creek Town Board on May 21, 2015 and reaffirmed again on January 19, 2017 I do not believe that Hi-Crush has a complete application on file. The questions that I have are as follows in regards to Section 4A:

- Did Hi-Crush submit 25 copies of the application form and all required documentation?
- Was the application fee of \$500.00 together with the base administrative fee of \$2000.00 submitted with the application?
- Did Scott McCurdy from Cedar Corp. review a completed application? If so where is the complete application with Scott McCurdy's signature on the last page of the application?
- The Bridge Creek Town Board just received at

their monthly meeting on March 16, 2017 the Storm Water Management & Erosion Control letter and supporting documents from the Eau Claire Land Conservation Division. Having this letter one day before the hearing is this adequate time to ask any questions from the Eau Claire Land Conservation before this hearing today?

- How often will Hi-Crush be blasting? Since Hi-Crush has not been working this past year the water for many residents of the Bridge Creek Township has cleared up. Their water has been clear and no longer at times has a diesel smell to the water.
- What is the time frame that Hi-Crush has to mine section 4A?
- Has Hi-Crush submitted their annual report, which is required by ordinance to be filed no later than March 1 of each year?
- In the Reclamation plan for the 4A site the reference is made to 5 feet above ground water. Think about your individual height. Think about one scoop of a large backhoe. Once damage is done many times it cannot be fixed. We must protect our ground water!!
- Who from the Bridge Creek Town Board or their representative has inspected the current mine and who will inspect this proposed new addition if approved? Your decision will not

only effect the members of the Bridge Creek Township but also the surrounding area.

- What safeguards are you going to enact to insure that the mine is operating properly?
- What benefit has Hi-Crush been to the Augusta area? It has changed the equalize evaluation of the Augusta School District and cost each and every property tax payer in the Augusta School District additional money.

I do not believe that Hi-Crush has met all of the requirements of the current Bridge Creek Nonmetallic Mine Operator's License ordinance. Therefore I ask that no decisions be made on this application until the application is completed. My Concern has always been for the health, safety and wellbeing of this community! What we do today can have an impact forever on the legacy we leave for future generations. Respectfully Submitted  
Carol Peuse  
Bridge Creek Town Resident

Pat Popple 715-723-6398 [sunnyday5@charter.net](mailto:sunnyday5@charter.net)

*Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.*

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