

SILICA PARTICLES ON ONE'S GLASSES BUT NOT IN YOUR LUNGS? THAT'S THE STORY THE INDUSTRY PUSHES!



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

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**Families living
near silica mines
are being exposed
day in and day out
to doses of fine**

**particulates blowing in the wind and landing on a
variety of places including SUNGLASSES as
evidence by the picture above.**

**Doug Wood lives in Monroe County, Michigan, and
has been fighting the industry that was permitted
and approved for construction and operation in his
back yard almost 7 years ago. He and his wife and
boys built their dream home. Little did they know
that U.S. Silica would move into the area into very
close proximity to their property. Since then, the
company has expanded by purchasing even more
land close to their home. Clear cutting of huge and
valuable trees near his property started within this
past week.**

U.S. Silica is literally blasting the length of a football field away from the residence. While there is a 6 foot berm built around the facility, the family can look right into the quarry. Every process of the silica extraction operation puts silica into the air from the drilling of holes for blasting to the movement of loaders, crushers, and conveyors. Trucks move in and out of the quarry and silica dust can be found on the pole barn roofs 3/4 ths of a mile away. Doug can literally watch the silica coming off the conveyors all day long right from his kitchen window.

The entire operation has produced a nightmare to the Wood family. The noise from all the equipment bounces off the house all year round. Local politicians and government have not done one thing to protect this and other residents living in the area. Doug can't get his taxes lowered and no one seems to believe that the home's value has been depreciated.

About a week or so ago, Doug walked 20' from the house to the car with newly cleaned sunglasses on to go to a local park so he could walk. While walking, he encountered an old acquaintance. Doug proceeded to explain the quarry woes until the acquaintance said, "Dude, you've got a lot of that silica right on your glasses!" Doug

immediately took a picture of the glasses inside his vehicle.

You can imagine the frustrations of fighting the corporate world and government officials who care little about the health and safety of local residents who have to live and work nearby these facilities.

Doug has done what every dedicated citizen, husband, and father would do: try to the right thing by his community as well as protect his family from the exposures to the silica being mined in the quarry. He has collected signatures on a petition so he could convince the company to do air monitoring. He has had no success! He has presented at town meetings and gotten nowhere. He has visited with State and Federal officials. He has distributed materials, made signs, and gone door to door to visit with residents to teach them about the issues and distribute posters. He understands that all hell broke loose when now Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (the former CEO of Exxon-Mobile) didn't want a water tower in his Texas town that was associated with fracking. He joined suit with other wealthy Dallas residents and won. Meanwhile, in Michigan, U. S. Silica makes no effort at all to water down any of their operations! NONE! Can anyone imagine what is occurring to the health of the residents in this Village? County?

Not all community residents have the privilege of being able to sue or even purchase their own monitoring system or even be heard in their local area. What is the State of Michigan doing to protect their residents? Monroe County? The Village? Michigan supposedly has a standard for respirable crystalline silica but they certainly don't enforce it with the mining/gas/oil companies. What is the responsibility of the EPA when it comes to these horrific cases where exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust is common in communities and rural areas across America? In local areas where citizens don't have much voice or even understand or know about what silica dust does to the respiratory system as well as to other body organs due to exposure, no measures are being taken to protect health of these people by those who are paid to protect the citizens exposed.

Doug is looking for help! If you have expertise in the area of controlling nuisances and life threatening exposures, please contact him with your ideas and/or assistance. He and his family would be most appreciative!

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**IN THE FRAC SAND INDUSTRY, POLLUTION
KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES!**

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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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