

THE SAVE THE HILLS ALLIANCE

CONCERNED CHIPPEWA CITIZENS-SAVE OUR HILLS- LOYALTY TO OUR LAND AND MANY OTHERS

Website: www.ccc-wis.com

Take a look at the air quality monitoring going on at several sites in Chippewa Co!

The Frac Sand Times-January 23, 2012

The next meeting of the Concerned Chippewa Citizens/TSTHA will be Sunday Feb. 12, 2012 at Charlie's Place at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend!

Frac Sand mining in Western Wisconsin continues to take over Wisconsin lands and hills, ridges, and bluffs. This newsletter is an amalgamation of information providing insight on a complex topic.

In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy.

John Sawhill, former president, Nature Conservancy

DONATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, ARE NEEDED TO GET THE SAVE THE HILLS ALLIANCE, INC. UP AND RUNNING. WE NEED A STRONG COALITION MORE THAN EVER. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECKS OF ANY SIZE TO The Save the Hills Alliance, Inc. Ken LestrudE, Treasurer, N 7225 690th, Menomonie, WI 54751 Donations are not deductible.

If you would rather give gifts "in-kind", we could use stamps, 8 1/2x11 copy paper and/or colored copy paper, a supply of legal envelopes.

This week's Northland Adventure episode "America's Sandbox" is available for viewing online at :

<http://www.wqow.com/category/183584/northland-adventures>

ALSO – for those OUTSIDE the Chippewa Valley viewing area click here to see if the program will air on your local stations:

<http://www.wqow.com/Global/category.asp?C=183733>

Dave Carlson ends this episode saying there will be more episodes in the coming weeks about frac sand mining here in Wisconsin.

The Sierra Club - Chippewa Valley and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters encourages you to attend the upcoming forum on proposed changes to Wisconsin's mining laws. The forum is this coming Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012 at the L.E. Phillips Library in Eau Claire and will focus on legislative attempts to rollback protections from unsafe mining, a timely topic in light of the Penokee Mine proposal for northern Wisconsin.

You may have received a personalized invitation from Tom Stolp recently, which contains your link to RSVP your attendance at the forum. Please use it to help us plan for the event.

A PUBLIC FORUM: "Protecting Wisconsin from Unsafe Mining"
Learn and Get Involved in Protecting Wisconsin's Natural Resources

**WHAT: Concerned citizens from the Chippewa Valley are invited to an educational forum and group discussion on the subject of "Protecting Wisconsin from Unsafe Mining". The discussion will focus on recent proposed changes to Wisconsin's mining laws that would roll back protections for clean air and water.

Forum presenters include Tom Stolp, Field Director, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters; and Glenn Stoddard, an Eau Claire attorney representing the Bad River Tribe of Lake Superior Chippewa.

**WHO: This educational forum is free and open to the public. Conservation-minded citizens are encouraged to attend. Get more information by contacting Tom Stolp at 715-835-4248 or tom@conservationvoters.org.

**WHEN: Wednesday, January 25th, 2012 - 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**WHERE: L.E. Phillips Public Library, 400 Eau Claire St., Eau Claire WI

We hope you can join us this Wednesday evening,

Chippewa Valley Sierra Club

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Are you familiar with 350.org? It is a great connection to find more recent information about hydraulic fracturing and issues related to the oil/gas industry!
.....

Excellent websites! Updates are continuously being made!

<http://www.monroecountysandmines.org/>

<http://www.tunnelcitysandmine.org/>

WWW.CCC-WIS.COM

Comment from Joe Orso:

http://lacrossetribune.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/joe-orso-questioning-authority-on-frac-sand-mining/article_3fc65092-44b8-11e1-b9ef-0019bb2963f4.html#ixzz1kFwq43mB

Dunn County passes moratorium

http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front_page/article_68c56dae-4263-11e1-b863-001871e3ce6c.html

Chronotype editorial by Dale Crisler of Sumner

<http://www.ricelakeonline.com/main.asp?SectionID=9&SubSectionID=211&ArticleID=23129>

The many conflicts of interest in sand mining

<http://www.wisconsinwatch.org/2012/01/18/when-is-a-%E2%80%98conflict%E2%80%99-not-a-conflict/>

Groundwater impact committee

http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/Committee_looking_into_effects_of_sand_mining_137639583.html?ref=583

Keystone rejected

<http://www.dailynebraskan.com/news/obama-rejects-proposed-transcanada-keystone-xl-pipeline-1.2687018>

fracking waste fails radiation test at landfill

http://www.willistonherald.com/news/multiple-samples-fail-radiation-test-at-landfill/article_58426dcc-41f7-11e1-aba7-001871e3ce6c.html

Augusta recommends re-zoning for Hi Crush

http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily_updates/article_3edb5912-4188-11e1-a43b-0019bb2963f4.html

Clark Co WI contemplates future of frac sand mining

<http://winews.us/content/clark-county-contemplates-future-frac-sand-mining>

SAND MINING: JUNEAU COUNTY

http://www.wiscnews.com/juneaucountystartimes/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_3abbc658-3fb9-11e1-8826-0019bb2963f4.html

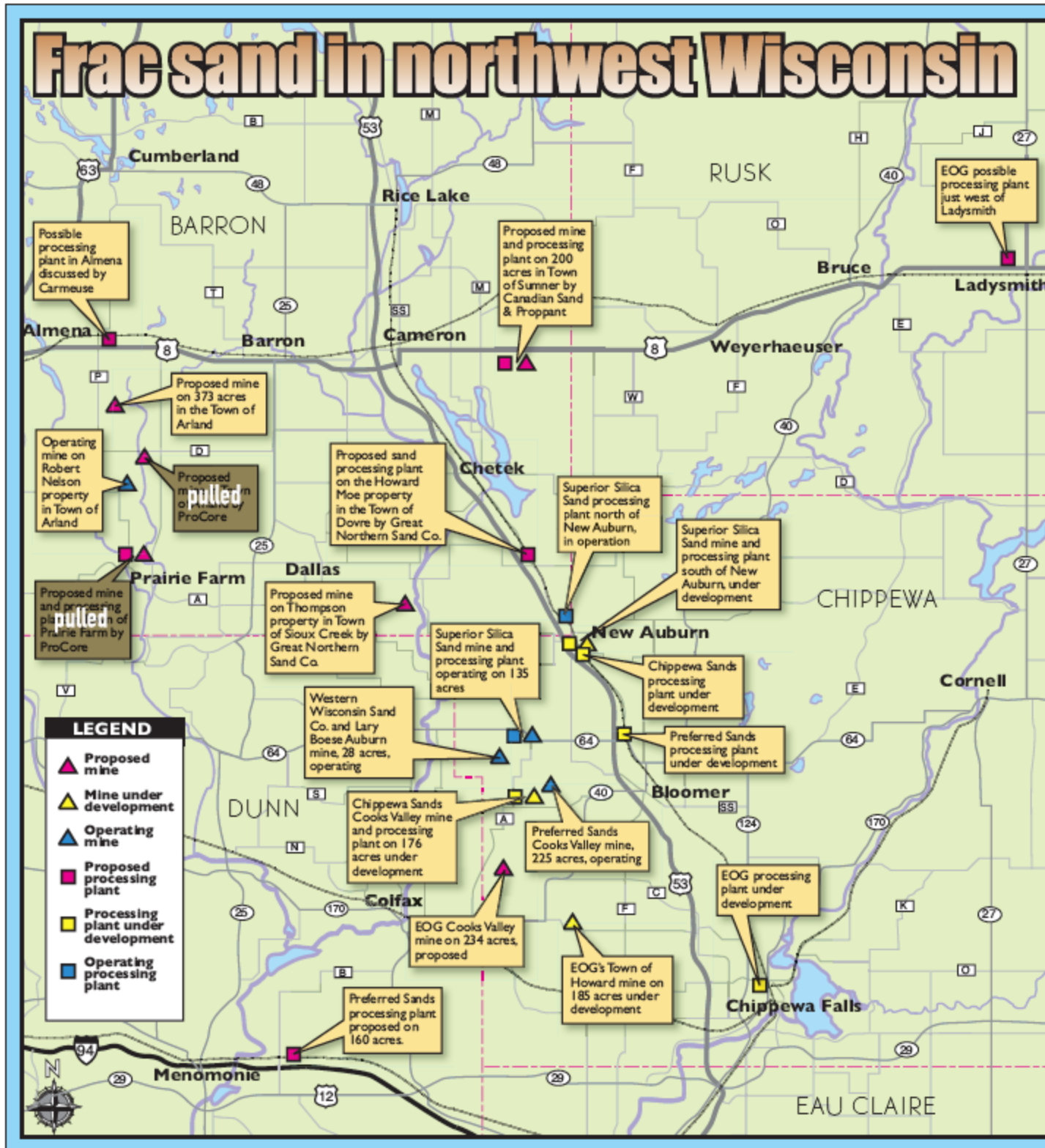
Subject: Augusta Plan Comm approves rezoning

Augusta City Council Votes tues Feb 7.

Remember ... High Crush is interested in 1100 acres in Town of Lincoln. Don't know if that has rail to it. If not, get ready for trucks- LOTS of trucks. No wonder they're building processing plant! The big "sell" has been "no trucks" because of rail to & from Bridge Creek/Augusta plant. If Lincoln project happens, that will be 3 x larger !

Let your Town Board know your thoughts and please tell your friends asap.

<https://sites.google.com/site/hayriverfrac/home> MORE ARE IN THE WORKS for Chippewa Co. Over 5000 acres anticipated. Chippewa Co. folks must call their county supervisor for a moratorium.



Slightly older article about county frac sand routes (Servi from Barron County)

<http://www.ricelakeonline.com/main.asp?SectionID=6&SubSectionID=208&ArticleID=22972>

High Country Sand violations in Cameron

http://www.chetkalert.com/news/top_stories/article_8923d768-420c-11e1-9708-001871e3ce6c.html

Drost Editorial

http://www.chetkalert.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/article_94af8a84-420f-11e1-92fc-001871e3ce6c.html

Goodhue county letter

<http://www.republican-eagle.com/event/article/id/78947/>

DNR in spotlight over sand mine next to park

<http://www.newstrib.com/articles/news/local/default.asp?article=31908&aname=DNR+in+spotlight+over+sand+mine+near+park>

Tilden looking at zoning

<http://www.wqow.com/story/16559241/local-town-considering-advisory-referendum-on-zoning>

Local board of health makes recommendation on sand

<http://www.wqow.com/story/16559060/local-board-of-health-makes-recommendation-on-sand-petition>

Preferred Sand Buys Winn Bay Sand

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/preferred-sands-secures-376-million-loan-for-acquisition-and-capacity-expansion-projects-2012-01-20>

Crisler Letter to the Editor- Rice Lake Chronotype - Sand Conference and Barron County BOA hearing on Town of Sumner special use permit

<http://www.ricelakeonline.com/main.asp?SectionID=9&SubSectionID=211&ArticleID=23129>

Dale F. Crisler, Town of Sumner

Sumner Board votes to reverse rezone recommendation and to enact a moratorium

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20469110&BRD=1132&PAG=461&dept_id=157660&rft=6

Sand Mine workshop in Goodhue County

<http://www.postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1483023>

House Republicans questions EPA's questions about fracking

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/01/20/gop-ramps-up-probe-of-epa-doe-on-fracturing/#2572-3>

Community Development

Frac Sand: Mining and Use

Frac sand mining is a new topic for the Coulee Region and the Nation. This presentation gives a geologic overview of where frac sands are found in the Coulee Region, as well as the practical issues that may be faced by local government officials when a sand mine (quarry) is proposed. Below are some useful resources regarding Frac Sand.

[Frac Sand- Mining and Use](#) - 3 slides per page (11 pages, 2 MB, .pdf)

[Geology of La Crosse County Report-WGNHS](#) (40 pages, 10 MB, .pdf)

[Geologic Map of La Crosse County-WGNHS](#) (1 page, 2MB, .pdf)

[Metallic Mineral Deposits-WGNHS](#) (2 pages, 600 KB, .pdf)

[Silica sand in Wisconsin-WGNHS](#)

[Iron mining in Wisconsin: Locations- WGNHS \(2 pages, 600 KB, .pdf\)](#)

[Mining Resource Sheet- UWEX \(1 page, 100KB, .pdf\)](#)

Jerry N has started a petition "Repeal the Halliburton Loophole" that will be distributed to Congressional House and Senate members on the Energy Committees. Currently 880 people have signed this petition and you can help in this drive by signing the petition at <http://signon.org/sign/repeal-the-halliburton>. Also you can write your Senator and Representative to support H. R. 1084, Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act. The companion bill in the Senate is S.587. **SEND THIS ONE AROUND THE WORLD**

"Conflicts of Interest" are everywhere you turn, yet nobody seems to care. Please share this information.

Here it be: <http://www.wisconsinwatch.org/2012/01/18/when-is-a-%E2%80%98conflict%E2%80%99-not-a-conflict/>

Bill Lueders

Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

blueders@wisconsinwatch.org

608-669-4712

Fracking waste dump checks for radioactivity

http://www.willistonherald.com/news/dump-checks-for-radioactivity-loads-were-turned-away-since-last/article_ed15cf0a-3e07-11e1-bad0-001871e3ce6c.html

City employees and officials are unable to comment on the cause of radioactivity, although Septka said frac-sand bags "are always hot." **NOTE: DOES ANYONE HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RADIOACTIVITY IN SILICA? SANDSTONE? PLEASE SEND ME ANY INFORMATION YOU MIGHT HAVE SO I CAN SHARE IT!!!**

FROM JEAN LARSON: Here is a copy of my notes as you requested.

For me, the question is not whether to have a moratorium on sand mining and processing, but rather - how long the moratorium should be.

I work in the health industry where it would be unthinkable to proceed with something that could harm

human health without doing studies first.

Here are my top 10 reasons on, not only why we should have a moratorium, but how long we need one:

#1 - Til the entire big oil and gas industry is held accountable to someone in authority by complying with the standards of the 2005 Energy Bill. Right now, they are exempt because of a loophole established by Dick Cheney and Halliburton.

#2 - Til it can be shown that the fracking industry using our precious sand is not irreversibly destroying the air, land and water in our country and possibly even be the cause of earthquakes from their injection well usage.

#3 - Til it can be shown that the respirable crystalline silica that is produced whenever our sand is moved (and then able to travel long distances), is not a threat to the health of all the surrounding residents.

#4 - Til the DNR officially adds respirable crystalline silica to its list of hazardous substances which they have printed is one), so that they can have the authority to regulate it. And then every mine and plant will be forced to monitor the air quality at and around their site.

#5 - Til there is agreement on methods of monitoring the air quality and acceptable levels of fugitive respirable crystalline silica.

#6 - Til safe and acceptable methods of storing and transporting the freshly mined sand are established that will not harm anyone in its path.

#7 - Til it can be shown that the use of the many high capacity wells required in the sand industry, is not draining the level of our ground water table so much that drought like conditions result.

#8 - Til it can be shown that the chemicals used in the washing and processing of the sand are the least toxic that is possible to do the job. I have seen the MSDS on the chemicals to be used at a plant near Bloomer which state: "Side effects are irreversible", and "Must not enter the ground water." There is no remedy if an accident occurs. And accidents will occur.

#9 - Til it can be shown that 1 accidental spill of chemicals will not contaminate an entire aquifer that supplies water to thousands.

#10 - Til strict guidelines are established regarding the construction of holding ponds used to store contaminated water for re-use and what is to be done to protect the environment and penalize the company if the pond fails.

Quote from Eau Claire County lawyer defending their new moratorium:

"It is irresponsible to put economics before public health and safety issues."

Jean Larson, Bloomer-Presented at Chippewa Co. Board Meeting: Jan. 10, 2012

Dear friends,

Now that we have a frac-sand mining moratorium, it's a good time to learn more about what may be in store for us, for our neighbors, and for our families in the coming boom. **I highly recommend these.** The last one brought tears to my eyes.

What a boom does to communities and relationships. How the industry uses psychological techniques against the residents (whom they call "insurgents"). A heart-rending story about an organic farmer whose wife died in November and how their farm is threatened by the boom.

Yes, they are all related to the frack boom (drilling for natural gas) --- but the issues (water, air, noise, trucks, roads, pitting neighbor against neighbor, etc) are still very pertinent to us in Winona Co.

Jim
523-3113

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"It's Like We're Losing Our Love . . ." [slideshow]

Research scientist Simona Perry, PhD, studied and documented social change in a Pennsylvania county during the fracking boom 2009-2011. (Use icons in upper right for options to view.)
<http://mediasite.cidde.pitt.edu/mediasite/SilverlightPlayer/Default.aspx?peid=689293c50f404f12b8c628b8f2285780>

Drillers using counterinsurgency experts [newspaper article]

Marcellus industry taking a page from the military to deal with media, resident opposition.
<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11317/1189273-503-0.stm#ixzz1jwEEnKBs>

The Case for a Moratorium on Drilling in the Marcellus Shale [slideshow]

An organic farmer in western Pennsylvania, J. Stephen Cleghorn, PhD, assembles the case for a moratorium on unconventional drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale. He offers a deeply researched and deeply personal appeal to fellow citizens to understand the risks of this type of drilling and to advocate for a halt to it until it is known that it cannot cause irreparable harm to the environment and public health.
<http://go.to/stopmarcellus>

After Battling Fracking and Cancer, Lucinda Lost, and Found [article]

Article by Dr. Cleghorn (see above), about his late wife. A must-read.
<http://www.truth-out.org/after-battling-fracking-and-cancer-lucinda-lost-and-found/1326391924>

NO MINES IN THE PENOKEES:

<http://wcmcoop.com/members/the-anishinabe-speak-there-will-be-no-mines-in-the-penokees/>

Next up? A [Hydrofracking Day of Action](#) in Albany on Monday, January 23rd. New Yorkers from every corner of the state will rally in the capital and meet with legislators to discuss the dangers posed by fracking.

A few notes from the Land Conservation Department Meeting of Jan. 18:

The Land Conservation Committee met with 5 mining companies and they are all planning to expand. Their plans would encompass an area twice as large as it is now. . Another gauging station would need to be in place for the expanded area (for the 5-year study). Dan said they have done all they can do in regard to stormwater runoff and groundwater protection. Someone on the committee asked if there are any restrictions on the permitting of high cap wells and Dan said (as he previously told me) no, unless the 5-year study detects a problem and then it goes back to the DNR. He suggested they should sponsor information meetings to inform the public of the hydrological study being conducted. Another questions raised was if they could “beef up” their non-metallic mining ordinances.

Reclamation was discussed and Dan said it is in the companies’ best interests to reclaim the land as soon as possible because there is some sort of cost to them depending upon how much land is torn up at each site. They reclaim in “cells” and they are not required to reclaim one cell before moving to another cell. He painted kind of a rosy reclamation picture by referring to a reclaimed area in the Wissota Area (a former gravel pit) which was developed into a golf course and now is ringed with homes. The bluffs that are being mined present kind of a different picture, though, because the topsoil is thinner on the bluffs, some soil is lost in the digging up of stumps, etc., so it is unlikely it could be farm (or in my opinion unlikely to grow trees).

A PIECE ON PLANNING FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS OF 2012 WAS NOTED:

LCFM 1/18/12

**MANAGEMENT APPROACH AND ACTIVITY SCHEDULE TO BE USED BY
CHIPPEWA COUNTY TO MEET THE COUNTY'S
NON-METALLIC MINE RECLAMATION PROGRAM OBLIGATIONS**

The Land Conservation Committee (LCC) and Dept. of Land Conservation & Forest Management (LCFM) will pursue a proactive approach and activity schedule to systematically:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1/18/12 | •Document and track the current extent of the industrial sand mine development. |
| 1/18/12 | •Communicate with municipalities and committees of county government to explain the extent of industrial sand mine development and activities being conducted by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) to manage this development. |
| 2/21/12 | •Conduct a workload and fiscal analysis.

-Determine the staff resources (skill sets, hours, training, and classification) necessary to meet regulatory requirements of the current county non-metallic mining reclamation ordinance, including the resources necessary for mine permitting, permit renewal, monitoring, and enforcement.

-Determine the current and projected public costs of meeting the County's regulatory obligation.

-Develop options and make recommendations regarding short and long term staffing and funding needs. |
| 4/18/12 | •Sponsor informational meetings to educate the public regarding:

-The extent of the industrial sand mining expansion.

-The permit conditions that have been placed on the mine operations to achieve NR135 reclamation standards (including those for surface and groundwater protection.)

-The best management practices and environmental monitoring actions are being used by the mining companies to achieve the NR135 reclamation standards.

-The hydrologic study that is being conducted to evaluate the potential cumulative impacts of expanded mining and irrigation in western Chippewa County. |
| 6/20/12 | •Review the County's regulatory authority under Wis. Stats. 92, Wis. Stats. 28, and NR 135 as it applies to non-metallic mining, nonpoint source water pollution control, surface and groundwater management, and solid waste disposal. |
| 9/19/12 | •Review and revise the Chippewa County non-metallic mining reclamation ordinance, within the limits of the County's regulatory authority. |

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From a Truck Drivers' Blog Spot:

"There's a steady ad running in the Texas secondary market papers promising 4-6k a week for contract ops however they want 1 mil. ins. plus blower and 100' of hose and ur trailer. (why would you pay them?) You must also be able to load 48k.

This is Flex Frac out of Fort Worth whom is a strategic partner with Superior Silica Sand in Kosse, near Waco. Flex Frac owes Superior millions. Superior is currently in trouble. Superior is owned by a venture group whom is loosing their ### on this venture. Insiders told me that Insight, the venture group has threatened to close Superior several times. Insight is also cozy with Flex Frac.

I've seen Dillon Transport out the Chicago area loading at Superior suggesting the locals are hip to the game and won't play anymore.

Looks like a sinking ship to me....."

Published on Friday, January 20, 2012 by [Common Dreams](#)

Fracking the World: Energy Companies Set Their Sights Globally

Africa, Latin America may see biggest growth in fracking

- Common Dreams staff

While the drilling technique known as fracking has primarily occurred in North America, energy companies are now setting their sites far and wide to extend its use across the globe. The U.S. can expect to see even more fracking in the near future.

service **Platts** [reports](#):

And although the US and Canada comprise the largest chunk of the hydraulic fracturing market by far -- just shy of 90% -- activity in other markets is expected to rise over the next several years, Richard Spears, vice president of oilfield consultants Spears & Associates, said during a Credit Suisse conference call about the hydraulic fracturing market. "If that international piece is \$4 billion, \$5 billion [in 2011], I think five years from now it grows to \$10 billion," Spears said. Areas likely to show the biggest growth globally are Latin America, particularly Argentina, where shale drilling has gotten off to a running start, and parts of Africa. "Argentina sounds, looks and smells very much like West Texas," said Spears, adding Latin America currently accounts for \$1.7 billion/year of fracturing revenues.

Meanwhile, the consultant projected that horizontal drilling -- most commonly used in shale and unconventional plays -- in the US would rise nearly 16% this year to around 18,600 wells, up from 16,100 last year and 12,225 wells in 2010.

Concerns of earthquakes in [Ohio](#) and the [UK](#), [well blowouts](#) and [water contamination](#) following fracking operations have not deterred most companies' plans. **Platts** [continues](#):

"Of the 15 frac companies I've visited with in the last three months, [just] one is cautious" about adding capacity this year, he said, while the rest are adding capacity at about the same pace as they did last year.

Actions you can take:

Talk to your friends and neighbors; send this newsletter out to others; save this information for future reference; if you have something to share, send it; **[help build the coalition!](#)** Write or call legislators at all levels including those at the local level; learn about hydraulic fracturing and see the connections

between what is happening in 32 states in the hydraulic fracturing industry and the “gold rush” for sand efforts in WI, MN , Iowa, and Illinois to obtain the silica for use in the oil/gas industry. We all have commonalities in which we are fighting. We can work together to make it known this is NOT what we want for our state nor for our nation! Alternatives must be found or at least reasonable protections should be put in place if frac sand mining is to be done at all.

Wrap up:

The Frac Sand News is going out to many (close to 500 and some are groups); if wish no longer to receive messages, please send me a note. If you have other names to add, please share the names and email addresses of people who want to be added. If you have ideas, concerns, suggestions, or want to share information, send an email or call.

Please, get involved at your local level to write acceptable ordinances and protections for yourself. Call for MORATORIUMS until proper ordinances and safety measures are in place to protect the health, safety, and welfare of everyone. We’d love to publish links to articles, videos, photos and opinions.

Thanks for your support, your hours, and your interest in ACTION! **Chippewa County residents: please call your county supervisor (those of you living in the city of Chippewa Falls have a supervisor, too, so please call to ask for a moratorium! If you check out the Chippewa Co. website you will find your supervisor’s name. Ask for a one year moratorium. Dunn Co. has Towns that have declared moratoriums. Barron Co. has Towns that have also declared moratoriums. Eau Claire Co. has a 6 mos. moratorium. Despite pleas to the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Jan. 10, we have heard nothing more about a discussion session on a moratorium for this county! Why a MORATORIUM?**

Chippewa County , the City of Chippewa Falls, towns, and surrounding counties have been permitting sand mining and processing plants in the past number of years. During the past 3 years, Chippewa Co. has acquired 6 operating mines and is in the process of permitting two additional mines. In addition, there are 4 processing plants, one of which is in the Town of Dover which greatly impacts the Village of New Auburn. Citizens are greatly concerned about issues related to the mining and processing of silica and the expansion of additional mines, processing plants and resin plants. We ask that the Chippewa County Board impose a moratorium on the expansion and creation of new non-metallic mining operations in Chippewa County for a minimum of one year. The purpose of a moratorium would allow time to obtain and study more data from existing sites and operations, to allow the county adequate time to study the possible impact silica sand mining operations may have on the health, safety and welfare of citizens of Chippewa Co., including air and water quality concerns, provide opportunity to study the compatibility with existing comprehensive plans, give time to develop new ordinances and strengthen existing ordinances at Town and County levels, allow the County to direct educational forums for towns so they can learn without pressure of incoming projects, and study what constitutes conflicts of interest for government officials. In addition, studies on the future potential impacts to the infrastructure of the County must be considered. With the increasing demand for silica sand and the

potential for even larger scale mining operations, it is imperative that all necessary regulations and safeguards be in place before any additional mining operations expand or commence.

What happens in Chippewa County and the Towns, impacts other Towns, Cities, Counties, and the State. Therefore, it is crucial that efforts be coordinated to work with other governmental bodies throughout the county, the region, the state, and the nation to reduce the number of issues this industry is creating and will continue to create without a united front. A moratorium will allow time for those efforts.

It is up to the CITIZENS OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY make this happen. It can't be done by a few. Your county board members may not receive letters or phone calls from their constituents but this is the time NOT to sit back! Go to the website and determine who your county board rep is and take ACTION! Who is responsible? Who will be the rule makers? Who will follow through? Until these questions are resolved, there will be no protection from this industry! Within the next couple of months, over 5000 acres of valuable agricultural land, hills, ridges, bluffs in Chippewa County alone will be consumed by the silica sand industry. Is that why you live here? How will it affect you? Send an email, a hand written letter or make a phone call!

715-723-6398 www.ccc-wis.com (website; stop by and add something new to the discussion sessions!)