

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!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

The Frac Sand Times-January 8, 2012

The next meeting of the Concerned Chippewa Citizens/TSTHA will be Sunday Jan. 8, 2012 at Charlie's Place at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend! Work time planned!!!

rac 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.

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it." — President Lyndon B. Johnson, on signing the Wilderness Act of 1964

"Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method."
President Theodore Roosevelt

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

TILDEN CONSIDERS ZONING.....

<http://www.wqow.com/story/16439198/area-town-considers-advisory-referendum-on-zoning>

Posted: Jan 03, 2012 6:13 PM CST
By Jerry Gallagher - bio | email

Chippewa County (WQOW) - The growth of sand mining is one reason a Chippewa County town could go to referendum.

The Town of Tilden is considering an advisory referendum on zoning. Right now, the town does not have zoning authority, but a committee is drawing up maps covering roughly 10,000 acres. The focus would be to preserve that land for agriculture. It would give the town more control over issues like urban sprawl and sand mining.

So far, the town board has not received any permit applications from frac sand companies, but Chippewa County has been a hotbed for mining activity.

Two public hearings are being planned to discuss zoning: January 19 and 21.

The referendum would be held in April. The Tilden Town Board is considering two questions. Do residents favor zoning and, if so, do they agree with how the zoning maps are laid out? The referendum would not be binding. The town board has the final say, but if residents strongly support the town having zoning authority, the board could vote on the issue and having everything in place by the fall.

Thank you for signing ***Repeal the Halliburton Loophole*** petition. With your help, we've reached 301 signers. But if we are going to have an impact, it's critical that more people contact The United States House of Representatives and The United States Senate.

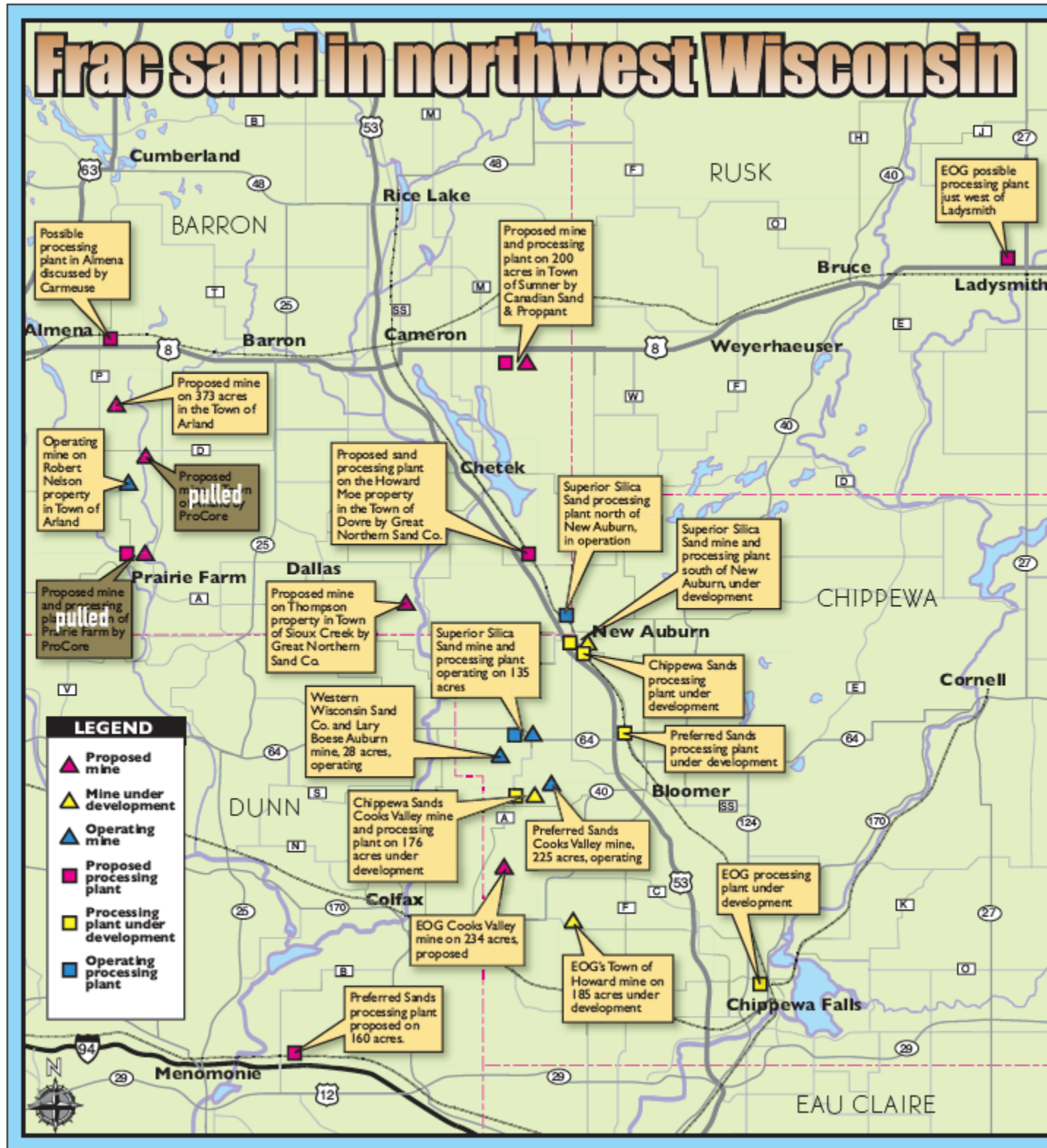
Can you please forward this email to five of your friends right now? With your help, we can reach our goal! Share this link: http://signon.org/sign/repeal-the-halliburton?source=s.em.cr&r_by=584638&mailing_id=1587

The Halliburton loophole exempts gas companies from EPA regulations, which makes it much easier to shoot toxic chemicals through the groundwater and into the Earth's surface.

Thank you for taking a stand on this important issue.

–Gerald Newman

Below you will find a map of the area with sand mines/processing plants. Not all are on this map. Pretty extensive.....with more planned. What a legacy this industry will leave for future generations!



EC County sued over sand mine moratorium

<http://www.wqow.com/story/16439130/company-sues-eau-claire-county-over-sand-moratorium>

Town of Tilden looks at zoning

<http://www.wqow.com/story/16439198/area-town-considers-advisory-referendum-on-zoning>

Winona is a hot bed for sand mining

<http://www.startribune.com/local/blogs/136612183.html>

Winona delays vote on moratorium

<http://www.wxow.com/story/16439970/winona-county-sand-frac-discussion>

<http://www.ricelakeonline.com/main.asp?SectionID=54>

Sand company seeks permit

Great Northern Sand, of Ettrick, has applied to the state DNR for a permit to impact wetlands in conjunction with a proposed sand processing facility in the Barron County Town of Dovre. The project is near the state-owned New Auburn Wildlife Area between Chetek and New Auburn. More information is available by contacting Dan Harrington of the DNR at 715-635-4097.

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Winona to decide on Fracking moratorium on Jan 10

<http://www.postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1481211>
<http://www.startribune.com/local/136711213.html>

Frac sand top story in 2011 for Barron County

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20468738&BRD=1132&PAG=461&dept_id=157660&rft=6

Permit process might be longer in Buffalo county

http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/local/article_a9d37e90-375e-11e1-afc-0019bb2963f4.html

RICE LAKE CHRONTYPE: ON LINE---A RESPONSE:

Article comment by: Heather Andersen

In response to Mr. Kniess and Mr Boyd on silicosis from frac sand. Please become informed on this issue and realize that this is not an easy task. It requires some research.

Although all sand contains silica the danger is not in the sand on roads or beaches. The danger of respirable crystalline silica dust comes from the disturbance of the sand that has been in our earth for millions of years. As the mines tear open our hills and bedrock, silica quartz or crystalline silica dust is released. This cannot be seen as the particles are smaller than the pollen from plants. These particles are inhaled and come to rest in our lungs causing serious and irreversible damage. Those at most risk are the elderly, the very young and those who's health is already compromised. Please be informed that the round, hard grains of sand themselves are not the issue. The problems are the particles that hold that sand together forming our landscape. An easy explanation is that the 'glue' that holds the sand grains together is the danger. As this sandstone is broken apart the crystalline silica dust is now free to be blown miles away from the mine or processing plant. This is the reason for air quality programs from the DNR and other federal agencies. To control the dust from these sites watering down the sand piles is frequently used. Viewing the end results of the amount of respirable crystalline silica dust by the use of air monitor readings is used as a gauge to determine the amount of dust in the air. There are 100 plus physicians and health care workers who have signed a letter stating that respirable crystalline silica dust is a health risk. These health care workers are from the immediate area.

We are in a unique situation in this area of Wisconsin i.e., having many mines and processing plants in a relatively small area and more to come may pose a threat to our health. There hasn't been any data collected about the dangers of the fugitive dust (fugitive dust is that dust which is allowed to blow freely from, for example, stockpiles of frac sand) to citizens living in the area of mines as there has been the research involving those miners who work in the actual mines and facilities where silicosis is a very real health problem. We cannot stop these mining companies from starting up their businesses. We need jobs. We also need to understand and accept the health risks and deal with those issues in a sane and non combative manner . A health issue is just that....a health issue. There is absolutely no political gain nor loss to be realized on any side if we continue to keep the health, safety and well being of all our citizens in the fore front of this new industry.

Heather Andersen
Town of Auburn
Chippewa County

Posted: Wednesday, December 28, 2011
Article comment by: Dick Boyd

I think that is a good thing because that will give people Jobs and bring money into the county that sand doesnot hurt anyone it seems like that everytime that sonething good comes into the county people Bitch about something they donot know nothing about they always Bitch about Jobs but when they get them they want to run the Jobs away

Posted: Saturday, December 24, 2011
Article comment by: Randall R. Kniess

Is now the time I need to scream that we are all doomed? Some have tried to convince me that I will suffer from silicosis because they are mining THIS sand. Oh really? Then my question to them is simple. Do you go to a beach in the summer? Why are you not crying that every gravel road be paved over? All have sand made of silica. Again the greenies have affected the common sense and the wild eyed scaremongers are seeking ears to bend.
I STAND WITH WALKER!

[Top 10 of 2011: Citizens dig for information during moratorium](#)
Regan Carstense@1022012

A supervisor who works at Hi-Crush in Wyeville said that they fill a railcar every 7 minutes with 117 tons of sand, and are getting \$200 per ton. This means that every 7 minutes, each railcar is worth \$23,400. Multiply this by every railcar that goes out daily with 24/7 operations and you can see that the numbers add up quickly.

If this information is accurate, it does not seem unreasonable to ask in a developer agreement for 10-15 cents per ton, similar to what Greenfield did with UNIMIN.

I have attached the UNIMIN Developer Agreement as an example. See page 3, item 7.
Item 8 deals with the property taxes, which is also something to consider.

Anything that can be agreed upon that would help bring funding into the local community might be worth asking for. The worst they can say is "no".
Donna Evans



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Northern Region Headquarters
810 W Maple Street
Spooner, WI 54801

December 27, 2011

IP-NO-2011-3-08005, 08012

CRS Proppants

W11632 Whalen Road

Ettrick, WI 54627

ATTN: Robbie Sage, Vice President

RE: Moe Property Processing Facility, Town of Dovre, Barron County

Dear Mr. Sage:

The enclosed document is a "Notice of Complete Application" for your project. If you requested a public hearing in your application, a notice of public hearing is also enclosed. Wisconsin law requires that the public be allowed an opportunity to comment on projects like yours. The enclosed notice(s) help you meet this requirement.

Before I can proceed in processing your application, state law requires that you:

Publish this as a Class I Notice, at your expense, in The Chronotype, 28 South Main Street, Rice Lake WI 54868-0030 Fax:(715) 234-5232.

1. Obtain an affidavit from the newspaper to prove that the notice was published.
2. Mail a copy of the enclosed notice by U.S. Mail with Return Receipt Requested to interested and potentially interested members of the public. The Department has determined, pursuant to s. 30.208, Stats., that you must notify the parties listed below. You may notify others at your discretion. You also must mail a copy of the notice to any person or group who asks you to do so.
 - Arthur & Kathleen Harelstad, New Auburn, WI 54757
 - David & Cherrie Nichols, 233 27th Street New Auburn, WI 54757
 - Troy B. Birkenmeier 175 271 ½ Street, New Auburn, WI 54757

- Raymond & Amelia Shackleton, 331 27th Street, New Auburn, WI 54757
- Richard Pless & Rachel Hodges, 2814 3 ½ Avenue, New Auburn, WI 54757

Please send me the original affidavit and Return Receipts as soon as possible, to prove publication and notification. If I do not receive the affidavit and Return Receipts by January 25, 2012, the Department may dismiss your application without prejudice. If your application is dismissed, you may resubmit an application for the contract or permit.

Please write or call me at (715) 635-4097 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Harrington

Water Management Specialist

Ecc: Ruth King, Storm water program, DNR-Spooner

Kevin Morgan, Wildlife biologist, DNR-Barron

Dan Seemon, ACOE-St. Paul, MN

Traci Peterson, Barron County Land Conservation

Natalie White, Shanna Skillet, SEH-Consultants

AB 426: Iron Mining Bill

This mining bill jeopardizes the health of our families and our environment to support the interests of wealthy, out-of-state mining executives. Here are some of the most egregious provisions in the bill.

Silences the voice of the public

- Removes citizens' right to sue for illegal environmental damage by a mine. (pp. 20-21*)
- Removes all contested case hearings, which provide the only opportunity to challenge data and question mining officials on the record. (pp. 7, 10, 18)
- Only one required public hearing for the entire mining project, current law requires a minimum of three. (p. 10)
- Caps the amount a mining corporation must pay to the state for analyzing its permit, leaving the public to pay the remainder of the bill. (p. 16)
- Directs half of all mining tax revenues to the state, rather than to local governments for their investments in local infrastructure. (pp. 17-18)
- Allows mining corporations to seek an end to their long-term responsibility for the mining site within 20 years rather than 40 years as required by current law.

(pp. 24-25)

Rolls back commonsense environmental protections

- Allows mining corporations to dump toxic mine waste into sensitive wetlands and floodplains. (p. 23)
- Allows mining corporations to contaminate the groundwater of neighboring properties. (pp. 33-34)
- Allows mining corporations to draw down water levels from rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater. (pp. 31-33)

The Gogebic Taconite mining project could use as much as 41 million gallons of water each day, more than the daily water use of the entire city of Madison.

- Significantly weakens the current law requirements for mitigation, then requires wetland fill permits to be issued as long as mitigation under those weakened laws is offered. (pp. 28-29)
- This bill allows iron mining law to supersede all other environmental regulations, unlike current law which gives deference to existing environmental laws, and unlike laws all other industry is subject to. (p. 18)
- Allows DNR to provide an exemption for a mining corporation from any requirements it sees fit. (p. 15)

This bill includes a legislative finding that states it is

“probable that mining these deposits will result in adverse impacts” to our natural resources, and those impacts are “presumed to be necessary.”

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join us:

This bill conflicts with the historic Great Lakes Compact by allowing groundwater pumping that will cause environmental harm.

*Refers to Wisconsin Legislative Council's Dec. 9, 2011 memo on the bill, available online at www.cleanwisconsin.org/mining

between what is happening in 32 states in the hydraulic fracturing industry and the “gold rush” for sand

and shale gas. The industry is currently in a state of rapid expansion, with many new wells being drilled and completed. This has led to a significant increase in the demand for sand, which is a key component in the hydraulic fracturing process. The “gold rush” for sand refers to the intense competition for sand resources, particularly in the Gulf Coast region of the United States. This has led to a sharp increase in sand prices, which has in turn led to a number of legal challenges and regulatory changes. The industry is also facing increased scrutiny from environmental groups and the public, who are concerned about the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the environment and public health.

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safety, and welfare of everyone. We’d like to see the industry and regulators work together to address these concerns and ensure that hydraulic fracturing is conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

We’re committed to protecting the environment and public health, and we’ll continue to work with the industry and regulators to ensure that hydraulic fracturing is conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

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See you on Sunday, Jan. 8 for our monthly meeting!