

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! Leave a comment.

The Frac Sand Times-January 30, 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!

The frac sand industry is enlarging so quickly that it is difficult to keep up with all the written literature on the topic! There may be something in each reference that may help our your plan.

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.

A Survey on establishing standards for silica dust: http://chippewa.com/news/local/more-trains-to-impact-traffic-emergency-services/article_cff31fd6-45e6-11e1-8253-0019bb2963f4.html

A MESSAGE FROM MARK RUFFALO FOR ALL OF US? DO YOU FEEL HOPELESS?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0EXnXg2xtQ&feature=youtube_gdata_player

A TOOLKIT from Red Wing, Mn is available for the public from this link. Towns or counties looking for a template for a Moratorium can find one in this document. It contains a great deal of other information you might find of interest as you work with your town boards and/or county boards to develop ordinances, develop moratoriums and educate the public and the government officials about silica mining and processing.

<https://sites.google.com/a/everythingredwing.com/save-hay-creek/fracking-documents/townshiptoolkit.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1>

I receive many emails daily often asking for a little direction. The one came from Arkansas. Please read it and determine if you have heard anything like this in your experiences with the mining company. Promises, promises.....along with lies and shocking information:

“Just a few weeks ago I found out that a silica sand processing plant was being proposed about 800 feet from my house. This plant is simply a processing plant, not a coating plant or a mine. The proposed plant is also adjoining a city Ball park, city pool and soccer field. A handful of concerned residents brought our concerns to the city council who were voting on a easement to allow the plant access to the area, which is outside of city limits. The permission to move forward with the easement was unanimously passed with no health or environmental concerns addressed by anyone other than the project manager. **(BTW, in our closed door meeting, one of the partners of the proposed project told us that the sludge created by the washing process was safe enough to brush your teeth with.)**”

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 Lestrud, 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.

Chippewa Falls Residents concerned about rail, noises and the like.....note the discussion!

http://www.leadertelegram.com/local_news/story/article_dc9c3e88-41e1-11e1-937f-0019bb2963f4.html

Moratorium and comp plan in Winona county

http://www.winonapost.com/stock/functions/VDG_Pub/detail.php?choice=45953&home_page=1&archives=

Sumner Township (in Barron Co) passes moratorium on sand mining

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

Interesting letter questioning mining "expert" Kent Syverson

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

Fracking materials test positive for radiation

http://www.willistonherald.com/news/radiation-what-does-it-mean/article_3721c300-4485-11e1-9e29-0019bb2963f4.html

Public health board asks DNR to set silica standards

http://chippewa.com/news/local/public-health-board-asks-dnr-to-set-silica-standards/article_d52078fc-43d7-11e1-b915-001871e3ce6c.html

Frac Sand at Starved Rock in IL

http://chicagoist.com/2012/01/21/starved_rock_mine_debate_brings_fra.php

Haliburton to build sand terminal in CO

<http://bulktransporter.com/fleet/trucks/frac-sand-crude-oil-transload-0120/>

A letter to the editor Re: The Wisconsin Towns Association Meeting on Jan. 12! Well done!

http://lacrossetribune.com/houstonconews/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/communities-must-study-frac-sand-mining/article_96a2f8f8-41e2-11e1-98c4-001871e3ce6c.html

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

[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

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.

Frac Sand Mining in the Muscodia area:

[http://www.nbc15.com/home/headlines/Lucrative Fracked Sand Mines Explored in Juneau County 137908488.html](http://www.nbc15.com/home/headlines/Lucrative_Fracked_Sand_Mines_Explored_in_Juneau_County_137908488.html)

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.chetekalert.com/news/top_stories/article_8923d768-420c-11e1-9708-001871e3ce6c.html

Drost Editorial

http://www.chetekalert.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>

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

Sumner board switches gears on frac sand development

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&rfi=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>

Silica Rule sits at White House

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/25/silica-rule-white-house-delay-worker-safety_n_1230800.html

Texas will disclose fracking chemicals

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jan/24/texas-will-disclose-chemicals-used-in-fracking/>

Fracking deserves scrutiny

<http://www.sctimes.com/article/20120125/OPINION/101250032/Times-Writers-Group-Fracking-deserves-scrutiny?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Dunn county considering consultant to study impact of frac sand mining

http://www.leadertelegram.com/local_news/story/article_e548ec05-85e0-592e-8a82-e3d3c74db2ac.html

Letter from Vinehout

<http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/42433/>

Auburn zoning

http://chippewa.com/news/local/auburn-residents-hear-what-s-needed-if-town-adopts-zoning/article_5f210c64-4852-11e1-8ce1-0019bb2963f4.html

Town of Red Cedar open meeting law violated?

http://www.leadertelegram.com/local_news/briefs/article_0b818ee6-575d-5e7b-bdb0-238e48eca473.html

Fracking Industry Executive says 90% of Americans are NUTS

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/lyle-hopkins-fracking-industry-executive-says-of-americans-are-nuts/article_68a2ebd6-70d4-563e-86bf-f997cb22fa12.html

<http://www.ricelakeonline.com/main.asp?ArticleID=23174&SectionID=6&SubSectionID=208>

1/25/2012 1:40:00 PM

Sumner frac sand mine draws protest

“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!!!**

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January 24, 2012

By DAVE CALDWELL - Staff Writer (dcaldwell@minotdailynews.com) , Minot Daily News

[Save](#) | [Comments \(6\)](#) | [Post a comment](#) | 

The North Dakota Department of Health said Monday that it will be testing bags filled with proppant sand stacked in downtown Minot for radioactivity this week.

The decision stems from recent news that the Williston landfill rejected 23 loads of oilfield waste since June due to radioactive contamination.

An independent testing firm called in to investigate the situation in Williston found ceramic proppant, as well as filter socks used in the process of preparing "frack sand" to be pumped into the ground, to be radioactive.

The materials found have been determined to be naturally occurring radioactive materials, but the quantities of the materials turning up in testing is far above the levels found in nature.

Those "hot" materials have been traced to proppant originating in China, according to Terry O'Clair, the director of the North Dakota Department of Health's Air Quality Division.

On Monday, hundreds of bags of proppant material could be seen stacked in plain sight just west of the Third Street viaduct in downtown Minot, at a transloading facility owned by Sand Source Services, a Canadian-owned company.

The facility loads up to 2 million pounds of frack sand onto trucks every day, according to a story on Sand Source Services that appeared in Saturday's edition of The Minot Daily News.

O'Clair said the Minot site has been checked previously at the request of some of the companies that use the proppants. Samples tested within limits of radioactive matter at that time.

"I can't say that every bag up there is like that (above allowed levels)," O'Clair said Monday. "We'll certainly come up and take a look at that. As of right now, I haven't seen any.

"There are some (in the state) - there are some that came in from China. We'll have to come up there and take a look at the ones that are stacked there to make sure."

Hundreds of the bags stacked in downtown Minot Monday are clearly marked "Made in China."

O'Clair said the meter that the Department of Health currently utilizes uses for testing is accurate only at temperatures above zero degrees.

It was deployed to Williston last week, but couldn't be used immediately due to subzero temps.

"I've talked to my staff, and we're going to get up to Minot sometime this week," O'Clair said. "We won't collect samples, but we'll take a meter up there to do some readings."

He said a good way to characterize the testing would be utilizing a Geiger counter on the bags.

Also present at the Minot site in plain view Monday were multiple empty bags resembling those the proppant is stored in, as well as several grain augers that appear to be positioned for use loading trucks.

If augers are being used to move proppant materials, there would be a possibility dust is being emitted from the site, which is obviously not enclosed in any way.

"We'll certainly take a look at that too," O'Clair said Monday.

In addition, photos taken in June 2011 show proppant bags sitting in the floodwaters of the Souris River. Sand Source Services said in Saturday's story that proppant material was inundated in the flood.

The Williston landfill began turning radioactive material away in June.

It is not yet known how much - if any - of the radioactive material is, or ever was, present at the Minot site.

Nor is it known at this point how much material would be needed to cause potential harm to people - or what type of harm that could be.

O'Clair noted that it is important to remember that naturally occurring radioactive materials - including the ones found in Williston contaminated loads - are present throughout the state.

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Below is a piece I wrote today on some alternative futures to the hotly contested Keystone XL pipeline, which essentially, though not overtly stated, shows how silly what I call "playing the pipeline wack-a-mole game" really is, and how truly silly it was to call the Obama decision a "big victory." It was, indeed, a *far* cry from it, not that you'll hear the Big Green groups saying such a thing, especially in an election year.

You will see two alarming future scenarios in this article: a dark future of copious amounts of shale oil/gas flaring in North Dakota's Bakken Shale, a shale basin that currently flares off 30-percent of its gas as it stands -- which, as you'll see, is horrific for the ecological landscape. You'll also see the possibility of a pipeline extending from the Bakken Shale, down to Cushing, OK, eventually down to the Gulf in Port Arthur, TX, where it will be placed on the global market.

In short, this shows article shows the deep inter-connectness between the fracking issue and the tar sands issue. You can't, at this point, talk about one without also talking about the other, at least if you're holding an honest dialogue. Please do share widely!

Best,
Steve

<http://www.desmogblog.com/demise-keystone-xl-means-more-bakken-shale-gas-flaring>

Several people in Menomonie have observed Sand Trucks traveling through the downtown area without the required covering over the truck. They contacted the State Patrol regarding this issue. The State Patrol told them to try and get some identification from the truck (license plate, company name, etc.) and call them. They will give tickets to uncovered trucks carrying sand.

AND HERE IS A NOTE FROM A LOCATION WHERE SAND MINING HAS BECOME AN ISSUE. IF YOU HAVE A RESPONSE, PLEASE WRITE TO ME:

I need help with permitting the Sand Mining projects that will be coming to the County. *****County is getting a lot of inquires about sand mining operations. They **are** going to build Sand Plants and Mines in the County. My supervisor is wondering if there is a municipality or agency out there that has codes, rules , ordinances, laws, etc,etc for all the stuff a sand mine(or any mining operation) may have. They are not just buildings. They will have conveyors that will move sand for many miles. They also have tanks and silo type structures that don't fall under building permits and of course a lot of electrical stuff throughout. Some will be in zoned townships and some will be in non zoned townships. Does anyone have a way to regulate and permit all or at least most of this activity.

Thanks

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Just got word that core drillings are going on in Edgewater, Sand Lake and Bass Lake towns in Sawyer County Are these boring holes being PROPERLY SEALED ACCORDING TO LAW? The DNR regulates it IF the county LCD hasn't an ordinance taking it upon themselves. If they don't, and it's up to the DNR, then any case of an improperly sealed bore hole gets referred to the AG. If the LCD has by ordinance given themselves the authority, then they can impose fines, and it would be a more immediate response I should hope.

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.ciddle.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 PENOKES:

<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.

Dane county sand mines proposed

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/company-proposes-building-big-sand-mine-in-dane-county/article_7777e184-4618-11e1-93e7-0019bb2963f4.html

Juneau County mines

http://www.nbc15.com/news/headlines/Lucrative_Frack_Sand_Mines_Explored_in_Juneau_County_137908488.html

Sand mining permits granted in Buffalo county

http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/local/article_70b5d256-464b-11e1-ad0b-0019bb2963f4.html

Committee approves mining bill

http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily_updates/article_9fcfa112-46bd-11e1-bf2c-001871e3ce6c.html

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/company-proposes-building-big-sand-mine-in-dane-county/article_7777e184-4618-11e1-93e7-0019bb2963f4.html

Company proposes building big sand mine in Dane County

**RON SEELY | Wisconsin State Journal | rseely@madison.com | 608-252-6131 | @rseely |
Posted: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 8:00 am**

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 Wisconsin 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).

WILL WISCONSIN FOLLOW THE PLAN AS SET FORTH BY MINNESOTA ABOUT NON-METALLIC MINING?

Assets.matchbin.com/sites/2177/assets/7NHY_GreatPlainsSandsEAW.pdf

A new plan for Minnesota "...the author [of the bill], Rep Michael Beard, has a local (Shakopee) frac sand mine under an EAW -- the Great Plains Sand Non-Metallic Mineral Mining Operation." (Any chance HE wants to limit citizen input?)

http://www.nbc15.com/home/headlines/Lucrative_Fracc_Sand_Mines_Explored_in_Juneau_County_137908488.html

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!)