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[Take a look at the air quality monitoring going on at several sites in Chippewa Co! Leave a comment.](#)

The Frac Sand Times-March 25, 2012

The next meeting of the Concerned Chippewa Citizens/STHA will be Sunday, April 15, at Charlie's Place at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend! Call my number for directions. Coffee and treats will be available. Bring something to share in terms of your latest findings.

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 set standards in your city, town, county, or region. 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.

- **Gasland, the documentary by Josh Fox, was shown in Bloomer this past week. Perhaps there are still many of you who have not seen the film which demonstrates how hydraulic fracturing is impacting the county. If you would like to "borrow" the movie, please let me know. We would like to encourage small groups of people to show the video at GASLAND PARTIES in homes and have some opportunity to talk about how the mining of silica sand connects with the gas/oil/mining initiatives in hydraulic fracturing activities. It can't be shown to large groups in public places without a screening**
- **Ellen Cantarow , a well known journalist from Boston, will be in our area of the state for 8 days this month. We welcome her to our State of Wisconsin. She will be interviewing many of you during this time.**
- **Glen Stoddard is working with the Cooks Valley Town Board to follow through with the mines that have been at work there. Mining companies have been given a deadline to apply for a license in Cooks Valley due to the recent WI Supreme Court decision. If your**

town is working on a agreement you might like to take a look at the Town of Cooks Valley agreement. This is a major win for the town!

- I have been receiving many emails. I try to respond to each one but am very far behind. Some items are in this newsletter or a supplement. Other pieces I can't use due to size limitations or applicability to the area.
- Please report any blatant violations directly to the DNR, the Sheriff's Dept., the County Highway Commissioner or the Land Conservation Office if you can; I can help you out with names to call etc. It is important that information is conveyed to the proper enforcers if we know who they are. The biggest question we still have is WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? Unsafe, unhealthy conditions need to be reported! It appears there are some very concerning incidents that are being overlooked.
- It is up to **you** to report any noted problems to the DNR: uncovered rail cars, uncovered trucks, industrial sludge on the highway, large quantities of fugitive dust coming from the mining areas, storm water blowouts into streams etc! As evidenced by the letter from Jeff Johnson, below, the Department will only take information from individuals calling the numbers (noted below) and they then will respond in a timely matter. Obviously, I can't do a citizens's job! Previously I was told that reports must include **dated photographs, an exact description of the location, and a thorough description of the incident.** Otherwise they won't follow up. In the past, I have been receiving written or verbal complaints from people. Before this past report, individuals identified sludge dripping from trucks, actual dumps of industrial waste on the highways, and uncovered dump trucks returning from the mine. Therefore I wrote a letter explaining the complaints. In the past, dated photographs have been submitted. We have been promised the DNR would be responsible for the health, safety and welfare of people. However, nothing will be investigated without individual citizen complaint as well as **PROOF** of the event! Below is Mr. Johnson's letter of reprimand to me:

Ms. Popple:

I will touch on just a couple of items, and John Stoffel (Compliance Engineer) and Rick Wulk (acting West Central Region Air Team Supervisor) shall reply to you on the remaining issues.

First, I wanted to point out the matter of our timely response to some of these issues, and why it is important for you and others with complaints to **follow my directive** on how complaints should be relayed to the department and air program. "An investigation days later..." accounts for the delay in the actual complaint being relayed to our compliance engineers; and any potential follow-up prior to our investigation, with those originally providing the complaint information. Contacting us directly when the issue is occurring speeds up that process. It is imperative that complainants contact the assigned compliance engineer directly (and if they get the wrong person, we will certainly provide them the correct person on the spot).

At this time, we will no longer be responding directly to your emails that contain complaints from others through you. Please provide the contact information supplied to you in previous emails, and once again included below, to your contacts; and if anyone has questions, they can contact me directly for assistance.

Failure to follow this protocol will definitely result in our delay in responding to potential issues. Chippewa, Eau Claire, and Dunn Counties: John Stoffel (compliance), 715-684-2914 x121; or Rick Wulk (supervisor), 920-662-5181.

Barron County (and other counties north of Chippewa/Eau Claire/Dunn): John Dague (compliance), 715-822-2749; or Neal Baudhuin (supervisor), 715-365-8958.

Next, on the issue of a fugitive dust plan; we utilize the plan to ensure facilities are implementing practices ("precautions") to minimize fugitive dust. I would use the term 'revising' vs. 'fixing' a plan if there is evidence that current precautions outlined in a plan are deemed inadequate based on actual operations, or as operations may change.

On a reality check of current operations, specific to EOG, and in general to other operations similar to EOG's operation, some trucks may actually be empty when returning from the processing facility back to the mine - the reason some may see these vehicles uncovered. Specific to EOG, I understand they have a dedicated fleet of trucks that are completely enclosed (tarps or other coverings are nonexistent as the trucks are already completely enclosed), and the speculation from the observer about EOG's trucks not being covered may be in error. However, it certainly could be tied to another operation, but again, may be an issue that the trucks are not hauling actual materials, and/or the facility had already followed protocol in taking precautions to avoid producing fugitive dust (e.g. materials may already have been wet or wetted prior to transport).

This further enforces the reason why we would need complainants contacting our compliance engineers at the time they are witnessing a potential issue, so we may discuss with them the details of what is occurring. I understand that some may report the issue later, which is absolutely fine, but then the expectation that we respond to the issue on the spot is an impossibility.

Finally, I will note that our program has dedicated time for our staff to work with facilities in this industry, including compliance; we are spending the time in this area for follow up. We will continue to do so based on program priorities and resources available. EOG and some of the other facilities in the area are just a few of the sources our staff deal with day to day.

Thank you again for contacting us with these issues, and please don't hesitate to contact me or the other supervisors noted above with any other general issues or questions.

~ Jeff

Jeff Johnson, P.E.

Deputy Director (Acting), Bureau of Air Management

WI Department of Natural Resources

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Have you checked out potential mine sites for the Karner Blue Butterfly and the Lupines it feeds on? Finally, an environmental issue addressed

http://m.host.madison.com/mobile/article_f85d7c7e-4c75-11e1-b8da-001871e3ce6c.html



[Waste-water injection well caused 12 earthquakes in Ohio, investigation shows | cleveland.com](http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2012/03/shale_gas_drilling_caused_smal.html)

http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2012/03/shale_gas_drilling_caused_smal.html

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Subject: FW: Winona in today's Star Tribune

If something isn't done to regulate this as many as 54,000 semitrailer trucks per year would go down Main St. in Winona.

<http://m.startribune.com/news/?id=142212775&c=y>

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Mining Bill Unsound:

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/margaret_krome/margaret-krome-obvious-truth-is-mining-bill-was-unsound/article_de990c6b-ca3d-53a5-9d84-2c40444c0b21.html

REFERENCES: Historic!

<http://www.propublica.org/series/fracking> Check it out: lots of references!

Silica sand moratorium 'just a start' — Winona residents object to exemption

Posted: Mar 20, 2012, 11:11 am

By [Brett Boese](#)

The Post-Bulletin, Rochester MN

'Drill Baby Drill' Will Never Curb Gas Prices: Report

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/03/21-3>

Another view from the natural gas people who believe in the hydraulic fracturing industry:
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<http://www.naturalgaswatch.org/?p=939>

Shale Gas Industry Insider: We Are Losing the Messaging War on Fracking

| By [figallagher](#) | Category: [Fracking](#), [Lead Articles](#)

<http://www.ricelakeonline.com/main.asp?ArticleID=23487&SectionID=6&SubSectionID=208>

3/21/2012 12:21:00 PM

County won't join frac sand study

Eileen Nimm
Chronotype staff

A recommendation to boost the salaries of Barron County's chief deputy and jail administrator was sent back to the Executive Committee at its Monday night, March 19 County Board meeting.

In other matters, the county won't spend up to \$15,000 for its participation in a study of the economic impact of frac sand.

The supervisors also approved an amendment to the county's nonmetallic mining ordinance that increases the one-time fee for a reclamation plan review.

And the County Board approved raises for the county clerk, treasurer and register of deeds. Finally, the supervisors approved rezoning three parcels from Agricultural-1 district to Ag-2 district.

Breaking News Alert

Hello, . This breaking news story is just in to newsnet5.com:

Breaking News



Ohio finds injection well caused quakes

A state investigation has concluded that a series of a dozen earthquakes in the Youngstown area in ...

HI COUNTRY SAND will hold a Public Informational Meeting (Public Relations) on their proposed OTTER CREEK Sand Mine:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

6 – 8 pm

**Eau Claire County Courthouse – Board Room
721 Oxford Ave , Eau Claire**

Last Thursday, the EPA announced that Dimock, PA's water was safe to drink. But was it really safe?

The EPA refused to release the test results to the public or the media, so Water Defense and Josh Fox went to Dimock ourselves and obtained the test summaries directly from the families. We found that

the results showed explosive levels of methane and dozens of toxic chemicals used in the fracking process (which are NOT safe to drink!) [Watch our new video with Dimock residents here.](#)

Despite the EPA’s attempts to downplay their own science, these results vindicate Dimock residents who have for years bravely spoken out about how natural gas drilling poisoned their water.

Finally, we have the proof. Not only that, but we have the law on our side; Pennsylvania code requires water this dangerous to be replaced. But we need EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to take action and demand that the State of Pennsylvania do its job by providing these families with access to safe water.

Please call EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson at [202-564-4700](tel:202-564-4700) and tell her to compel the State of Pennsylvania to provide long-term water replacement for the Dimock residents.

These results highlight an escalating water crisis afflicting people across Pennsylvania. **Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Pennsylvania citizens are coping with water that's been poisoned by gas drilling.** Next week, we're going to launch a new campaign to demand action on the growing water crisis in Pennsylvania, and expose the grievous human toll of gas drilling nationwide.

But first we need to make sure that Dimock residents have long-term access to clean water. **Please call Administrator Jackson at [202-564-4700](tel:202-564-4700) and demand long-term water replacement for Dimock.**

AND JUST MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO ADD THAT WISCONSIN’S WATER IS ALSO UNDER SIEGE!

The evidence is overwhelming that there is no way to regulate fracking using any known technologies so that it can be done safely. This has become the tipping point of the struggle for the planet. Either we continue down the fossil fuel road, or or we start to pull back. Adrian, Kurzinski

News from the Town of Auburn and the Village of New Auburn

1. Town Board Meeting: Special! Wed. March 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Discussions regarding non-metallic mining. CLOSED SESSION. Many ordinances. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AND COMMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED!
2. Village of New Auburn: rezoning petition from agricultural to heavy industry (David Rosenbrook property). April 12, 2012 at 7 p.m. in Village Hall, 130 E. Elm Street, New Auburn, WI

OFFICIAL NOTICE: NON-METALLIC MINING AND RECLAMATION:Rogge and Rogge properties-160 acres-residents within 300 feet of property need to make a request for a hearing. Due within 30 days of the publishing of the notice. (see Bloomer Advance for details)

NOTES FROM UP-NORTH IN WASHBURN AND SAWYER COUNTIES:

At last weeks WTA District meeting, Executive Director Stadelman provided an explanation of the development of frac sand mining, mentioning that the area includes parts of Sawyer and Washburn counties. He played it very “factual.” Apparently, his view of factual includes that the chemicals (flocculants) being used is that they are harmless as compared to some chemicals, explaining that they are the same chemicals municipalities use to treat water. He made it all sound very benign. He assured everyone that we won’t be left holes in the ground. We might get

more lakes, or otherwise open spaces. We now have NR135. Things just won't "look the same" as when we had hills and ridges.

Also related to frac sand mining, the Deputy Secretary for the WI Dept of Revenue presented on new requirements for assessors and towns regarding electronic storage of assessment data and preparation of USPAP reports. By way of introduction, he explained that he was originally from Hurley, but now lives in the Town of Berry (Dane County). He said that he moved down there and now, wouldn't you know it, they found the richest deposit of frac sand right across the road from him. He said something to the effect of, "mining, you just can't get away from it." It was said matter of factly....it was difficult to read what he really meant by that...

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Truthout (progressive news service) yesterday had this excellent summary of EPA's latest suppression of water test results from residential wells in Dimock, PA. EPA has assured that the water is safe and refuses to release the lab results, but activists obtained actual lab results from residents and found them alarming.

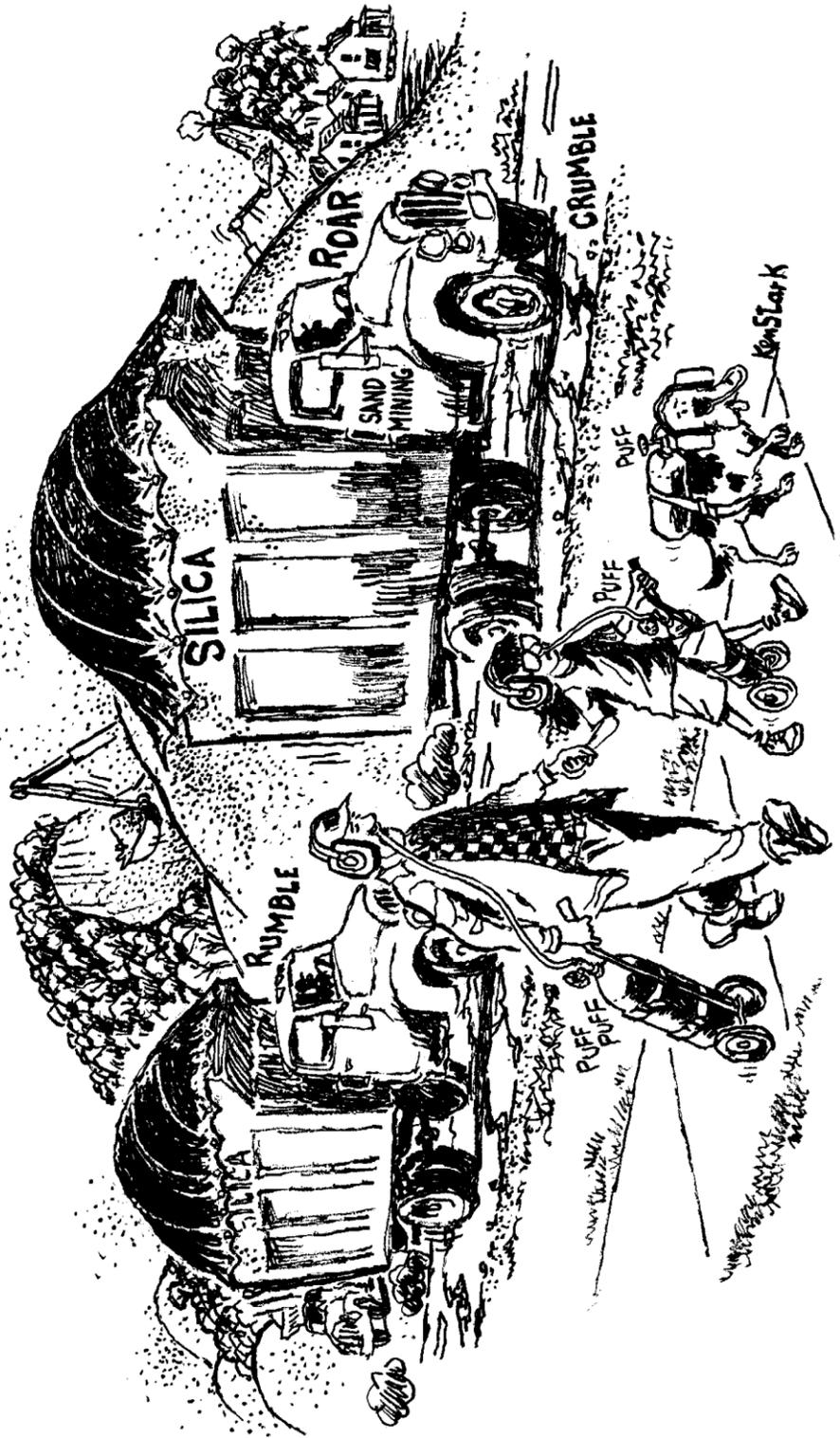
One telling passage has implications for silica air standards also; as long as our regulatory agencies (EPA, DNR) can avoid setting a safety standard, then any amount of a contaminant is permissible:

"They're saying because there is no established standard for safety, then it means that the water they tested is safe and that is just absurd. Just because there is no established safe limits for some of these compounds, that does not mean you should be drinking these chemicals."

Full story:

<http://truth-out.org/news/item/8021-about-that-dimock-fracking-study-results-did-show-methane-and-hazardous-chemicals>

WELCOME TO FRACTOWN, WI...



Used by permission of Richland County artist Ken Stark

An Editorial: it is time for some intergovernmental cooperation and open meetings that allow for communication among many stakeholders affected by the silica mining industry and processing factories popping up in many areas of the state. One town is affecting the other; cities are impacting rural areas and cities downstream from them. Why does any one city, town or county or part of the state have the right to impact the other with heavy industrial products without making some accommodations, creating some limitations, and demanding that the mining companies follow through by tightening their own regulations? The citizenry deserve better. Are YOU going to call your local representatives or others to give ideas? HOPE lies in everyone responding and working together. Many great responses from groups and individuals from outside the Chippewa Co. area with actions they are taking are rolling in. Is Chippewa Co. going to be an "island" without careful consideration of its own residents as well as those outside of it? WE are already deeply involved into transporting our hills, ridges and bluffs to the national and international scene and while we are doing that we are allowing air pollution with heavy use of fuels, emissions, along with dangerous use of our drinking water supplies to wash sand. I can try to spread useful information but it is up to each of the readers of this message to undertake the responsibility to express your views. Call your town board, county board or city council representatives.

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DONATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, ARE NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN THE SAVE THE HILLS ALLIANCE, INC. 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 at this time. If you would rather give gifts "in-kind", we could use stamps, 8 1/2x11 copy paper and/or colored copy paper, and a supply of legal envelopes. Many thanks to those who have been making contributions!

EXCELLENT WEBSITE FOR ALL OF YOU TO BOOKMARK!

Greetings from Buffalo County:

Something to contribute? That doesn't mean that there is any large organized group at this time, but only that it is important that we network, coordinate and share information.

<http://fracsandfrisbee.com/2012/02/19/why-we-need-a-moratorium-a-one-page-handout/> (Great 1 page handout!)

Sincerely,
Lou Anne Roby
Buffalo County

If you haven't seen it, check out Houston Co/Winona frac sand site, <http://www.sandpointtimes.com/> Really easy to read and simple graphics.

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