



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-May 6, 2012

The next meeting of the Concerned Chippewa Citizens/STHA will be Sunday, May 6, 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.

"Only after the last tree has been cut down, Only after the last river has been poisoned, Only after the last fish has been caught, Only then will you find money cannot be eaten."
~ Cree Prophecy."

Frac sand ban lifted: New mining applications to be accepted starting today
http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/article_da3acfb2-940a-11e1-8649-001a4bcf887a.html

Q&A: How to apply for a sand mine
http://www.winonadailynews.com/article_17bb9a74-940b-11e1-b23e-001a4bcf887a.html

Frac sand fee sticker shock?

http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_d61cfb1e-900c-11e1-9bb5-001a4bcf887a.html

County board talks frac mine EIS

http://www.winonapost.com/stock/functions/VDG_Pub/detail.php?choice=47504&home_page=1&archives=

Countywide Meeting to Discuss the Impact of Frac Sand Mining

A meeting of concerned Barron County citizens will be held on Sunday, May 6th, at 1:30pm, at the Barron Community Center Meeting Room, Barron. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the impact of frac sand mining on the county and the role citizens can play in determining the future of our communities. The misleading information being identified as "facts" by Barron County Economic Development needs to be challenged. Citizens across the County have been meeting with each other and town boards to express their concerns about the future of our health, safety and welfare should frac sand mining take over our landscape. Trusted sources have indicated there are valid concerns that reasonable citizens should address before jumping into such a dramatic change in our environment. The meeting on May 6th will give citizens of the county an opportunity to share concerns and valuable information about the impact of frac sand mining in our County. Ways to support one another in our efforts will be discussed. Everyone welcome.

This is very long, but well worth the time to read it.....*This story is from the March 15, 2012 issue of Rolling Stone*

The Big Fracking Bubble: The Scam Behind Aubrey McClendon's Gas Boom

It's not only toxic – it's driven by a right-wing billionaire who profits more from flipping land than drilling for gas

by: Jeff Goodell

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-big-fracking-bubble-the-scam-behind-the-gas-boom-20120301?print=true>

Meeting in Fall Creek:

All Town of Lincoln Residents (Eau Claire Co.) will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, May 10, 2012, at the Fall Creek Village Hall. The program will address impacts of frac sand mining and processing, what towns can do to protect residents and property owners, an update on what the Town of Lincoln is doing, and public input and discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend!

DUST IS OF CONCERN!

The silica industry continues to assure people living in areas near mines and processing plants they are safe. Precautions are taken with workers in the industry but citizens living nearby transloading stations, uncovered rail cars, uncovered trucks, dried sludge on the roads, the mines and processing plants won't be affected, they say. Be certain to read the articles below because there are concerns in the areas where there is hydraulic fracturing! Note the scientific findings. Can we afford to have our DNR officials not be concerned about our health and safety? What about county health departments? And local governmental officials? And State and National officials? The EPA? Here's the alert: Oil and gas workers carrying out hydraulic fracturing are often exposed to levels of fine sand dust, sometimes at more than 10 times the recommended safe limit, according to a researcher with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

OHSA recognizes silica sand as a known carcinogen, and has standards and a regulatory agenda regarding the exposure to this material. It has cautions for workplaces not previously considered to be at risk. From the OHSA website "The industries described above, (see Appendix B) represent the major industrial sources of crystalline silica exposure. However, there are numerous other operations in which silica may be used or otherwise encountered, and it is important to be aware of the risk of silicosis in industries not previously recognized to be at risk."

OHSA requires a Hazard Communication Standard, requiring that "evidence of carcinogenicity" must be included on container labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for crystalline silica, and for products containing crystalline silica. Carcinogen warnings are required on containers of materials containing more than 0.1 percent crystalline silica by weight or volume, as determined by analysis of a bulk sample of the original product. The CSHO should collect bulk samples to determine silica content if MSDS appear inadequate or incomplete." OHSA requires the use of respirators where silica sand is handled, and requires that an "occupational exposure determination should be completed before selecting an appropriate respirator." Additionally, OHSA warns workers to avoid applying cosmetics, avoid eating and to wash hands and face before and after entering areas with silica sand present. The warning contains the following language "Remember: If it's silica, it's not just dust. "

FRAC SAND IS DANGER TO WELL SITE WORKERS:

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-04-30/fracking-sand-threatens-gas-well-workers-researcher-says>

<http://www.frackcheckwv.net/2012/04/30/silica-dust-from-frack-sand-is-a-real-health-hazard-for-well-pad-workers/>

Silica Dust from Frack Sand is a Real Health Hazard for Well Pad Workers

by DUANE NICHOLS on APRIL 30, 2012

And what can you do?

Notify your county health department to check out fugitive dust caused by trucks or railcars that are improperly covered or leaking sand. I am told nurses can ask the State Department of Hygiene to put out air quality monitors. Ask them to write a letter to the DNR Secretary. Write to the EPA in Washington, D. C. or to the regional office in Chicago. No one else can do this for you! Make your stories known. Tell them far and wide! Take ACTION! Your letters and calls

might make a difference if there are enough of them! Draw attention to this issue through the region!

AND FROM PENNSYLVANIA’S FRACKING FIELDS:

“We started to send in requests to comment on compressor stations last November 2011 and now the DEP and gas companies are sick of having us delay issuing the permits due to the hearing for comment on permits for the legal pollution in PA. After many speakers, some changes did happen to the permits, but as long as the companies dot their I's and cross their t's the permits get approved with minor changes. Prior to this they had three comments for all the compressors in PA, now they get 200-300 requests for a hearing. Watch out they might try to change the ability of anyone to have a hearing like is happening with us with the GP-5 permit process. Too bad the DEP is playing into our hand by wanting to change the permitting process and we planned for this problem in November, but got what we needed to go after the DEP in December.

Remember to stress air sampling for the workers and downwind monitoring for daily air samples at least for a base line and then periodically in different weather. The silica sampling medium normally comes from the lab. Then there is the supervisor on site that is responsible for worker safety. Why do you think Libby Montana closed in 1994, along with a bunch of talc mines across the US? There was a new part of the Clean Air Act that went into effect and these sites due to asbestos or silica could not stay open due to worker safety or owner liability.

Talk, get all your concerns out, but remember a permit is a legal device that allows someone or a company to allow pollutants into the environment legally.”

The governor gave a big boost to the road builders with extra (\$10 million) in funds in TRIP-D(iscretionary) Wonder how many of these are mining related to give the mining trucks good roads to haul on?

<http://www.wisctowns.com/uploads/ckfiles/files/2012%20TRID%20awards.pdf>

AND HERE IS A COMMISSION AT WORK!!

Resolution From Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission

**Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Resolution 2012-2**

Urging the Development of Proper Procedures & Regulation in Siting And Operation of Hydraulic Fracturing Sand Mining & Processing Facilities in the Great River Road/ National Scenic Byway Corridor of Western Wisconsin

Whereas the Statutory role of the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission (WIMRPC) established under Wisconsin Statute 14.85 is to assist in coordinating the development and preservation of the Great River Road/National Scenic Byway (GRR/NSB) in Wisconsin and to assist in promoting the GRR/NSB as an attractive travel destination because of its historic, cultural, aesthetic and recreational features such as bicycle riding, viewing scenic vistas and historical markers and

Whereas there has been a literal explosion in the number of applications, land purchases and permits for hydraulic fracturing (frac) sand mining and processing within the GRR/NSB corridor and

Whereas there has been a lack of public notice and applicable detail in the application, approval process and oversight in affected Counties and local governments and

Whereas frac sand operations can cause negative effects; e.g. air & water quality, public health, traffic flow & safety, highway & bridge quality, property value, and aesthetic qualities within the region [all affecting tourism and community quality of life] and

Whereas state regulations concerning site reclamation are inadequate because they were designed for gravel pits & limestone quarries and do not adequately address pit mining for frac sand and

Whereas the potential for frac sand jobs and an economic boom within the GRR/NSB corridor are significant, there is also the potential for significant adverse economic impacts to the GRR/NSB corridor's tourism industry and

Whereas the value of the land and frac sand resources are significant for owners as are profits for the mining industries and

Whereas oversight by County and local governmental agencies is limited by a lack of staffing to adequately address air & water quality regulations, road maintenance, government zoning & permitting, be it

Resolved that local Counties and local governments are requested to establish moratoria on frac sand mining & processes until the State of Wisconsin and affected Counties and local governments can establish adequate procedures, regulations and oversight to protect the communities, highways, property values, traffic impacts, water & air quality, and aesthetic quality throughout the GRR/NSB corridor, and be it

further Resolved that research be authorized and funded by the mine owners & operators to provide valid data on the potential economic impact on tourism and the potential economic impact of frac sand mining on jobs and local economies.

Alan Lorenz, Chairman Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Dated: April 17, 2012

Here's the text of the letter that was sent to the County Board chairs and zoning administrators.

To: County Board Chairs and Zoning Administrators of Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford and Grant Counties

Re: Frac Sand Mining and Processing

Enclosed please find the Resolution recently adopted by our Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission (WIMRPC) that expresses our deep concerns about the potential impact of frac sand mining and processing within the Wisconsin Great River Road National Scenic Byway (WIGRRNSB) Corridor.

As noted in our Resolution, our Parkway Commission recommends that Counties and Local Governments establish moratoria on frac sand mining and processing until the State of Wisconsin and affected Counties and Local governments can establish adequate procedures, regulations and oversight to protect the Communities, highways, property values, traffic safety, water and air quality, public health and aesthetic quality throughout the WIGRRNSB Corridor.

Our Parkway Commission is the designated agency for the WIGRRNSB and our Statutory Responsibility is to assist in coordinating the development and preservation of the Great River Road in Wisconsin and its embellishments and to assist in promoting as an attractive travel destination the Great River Road and its unique historical, cultural, aesthetic and recreational features.

We ask that your Counties take action to insure that frac sand mining and processing does not negatively impact the public health and safety of residents and visitors within the WIGRRNSB Corridor or impact the significant economic benefit of tourists and recreation users of the WIGRRNSB Corridor.

Sincerely,

Alan Lorenz, Chair Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Cc: WIMRPC Commissioners and Committee Members

May 1, 2012 Shale Gas News featured at Energy Bulletin:

<http://www.energybulletin.net/stories/2012-05-01/shale-gas-may-1>

Several articles, plus a you tube video of a young girl in Great Britain pleading to keep fracking out of the UK.

Fracking 'Health Challenges' to Be Examined by U.S. Advisers

[Restrict shale gas fracking to 600m from water supplies, says study](#)

Reporting of fracking and drilling violations weak

[Lancashire schoolgirl wins chance to address MEPs with anti-fracking video](#)

Chesapeake plugs blown Wyoming well

[Drillers May Frack First, Disclose Later Under Draft Plan](#)

Hydraulic Fracturing in Colorado:

http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_20478569?source=pop_section_opinion

AND OUR WEBMASTER HAS A REAL SENSE OF HUMOR!

Have you seen the Chippewa Valley Business Report?

"Frac Sand

The Valley's new

GOLD RUSH

Not to worry, everything is under control and life will be good!

Hank

Not surprising. Exactly what many said was happening. Shouldn't we be certain of the harmful effects of an activity BEFORE we start it?

They appear to have been wrong about the risks of hydraulic fracturing. Are they also wrong about the risks of silica dust to people living near sand mines?<http://www.propublica.org/article/new-study-predicts-frack-fluids-can-migrate-to-aquifers-within-years>

Unearthed: The Fracking Facade – YouTube Watch a small portion of the movie created by South African photographers. They spent time in the United States filming. A very important message that all is not well! Don't miss it!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPIEzSwPwT0>



Listen to the interview between Robert Kennedy, Jr., and Pilar Gerasimo next Saturday, May 12, 2012.

o Listen to Ring Of Fire please select one of the links below for streaming.

KPOJ in Portland: <http://www.620kpoj.com/main.html>

92.1 The Mic in Wisconsin: <http://www.themic921.com/main.html>

KTNF 960 AM in Minnesota: <http://www.am950ktnf.com/>

Or catch a show on one of these stations and listed times:

<http://www.ringoffireradio.com/station/>

Or download the podcast after the show, I think.

More info here:

<http://www.ringoffireradio.com>

We would like to encourage small groups of people to show “Gasland” 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 not be shown to large groups in public places without paying a screening fee.

Please report any blatant violations directly to the DNR, the Sheriff’s Dept., the County Highway Commissioner, local Police Departments, the Health Department 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 must be reported! It appears there are some very concerning incidents that are being overlooked.

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Netroots Wisconsin 2012 Comes to the Chippewa Valley

Netroots Wisconsin, the Wisconsin regional conference of Netroots Nation, is coming to the Chippewa Valley on May 20.

A particular focus of this conference will be the issue of sand mining in Western Wisconsin. Sand mining has suddenly become a very contentious issue in the state. Western Wisconsin is ground zero for the frac sand mining industry. There will be workshops intended to educate the attendees on sand mining issues and to work together on effective tools to create sensible regulation of the over 100 sand mines that will change the landscape of Wisconsin forever.

Wisconsin has been home to many protests, discussions, and arguments over the past 18 months.

Netroots Wisconsin will be held at the Avalon Conference Center in Chippewa Falls the day after FightingBobFest North. Attendees can spend the weekend in Chippewa Falls listening to rousing speeches, going to breakout sessions, and visiting other progressive organizations, followed by a day of workshops, panels and organizing right down the road.

Contact:

Steve Hanson – shanson@netrootswisconsin.org

Web site for Netroots Wisconsin for session proposals, registration, and further information:

<http://netrootswisconsin.org>

Web site for FightingBobFest North:

<http://fightingbobfestnorth.org>

May 20, 2012 - Avalon Conference Center, 1009 West Park Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

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On May 19, the Save the Hills Alliance will sponsor a booth at the Northern Fighting Bob Fair Fest in Chippewa Falls at the Fairgrounds for the purpose of sharing materials and educating the public about frac sand mining in North West Wisconsin. Bring materials from your areas and meet others with the same problems. Jerry Lausted, one of our very own, will be a break-out session speaker. Come and hear his fantastic presentation about silica mining in the Chippewa Valley! More information to come!

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Sign the Water Bill of Rights!

<http://www.takepart.com/lastcall/petition?ngo=cfeh>

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.

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 WEBSITES FOR ALL OF YOU TO BOOKMARK!

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

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.

Save the Hills Alliance: www.ccc-wis.com Check out the air monitors at work plus lots of new additions.

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