



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-June 9, 2012

The next meeting of the Concerned Chippewa Citizens/STHA will be Sunday, June 10, at Charlie's Place at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend! Call my number for directions. Coffee, tea, 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."

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Eau Claire County: Augusta Meeting with High Country Sands June 12- 7pm, high school commons:
High Country Sands will be holding a public forum on June 12th regarding the conditional use permit for their sand operation. It will be held at the Augusta High School at seven o'clock in the commons area.

Propublica Article on ND Oil Boom. Don't miss the information in the article and be sure to watch the videos.
<http://openchannel.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/06/08/12106895-oil-boom-brings-wealth-and-waste-to-north-dakota?lite>

Fracking Fatalities: Organized Labor Implores Federal Agencies to Stop the Killings
<http://truth-out.org/news/item/9621-fracking-fatalities-organized-labor-implores-federal-agencies-to-stop-the-killings>

A friend from Red Wing and I received this personal note from Sandra Steingraber, a physician and activist from New York today (6-7-2012). Of particular note is her story of the silica sand piles which frequent the rail tracks in NY. In WI we have been picking up silica along the railroad tracks here in great amounts, not only in Chippewa Falls but in the Village of New Auburn! Please read the article Sandra has written; silica dust there is as much of a problem there as here. And there the sand has been "washed". Should we be concerned? I think of the families living at or near the mine sites, the people who live near the processing plants. How much exposure is occurring everyday to those people, young and old alike? Thank you, Sandra, for helping us draw parallels between what is happening here in frac sand country with what is happening in the oil/gas fields in 34 states.

Greetings from chilly upstate NY.

I spoke last night in a church basement in Vestal, NY along the Susquehanna River, which is at the epicenter of the frack battle here in NY. The room was overflowing. On the way there, a local activist and I stopped along the railroad tracks so he could show me the piles--small dunes--of frack sand all along the tracks.

I had with me a small jar of silica sand that I had collected last month in Utica, IL, north of my hometown along the Illinois River banks, to make the point that the landscape of my own childhood is being strip mined and carried east to be used to blast apart my children's childhood landscape. Absent our further intervention.

During my talk, I reminded people that silica dust is like asbestos in its method of killing people.

Watching the audience pass around the jar was a very powerful moment for me.

So. . .never give up! And let me know how I can help.

Here's the latest from me on the inherent dangers of fracking. Silica sand is part of the essay. If useful to your own good work, feel free to distribute.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sandra-steingraber/safe-hydrofracking_b_1520574.html

faithfully, Sandra

http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front_page/article_098a0ec1-a425-5d0a-b5c7-8c80a89fc77f.html#.T9NN97bdLzI.gmail

Two sand companies referred for prosecution over spills

Posted: Saturday, June 9, 2012 12:00 am

The latest in Blair:

According to the Milwaukee Journal, the Preferred Sands case in Blair is being turned over to the Department of Justice. As we have stated time and time again, there is NOT a large enough buffer zone for this operation. The city is working with Preferred to annex them and bypass the county ordinances: ordinances that were set up to protect the citizens living near operations such as these.

Article: <http://m.jsonline.com/158269715.htm>

RAIL MAP FOR YOU!

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/library/publications/docs/railmap2005.pdf>

An interesting map of the current rail lines in Wisconsin. Hauling all of this "fracking" sand may disrupt a few peoples' lives along the rails as well.

*****PLEASE READ

FULL ARTICLE:

<http://www.propublica.org/article/the-other-fracking-north-dakotas-oil-boom-brings-damage-along-with-prosperi>

North Dakota's Oil Boom Brings Damage Along With Prosperity

by [Nicholas Kusnetz](#), Special to ProPublica June 7, 2012

"...oil companies in North Dakota reported more than 1,000 accidental releases of oil, drilling wastewater or other fluids in 2011, about as many as in the previous two years combined. Many more illicit releases went unreported, state regulators acknowledge, when companies dumped truckloads of toxic fluid along the road or drained waste pits illegally... Releases of brine, which is often laced with carcinogenic chemicals and heavy metals, have wiped out aquatic life in streams and wetlands and sterilized farmland.

Compounding such problems, state regulators have often been unable — or unwilling — to compel energy companies to clean up their mess, our reporting showed."

The Town of Menomonie in Dunn Co. has a newly developed Groundwater Ordinance which may be of help in preventing the development of heavy industrial areas in that Town! If you wish a copy, please let me know.

A few things from Maiden Rock and the River Area:

Here's a place to be on Sunday, June 10th!

There will be a public meeting at the Widespot Performing Arts Center in Stockholm on Sunday, the 10th, at 2 PM to discuss the proposed new mining facility downriver at Highway 35 and JJ. This event is sponsored by the Stockholm Township Board. If you'd like information on the proposed facility, there is no better place to be.

The Village of Maiden Rock has instructed the planning commission to start the process of changing village ordinances to allow mining in an area zoned agricultural. There will be a public hearing on that topic at some point in the near future. If the ordinance is indeed changed, the Mine can move forward with its request for a conditional use permit to start blasting within village limits in the land known as the Bamford Bluff.

It is important to remember that public officials are supposed to protect the health and safety of residents who do not benefit from an activity. Make sure to ask the Village President about how this will benefit Village residents who will be in proximity of blasting shock waves. Ask him about the meaning of the word "contain", the platform on which he was elected.

A post from Minnesota.....similar stories prevail here.

<http://www.minnpost.com/two-cities/2012/06/st-paul-residents-concerned-about-trains-carrying-frac-sand-through-neighborhoods>

Rail and Barge Facilities Planned for St. Charles, Winona, Stockholm, Red Wing , Town of Menonomie and elsewhere?
Please let us know if there are others!

IMPORTANT FRAC-SAND NEWS: Minnesota
(Questions? Jim 507-523-3113)

WHAT: A proposed 300-acre industrial rail facility in St. Charles. 900 frac-sand trucks entering and leaving St. Charles EVERY DAY.

WHY IT MATTERS: (1) drastic change for St. Charles (2) many more Frac Sand Mines in Winona County. This would affect us all.

LEARN MORE: Informational meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 - Faith Lutheran Church in St. Charles (Across Hwy.14 from the high school.)

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK - RECAP

Monday June 11 - Citizens Concerned About Sand Mining (CASM) - 7:00 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church in WINONA (near Country Kitchen). We'll discuss where we go from here.

Wednesday June 13 - meeting on proposed railroad facility, 7:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church in SAINT CHARLES

+ + +

ARTICLE ON WINONA FRAC-SAND SITUATION

<http://www.postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1499046>

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.

Earth Facing Imminent Environmental 'Tipping Point': Report

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/06/07-3>



Are you seeing spills into streams? Sludge dribbling on highways? 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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<http://www.ricelakeonline.com/main.asp?ArticleID=23927&SectionID=6&SubSectionID=208>

6/6/2012 12:45:00 PM

Dissenting supervisors removed from Zoning Committee

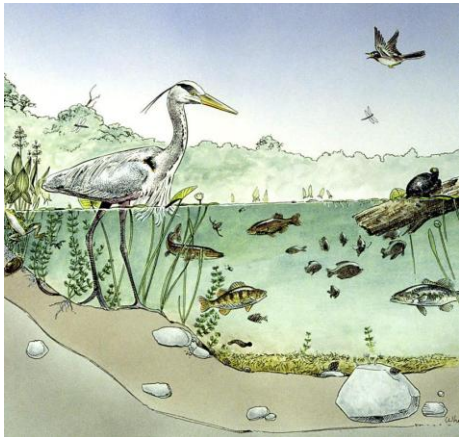
by Eileen Nimm
Chronotype staff

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http://www.alternet.org/newsandviews/article/936740/is_ohio_about_to_enact_the_worst_fracking_law_yet/#pa

Is Ohio About to Enact the Worst Fracking Law Yet?

2012 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference



**Friday,
June 22, 2012
7:30am-4:00pm**

Spooner High School
801 County Highway A
Spooner, WI

\$40 per person includes continental breakfast, lunch, & materials (students can attend for FREE)

[Register online](#)

Download the brochure and registration form: [2012 NWLC Brochure](#)

For more information, see the event page at wisconsinlakes.org

WATER USE IN COLORADO: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

[http://cogcc.state.co.us/Library/Oil and Gas Water Sources Fact Sheet.pdf](http://cogcc.state.co.us/Library/Oil_and_Gas_Water_Sources_Fact_Sheet.pdf) pg. 2

Outstanding information for various areas of the state!

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 8 Feb 2006, "Ecological Landscapes: Western Coulee and Ridges Landscape,"

<http://dnr.wi.gov/landscapes/index.asp?mode=detail&Landscape=11>.

From the **SANDPOINT TIMES: THE PROBLEM WITH ENFORCEMENT**

No Guarantee on Enforcement Is a Deal Breaker

If one cannot guarantee that a requirement, provision, law, or ordinance will be reliably enforced, then we cannot move forward

During the May 17th presentation to the study committee by Jeff Green, a hydrologist from the Minnesota DNR, he commented that the staff of hydrologists in the Rochester office had been cut by 25% recently. He said that because their office was short of people power, they were having difficulty simply processing various paperwork coming into the office. This is largely a consequence of the efforts in recent years to cut the cost of government. The problem with that kind of cost cutting is that it also cuts important oversight. No law, no zoning ordinance, no regulation means anything if it cannot be enforced.

This is a critical point which can hardly be over-emphasized. If there is a law, regulation, or ordinance which is not being routinely enforced or which cannot be enforced, there is, in effect, no law, regulation, or ordinance; there is, at best, wishful thinking.

Related Articles:

[Spills Raise Mine Regulation Concerns](#)

[Frac Sand Sediment Spills into the St. Croix River](#)

Spills raise mine regulation concerns - Leader-Telegram: Story

http://www.leadertelegram.com/local_news/story/article_308b4ce6-daa3-5f7c-9f98-00b4ffb3b378.html?utm_source=S+6%2F2%2F12&utm_campaign=SandPointTimes&utm_medium=email

Direct legislation is a powerful tool IF it is done correctly and within what the law allows.

<http://madisonnorml.org/PDFs/direct%20legislation.pdf>

FROM A **NATION OF CHANGE**

<http://www.nationofchange.org/osha-rules-workplace-toxics-stalled-1338903304>. All rights are reserved.

Friends,

Here is the letter I have mailed to local papers. The final letter is more polite but only because I had to try to meet word limits. One interesting factoid I had to leave off was this: The vast majority of miles travelled by big rigs is on the interstates, but the majority of fatal crashes occur on rural highways. Then there's this: An empty frac sand truck might take even greater distances to stop than a loaded one, especially if the hauler is on a return trip after just dumping a load and his breaks are over-heated. Doesn't look good.

To the editor:

Many of the men on the Houston County Commissioners' frac sand task force are acting as if industrial-scale mining is inevitable.

There are many good reasons to oppose frac sand mining. One of the most frequently cited reasons I hear is the harm to public safety from all those heavy trucks. There will be hundreds, perhaps thousands, of big rigs on our rural roads. **Parents weep over what those thousands of trucks will mean to their kids.**

The men running the task force, though, refuse to even study these road risks! It is a law enforcement issue, they say, and they can't write ordinances about such matters. But county residents have a right to know: Will law enforcement be overwhelmed? Will more officers need to be hired? How much will that cost the taxpayer?

Studies from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety show that while large trucks represent only 3% of all registered vehicles on the road they were involved in 11-13% of all crash fatalities. In multi-vehicle crashes involving heavy trucks and passenger vehicles, **78% of the fatalities were the people in the automobile.** And most fatal truck crashes occur in rural areas. Like Houston County's roads.

Other statistics from these reports show there is a sharp increase in truck crash fatality rates with each extra ton on a truck. All other factors being equal, a truck weighing about 80,000 lbs.--the typical frac sand truck--is more than **twice** as likely to be involved in a fatal crash than a truck weighing 50,000 lbs.

The Houston County task force participants should study all aspects of industrial-scale frac sand mining, if only to fully inform themselves of the harm they seem so willing to inflict on the rest of us.

Donna Buckbee
5853 Ferndale Road
Rushford MN 55971
864 2632

While we are beginning to see tremendous advance of the railroad facilities with transloading capability to load and haul frac sand, my contacts in New York are equally concerned:
Welcome to The Owego and Harford Railway, Inc

The Owego and Harford Railway, Inc (OHRy) is a 26.7-mile railroad between Owego, New York and Harford Mills, New York. The OHRy leases the property on a long-term lease from the owner, Tioga County Industrial Development Agency (TCIDA). OHRy enjoys an excellent relationship with TCIDA that has resulted in significant growth in traffic and economic development in the area.

The OHRy has aggressively recruited new customers since assuming the operation in 1992. Traffic has grown from 350 carloads in the first year to nearly 2,000 annual carloads by 2008. **Most recently OHRy created two large transload facilities in Owego, New York that will each produce over 2000 carloads of fracture sand annually beginning in 2010.**

The OHRy utilizes 10 employees to operate the railroad and maintain its track and equipment. OHRy utilizes four locomotives and various track equipment. The OHRy interchanges with Norfolk Southern Railway and the Delaware & Hudson Railway (CP Rail) at Owego.

The OHRy shares administrative offices and staff with the [Luzerne and Susquehanna Railway Company](#), the [Lehigh Railway, LLC](#) and the [Meridian Southern Railway, LLC](#) in Owego, New York. The administrative functions performed include customer service, accounting, car hire accounting, interchange, car fleet management, regulatory compliance, human resources and government relations.

The OHRy is a member of the [Railroads of New York](#) (RONY), a trade association for all freight railroads that operate in the State of New York to advocate for the rights and needs of railroads and their customers, as well as to encourage economic growth within the state of New York.

FRAC SAND AND LOVE FOR OIL:

All you domestic oil lovers will be happy to know that the Winona City Council voted 4-2 Monday to uphold a May decision by the city's board of adjustment to allow a local trucking company to ship frac sand through the commercial dock. **Mary Juhl of the Winona Daily News writes that some were concerned about air and water quality issues, truck traffic and quality of life issues. Others like council member George Borzyskowski, said "The business of frac sand is here. It's not going to go away."**

Monday, June 4, 2012

HIGHWIRE: The [frac sand mining boom is coming to Illinois](#), and a scenic state park is at the center of the latest battle.

SOLAR: Xcel Energy plans to [eliminate a solar incentive program](#) in Minnesota and focus instead on conservation. (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*)

CLIMATE: A new study says [rising water temperatures](#) in the coming decades will diminish power plants' generating capacity. (*New York Times*)

ALSO: While politicians in the U.S. dispute the fundamentals of climate change, among scientists, the debate is [how bad the outcome is going to be](#). (*InsideClimate News*)

POLITICS: Observers say [energy will be at the forefront of this year's election campaigns](#), and will be a major point of contrast between candidates. (*Springfield News-Leader*)

BIOFUELS: Efforts by Congress to restrict the Navy's energy security program will be [a setback for biorefineries](#) in the region. (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*)

FRACKING: Illinois lawmakers last week blocked a surprise bill that would have imposed [a two-year moratorium](#) on fracking in Illinois; and [concerns about water conservation](#) drive fracking opposition in Ohio. (*GateHouse News Service, Akron Beacon Journal*)

COMMENTARY: The *Washington Post* says [a carbon tax is the best alternative](#) to the "clumsy array of expensive federal subsidies" currently supporting the wind industry; Felix Mormann and Dan Reicher of Stanford University identify two financial mechanisms they say could [make renewable energy more affordable](#); and Joe Cahill says Illinois politician's ["fetish" for coal-to-gas plants](#) will create an "illogical, unnecessary burden" on the state's consumers. (*Washington Post, New York Times, Crain's Chicago Business*)

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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 State, town board, county board, health or city council representatives. They all have a stake in our welfare!

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.

Various County links including Dunn County Mining Sites

<https://sites.google.com/site/dunncountysand/dunn-county-links>

New Maps including the Vista Rail Spur site

<https://sites.google.com/site/dunncountysand/maps>

Town of Menomonie including Nonmetallic Mine Ordinance and Comprehensive Land Use Plan

<https://sites.google.com/site/dunncountysand/resources>

Chippewa Monitoring Analysis Report

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxkdW5uY291bnR5c2FuZHXneDo3MzIzMTIxOWQzNTYzNGIw>

Homework! Tell me of other websites that can be added to this list and I will note them here!

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