The Frac Sand Times-July 15, 2012

The next meeting of the SAVE THE HILLS ALLIANCE, INC./CONCERNED CHIPPEWA CITIZENS will be Sunday, August 12, at Charlie’s Place at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend! Call the number below for directions. Coffee, tea, and treats will be available. Bring something to share in terms of your latest findings.

The silica 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 and processing and the development of trans-load facilities in Western Wisconsin continues to promote the take over of Wisconsin lands and hills, ridges, and bluffs. This newsletter is an amalgamation of information providing insight on a complex topic, all connected with the hydraulic fracturing industry in 34 states that is extracting every last drop of oil and natural gas using methods that not only poison water supplies but contribute to air pollution and other environmental hazards.

"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.

AWESOME VIDEO: www.andiesisle.com/creation/magnificent.html

FRACK ACTION!!! NATIONAL ATTENTION GAINING MOMENTUM! SILICA SAND IS A PART OF IT! WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?
http://www.frackaction.com/2012/07/14/artists-against-fracking/

THE SKY IS PINK: Josh Fox’s look at the issue is outstanding!
http://artistsagainstfracking.com/
SAND SILOS: NEW WAYS TO GET SILICA SAND TO THE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING FIELDS
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMKyix8TLs0&feature=related

RAIL MAP FOR YOU! THE RAIL IS ADDING A GREAT DEAL TO THE HUGE FOOTPRINT OF THIS INDUSTRY. THINK ABOUT HOW IT IS AFFECTING YOU AND THEN LOOK AROUND AND STUDY A BIT HOW IT IS AFFECTING OTHERS NOT ONLY IN YOUR LOCATION BUT NATIONALLY.


An interesting map of the current rail lines in Wisconsin. Hauling all of this "fracking" sand may disrupt a few peoples’ lives along the tracks for miles and miles!

Focus: What the Frack?

Muskie Holdings Again? Covert deals, phantom jobs blemish frac sand debate | StarTribune.com

http://www.startribune.com/local/162485486.html

Eau Claire has Muskie Holdings/Muskie Proppants on the north end of Eau Claire.

Check out You Tube for Hawks Nest & Stop Silicosis, the 1938 US department of labor film, but ignore the music, from an entirely different era.

Learners still are viewing these videos these during the OSHA 10 and 30 hour courses according to the industry.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtYErK9kJQ8

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWQnS2zOMEg

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUL6nnJO-6Q

Are you looking for 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 if needed. 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 being overlooked.

Picked up a Chippewa Valley Business Report (Spring 2012)?

This one deals with Frac Sand, the Valley's new GOLD RUSH. Go on line for www.chippewavalleybusinessreport.com to get the report. This is the business version. Any citizen wishing to state his/her views is encouraged to submit articles to the newspaper.

Can Fracking Pollute Water?

Here's an interesting development out of Winona. They're refining their referendum in a way that would cut off sand from Wisconsin coming across their bridge.

Lou Anne Roby: Take one last look LETTER TO THE EDITOR Winona Daily NewsJuly 11, 2012 12:00 am • By LOU ANNE ROBY | Mondovi, Wis. http://bit.ly/N8onXL

‘Hope It’s in Your Backyard!’
By Neil deMause

One of the difficulties of reporting on climate change is its incremental nature: It’s hard to expect every media mention of someone driving a car or running an air conditioner to include a note about its effects on the environment. Yet even when the climate impacts of an action are unambiguous and central to a story, reporters all too often avoid the subject.

Take the natural-gas extraction technique of hydraulic fracturing (Extra!, 2/12). Better known as “fracking,” the process involves cracking open underground rock layers containing oil and gas deposits by blasting them with a high-pressure chemical slurry. Of the many troubling side effects of fracking—which run from groundwater contamination to increased earthquake activity—one of the most worrisome is its impact on climate change.

To read the rest of the article, please click on the link Below. http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=4568
This article was published on Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting’s Website (http://www.fair.org).

Bill Moyers interviewed Vandana Shiva……regarding wars she is waging. Somehow her comments apply to the issues we are all battling everyday with silica, its mining and its processing and its transport. Think of the FOOTPRINT of this and hydraulic fracturing. We should all possess greater purpose by reading her comments below:

BILL MOYERS: It’s an uphill battle you’re waging. How do you keep doing it? What drives you really?

VANDANA SHIVA: You know, we have this very beautiful text in India. We have the Gita.

BILL MOYERS: Bhagavad Gita?

VANDANA SHIVA: The Bhagavad Gita. And there's a very simple lesson that Krishna gives. That you do not measure the fruit of your action. You have to measure your obligation of action. You have to find out what's the right thing to do. That is your duty. Whether you win or lose is not the issue. The obligation to do the right thing,........
AND THIS:

VANDANA SHIVA: I think first thing is each of us has to daily ask a question, "Where am I complicit in a war against the Earth? Where are my daily actions part of a devastation of the planet and with it, a devastation of the lives of people." Because the two go hand in hand. A war against the Earth is a war against people. Peace with the Earth is peace among people.

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!

Below are two links to some good information on frac sand mining in Southeast MN and across the river in Wisconsin where it is much worse. Many large mines have been established there that have been a disaster.


http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2012/05/how-rural-america-got-fracked

Subject: [sustainableotsego] Fracking Exposes Workers to High Levels of Silica and Other Health Hazards


05/22/2012

Ja-Rei Wang <http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/%28author%29/Ja-Rei%20Wang>

If you work in the hydraulic fracturing industry—better known as “fracking”—you may be exposed to high levels of crystalline silica, putting you at risk of developing silicosis, lung cancer and other
debilitating diseases, according to a letter sent today from the AFL-CIO, Mine Workers (UMWA <http://www.umwa.org/> ) and the United Steelworkers (USW) <http://www.usw.org/> to the top federal safety agencies.

The letter highlights a recent two-year National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) assessment, which found that, among those exposed, 79 percent of samples for silica exceeded the NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits.

Silica sand is a major component of the fracking process. The sand is mixed with large volumes of water and chemical additives and injected under high pressure by drilling into shale rock. Massive quantities of sand are used and workers are at risk of high levels of exposure during multiple points of the fracking process.

In addition to the health hazards, workers in the oil and gas extraction industries face high rates of fatal occupational injuries. Between 2003 and 2009, there were 27.5 deaths per 100,000 workers, a rate more than seven times higher than the fatality rate for all U.S. workers.

As the fracking industry continues to rapidly grow, and as more workers enter the field with little experience or knowledge about the potential hazards in this industry, it is vital the government, companies and unions work together to ensure workers have the work safety and health knowledge, training and protection they need.

The letter urges the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NIOSH and the Mine Safety and Health Administration to take immediate action and issue a joint “hazard alert” that identifies the occupational safety and health hazards in the fracking industry, with a special focus on silica exposures. It also recommends OSHA to take immediate steps to initiate rule making on a new silica standard that includes requirements for exposure monitoring and medical surveillance and NIOSH to expand its field work in the fracking industry to include medical surveillance of workers.

Click here <http://www.aflcio.org/content/download/28091/347761/version/1/file/safetyhealth_05222012.pdf> for the full letter.

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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. We also need your skills. Many thanks to those who have been making contributions unselfishly!
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

Connie Arzigian is an archeologist working for the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center. They can’t go out and conduct reviews, but if there is a history of artifacts they can go out and conduct a survey. There is a map of all sites in the state, but it is not public. However, if one sends her the locations of the proposed mines she will check to see if they have any record of anything that would trigger a review. She has the locations for all the proposed mine and plant sites for Buffalo county and for the Stockholm site but there may be others who may need help. <arzigian.cons@uwlax.edu> from J. Falk

From Ellen Cantarow:

From TomDispatch: How climate-change deniers are finally losing their grip, but why they might take the rest of us down with them -- Bill McKibben, “The Planet Wreckers, Climate-Change Deniers Are on the Ropes – But So Is the Planet” http://www.tomdispatch.com/archive/175549/

MORE INFORMATION AGAINST TRUCK HAULING BY A SCHOOL AND THROUGH A TOWN:

http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/local/features/article_544b2c2a-cd27-11e1-b4d7-001a4bce877a.html Thank you, Dr. Bures!!!

FRACKING NATURAL GAS AND WASTEWATER

http://www.nrdc.org/energy/fracking-wastewater.asp
HI CRUSH WASH PLANT IN AUGUSTA, WI
HI CRUSH CONVEYORS IN AUGUSTA, WI  HOW FAR, HOW NOISY, HOW IS THE DUST KEPT FROM ESCAPE?

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