

Frac Sand Sentinel

...keeping watch on the industry

Issue: # 15

DATE: May 18, 2013



“America would be a better place if leaders would **do more long term thinking**. In Iroquois society, leaders are encouraged to remember seven generations in the past and consider seven generations in the future when making decisions that affect the people.” Wilma Mankiller Cherokee Nation

The skies were darkening but people and the media stood in the parking lot of the Town of Auburn Town Hall, Chippewa County to hear research remarks by Dr. Tom Power, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Economics, University of Montana. Against the backdrop of the gigantic silica mine across the road, Dr. Power reviewed his current research report:

Report raises concerns for Wisconsin communities considering frac sand mining

Industry claims of economic prosperity for rural areas often fail to materialize

A link to the full report from the Wisconsin Farmers' Union Website <http://bit.ly/11HbBZ4>

Please feel free to copy it to your computer so that you can read and study it and make application of the findings accordingly.

The information provided is invaluable for use in your activism as citizens! Sponsoring the research project were the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin Farmers Union, and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. Anonymous donors also contributed funds in support of the research. Additional reports are forthcoming from Dr. Power. If there is interest in funding additional research, one of the principals from the organizations noted should be

contacted.

Dr. Tom Power includes excellent questions in his research which should be immediately applied when inquiries are being made about silica mining in your area. You might want to see how they apply to new industrial developments in your part of the region.

Here are a few articles as reported by the media to the research report!

[Report raises concerns for Wisconsin communities considering frac sand mining](#)

WEAU - 14 hours ago

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (WEAU) -- New research suggests economic growth in rural communities that have sand mines falls short of what the industry promises. The Economic Benefits and Costs of **Frac-Sand Mining** in West Central Wisconsin report urge ...

[Officials should investigate costs, benefits of frac mining, report says](#)

Minnesota Public Radio - 14 hours ago

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Local officials should ask in-depth questions about costs and benefits when they consider whether to permit a **frac sand mine**, according to findings in a report released Wednesday by the Minneapolis-based Institute of Agriculture and ...

[Study details sand mines' economic pros and cons - Leader-Telegram](#)

www.leadertelegram.com/.../article_6cf8c39c-bde3-11e2-95b...

9 hours ago – Study details **sand** mines' economic pros and cons By **Chris Vetter**Chippewa Falls News Bureau Leader-Telegram | 0 comments. BLOOMER ...

[Frac-Sand Mining's Promise of Economic Prosperity Fails to ...](#)

ecowatch.com/.../frac-sand-minings-economic-prosperity-fails-to-materia...

• 21 hours ago – We focus on the issues of water, air, food, energy and biodiversity, promoting the work of more than 1000 grassroots environmental organizations and activists ...

[Economic Impact Study Warns Of Frac Sand Mining's Boom/Bust Cycle](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio News - 15 hours ago

The study was commissioned by the Wisconsin Towns Association and Wisconsin Farmers Union to give local officials a fuller picture of the pros and cons of **frac sand mining**. It was written by Dr. Tom Power, a consultant and economist with the University of ...

[FRAC SAND: Study finds small job growth in mining communities](#)

FOX 9 News - 13 hours ago

Frac sand mining has been a contentious issue in Minnesota, and it's one that was revived at the state Capitol on Wednesday after a study found the industry has a small impact on job growth. The research conducted in Wisconsin by a University of Montana ...

[Report stirs debate of sand mines' financial impact - Chippewa Herald](#)

Chippewa Herald - May 15, 2013

Frac sand mining in Chippewa County and throughout western Wisconsin offers little economic punch, especially over the long term, a new report claims. "If the past volatile history of natural gas prices continues, one can expect the demand for frac sand to ...

[New frac sand study unveiled](#)

WQOW TV News 18 - 15 hours ago

That's the message Dr. Power wants to send to communities considering opening their doors to **frac sand mining**. "There is this conflict between what we know the benefits are, high wages, wealth being brought out of the ground, increased revenues flowing to ...

EOG's response to study - Chippewa Herald

Chippewa Herald - May 15, 2013

Frac sand mining in Chippewa County and throughout western Wisconsin offers little economic punch, especially over the long term, a new report claims. Read more. In a statement, EOG Resources said it made a concentrated effort to hire locally. More than ...

Andrew Ranallo
Communications Associate
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
(612)870-3456
andrew@iatp.org

Follow IATP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

The Announcement of the Press Release Gathering Report raises concerns for Wisconsin communities considering frac sand mining

Industry claims of economic prosperity for rural areas often fail to materialize

Contact:

Andrew Ranallo, (612) 870-3456, andrew@iatp.org
Thomas Quinn, (715) 308-3742, tquinn@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Press conference:

May 15, 9:30 a.m. in the Auburn Town Hall at 1811 State Highway 64, Bloomer, WI 54724.

Eau Claire – The true economic impact of frac sand mining on rural Wisconsin communities may fall short of industry claims promising sustained prosperity and economic opportunity, says a first-of-its-kind expert report to be released Wednesday, May 15. By using currently available economic data, *The Economic Benefits and Costs of Frac-Sand Mining in West Central Wisconsin* offers a full, unbiased analysis of costs and benefits for communities affected by frac sand mining. The report concludes by offering a list of questions to be considered that can help rural towns effectively evaluate benefits and costs of frac sand mining for their community.

When drilling for oil or natural gas is impractical due to geological factors, hydraulic fracturing (or “fracking”) is an increasingly popular alternative for oil and gas companies. Fracking involves injecting materials (often sand) into rock formations, opening them and allowing resources to be extracted. Wisconsin has substantial deposits of sand with the perfect properties for fracking—also known as “frac sand.” As oil and gas companies increasingly turn to fracking, the demand for frac sand has boomed as well—especially throughout rural Wisconsin.

“Local communities are under growing pressure to approve frac sand mining operations, but often they don’t have all the data they need to make decisions based on their own economic interest. This study helps to provide that data, and offers a template for better informed community discussions,” said Tom Quinn, executive director of the Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Frac sand mining’s tendency to disturb land and cause air and water pollution, as well as other environmental problems, is often omitted in industry studies promising economic prosperity in the form of additional jobs, payrolls and taxes for

the community. According to the report, however, these promises—usually backed by industry-produced economic impact analyses—are often unsubstantiated. In fact, the jobs associated with frac sand mining will likely make up only a very small fraction of one percent of total employment in west central Wisconsin.

The report suggests a list of questions local communities should consider when evaluating a potential mining operation in their towns. The framework focuses both on benefits, such as jobs and tax revenues, and on costs that are often overlooked: environmental and health impacts, infrastructure costs, and negative effects on property values, other local businesses and industry.

“The economic analysis with which west central Wisconsin has thus far been provided is more public relations than facts—industry reports often leave out the short- and long-term costs while focusing exclusively on purported benefits,” said Dr. Thomas Power, principle author of the study. “This report is designed to help communities make more scientifically informed decisions.”

Dr. Thomas Power is Professor Emeritus in the Economics Department at the University of Montana and a nationally recognized economist with a long history of research on the economics of the mining industry. The report was commissioned by the Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).

Representatives from the involved organizations, as well as author Dr. Power, will be hosting a press conference May 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the Auburn Town Hall at 1811 State Highway 64, Bloomer, WI 54724.

Andrew Ranallo

Communications Associate

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

(612)870-3456

andrew@iatp.org

STANDING AGAINST THE SAND STORM

Regional Conference

Saturday, June 1, 2013

Black River Falls Middle School

1202 Pierce St.

Black River Falls, WI. 54615

Reg. 9:30AM – 10AM / Sess. 10 - 3:30PM

Suggested Donation \$15

(Includes Lunch — [Please RSVP](#))

Presenters, Lunch, Breakout Sessions, Action Strategies

Sponsorships \$60

Includes Info Table and Lunch for One Person
Information Tables \$30 (No Lunch)

To RSVP or for More Info On Sponsorships and Tabling
Contact Sheila Danielson:
(715) 284-5676 / reskdan@centurytel.net

Sponsored by **Wisconsin Grassroots Network**
Hosted by **Jackson County Citizen Voices**

Use the CCC website for informational purposes; there are pictures, articles, a blog for your comments, a long time history of mining in Chippewa County and elsewhere, and opportunity for you to connect to others. Sign up for ALERTS if you want to keep up with new things added. Grab a glimpse of the air quality monitors located at citizens' property.

www.ccc-wis.com

Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.

The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The editor of the Frac Sand Times does not accept any responsibility or liability for the use or misuse of the content of this newsletter or reliance by any persons on the newsletters contents.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have expressed an interest in this information. We don't sell or loan your e-mail address to anyone. You can subscribe for, or unsubscribe from, the newsletter at any time by emailing the sender at sunnyday5@charter.net, noting your request.