



.....keeping watch on the industry Issue: #39 Date: December 8, 2014

---

### GREETINGS TO YOU THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Thank you for all the successful work you have undertaken in this past year to preserve clean water, air, and the hills of Wisconsin along with the rural landscape and the health, safety and welfare of us all as mining companies continue to expand with the blessings of local, state, regional, and federal regulators and officials.

A Mini-Summit Meeting was held in Chippewa Falls on November 8, 2014. Twenty-four participants representing many state and regional areas brainstormed the values we held dearly by those who contributed. What is it that you hold close to your heart and are willing to fight for as we all go forward in our planning?

---

---

Control of Air & Water Pollution Water  
Environmental Law  
People

Land preservation Local control  
Air quality  
Arch sites

Human energy  
Land preservation  
Air Quality  
Community empowerment Clean water  
Children's health Grassroots galvanization Rural community Inspection/enforcement Stolen freedoms  
Air quality  
Local control  
Transparency & regulation

Revitalized democracy Clean air  
Local control  
Water control

Local control  
Local empowerment Air  
Rail safety  
Corruption  
Land preservation Democracy Communities Community control Preserving democracy Revitalized democracy Personal freedom  
Local community rights Ecosystem preservation Clean water  
Water quality  
Future opportunities

Clean air  
Local control Reestablished constitution Enjoyment of property  
Air quality  
Water  
Site pollution  
Farmland preservation Sustainable systems Planet earth  
Land preservation Accountability  
Health  
Future Generations Sustainable future  
Land conservation Sustainable development Water quantity  
Water quality  
Water quality  
Future generations  
Air quality  
Accountability  
Health  
Food  
Education  
Farmland  
Reconciliation

Top Choices for the attendees: Water (10), Air (9), Local Control (6), Land Preservation (5), and a 5-way tie for fifth with Community Empowerment, Transparency/Accountability, Democracy; Air (9), Local Control (6), Land Preservation (5), and a 5-way tie for fifth with Community Empowerment, Transparency/Accountability, Democracy; Sustainability/Ecosystem, and Farmland/Food (all with 4).

Town of Howard, Chippewa Co. Breach of storm water pond. EOG RESOURCES-no fines Spring of 2014-  
Photo courtesy of Public Lab



Mine in the Town of Auburn-respirable crystalline silica dust exposure? Chippewa Co.

In other states, fines are assessed! Here is an example from Minnesota!

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20141126/minn-regulators-issue-85000-frac-sand-fine-tiller-corp>

**BREAKING NEWS!** Today Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce released a document outlining their priorities for the upcoming legislative session, which includes a section on sand mining:

**Mining:** Wisconsin doesn't have shale oil, but we do have the sand used for hydraulic fracturing. As a result, Wisconsin is enjoying a sand boom that has created thousands of good paying jobs in largely economically challenged rural areas.

But the radical environmentalists who have so far failed to stop fracking have now targeted frac sand mining. Their goal is to stop sand mining by driving up local regulatory costs that create a patchwork of illogical rules. WMC will advance legislation to promote statewide regulatory certainty and uniformity.

This is not a surprise, but something we should be aware of. Some of our Madison friends are continuing to meet with legislators to express our support for local control of sand mining. However, these legislators will need to feel pressure from their constituents to oppose a preemption. The next legislative session begins in a

little over a month so it will be important to reach out to our old supporters and activists and bring in new ones to prepare for another preemption bill.

The full release is here:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/redirect?ca=3c10420b-d423-43cd-aa27-752dd0d00b8e&c=31b986d0-39df-11e4-ba43-d4ae528e486a&ch=33c24f20-39df-11e4-bab1-d4ae528e486a>

## Silica Dust Damages Lungs

The website below has grave indications for all mineral types of dust. When researching for the U.S. Bureau of Mines almost 50 years ago we were keenly aware that whether it was long or short fibered asbestos it could cause mesothelioma and cancer. The mine owners have spent nearly 50 years denying that the short fiber asbestos does not cause mesothelioma; unfortunately they were quite successful. This report indicates that any glass like dust-chard is capable of doing damage to the lungs. This especially includes Silica Dust.

As you can see from the article MN legislators provided millions of dollars to come up with very creditable research that the miners cannot refute. That is one difference between MN and WI.

This research has implications for frac-sand mining.

<http://www.startribune.com/business/284390631.html>

**Nominations are welcomed!**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Wisconsin Rural Partners, a non-profit corporation dedicated to developing leadership, networks and voice for rural Wisconsin, is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for its 2015 Top Rural Development Initiative awards. The purpose of this recognition program is to uncover and share the great things happening in rural Wisconsin. Any project, activity, or even a whole community in rural Wisconsin is eligible.

Rural Partners looks for nominations that cite positive community impacts, regional success stories, or demonstrated innovative ideas. Initiatives can be in economic or community development, business, education, health, energy, environment, philanthropy, tourism, the arts or any other field, as long as they have had positive impacts. Initiatives do not have to be community-based: WRP will recognize any state, federal, tribal, non-profit or for-profit business program, regional or statewide, as long as it demonstrates partnership and innovation in its success.

Nominations are being accepted through February 16, 2015. The 2015 awards will be presented at the annual Rural Summit to be held April 23, 2015.

For more information on the Top Rural Development Initiative awards, including the nomination form, go to WRP's website at <http://wirural.org/programs/toprdi/nominate/> or contact Rick Rolfsmeyer at [ricky@wirural.org](mailto:ricky@wirural.org) or 608-967-2322.

Freshly fractured crystalline silica dust is created when blasting takes place at a mine. Hi Crush  
—Augusta, WI Photography by Jane J.



---

## **RAILROADS POSE UNIQUE AND UNSAFE CONDITIONS FOR THOSE WHO LIVE NEAR THEM.**

Railroads are required to submit route analysis that entails risk/ profit examination. This analysis includes avoidance of sensitive environmental areas and high target sites such as nuclear generating facilities. The present route along the Mississippi River, a sensitive environmental area, also includes going within 800 feet of dry cask storage at Prairie Island and Genoa. The Prairie Island site has a 3,000,000 person evacuation zone.

Dave Christianson of Mn.DOT says that "there is no other route for transport". The requirements by F.R.A. are clear.

<http://www.propublica.org/article/govt-data-sharpens-focus-on-crude-oil-train-routes>

## **MORE ASSESSMENTS FOR THOSE PURCHASING ELECTRIC OR HYBRID AUTOMOBILES**

Send a Letter to the Editor for clean transportation! From WI Network for Peace and Justice.....Dec. 2014  
Background: In mid-November WisDOT (Wisconsin Department of Transportation) released a budget proposal that removes transit from the now constitutionally segregated Transportation Fund and includes \$750 million in increased taxes and fees - including a \$50 per year penalty for hybrid and electric vehicle (EV) owners - to help cover their insatiable appetite for wasteful highway expansions. Conservation Programs

Coordinator Elizabeth Ward explained that funding transit through the General Fund jeopardizes systems by forcing transit to compete with schools, police, fire, and other needs. "With huge revenue increases that will go towards unnecessary highway projects, the DOT is ignoring trends that Wisconsinites are driving less and prefer options to driving."

Conservation Chair Will Stahl spoke out against the proposed fee for hybrid and EVs that discourages innovation and punishes consumers who are trying to do the right thing by investing in cars and trucks that benefit everyone by cleaning up our air, reducing greenhouse gases, and reducing Wisconsin's dependence on oil. Help defeat plans to waste tax dollars and shortchange transit in WisDOT's proposed Transportation Budget. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper . Support Cleaner Transportation Options That Save Tax Dollars!

Contact: Shahla Werner, Sierra Club [shahla.werner@sierraclub](mailto:shahla.werner@sierraclub).

## Frac Sand Mine Now Must Monitor Dust, Air Quality

Citizen Challenge to Pollution Permit Achieves Progress in Protecting Air Quality FOR

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 5, 2014

CONTACT: Sarah Williams, Staff Attorney, (608) 251-5047 x 5 [swilliams@midwestadvocates.org](mailto:swilliams@midwestadvocates.org) Stacy Harbaugh, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, (608) 251-5047 x 1

MADISON, WI – Yesterday, Petitioners received a court decision in a legal challenge to a frac sand mine's air pollution permit. The court reversed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' decision to allow FML Sand, LLC to build a sand mine and processing facility without ambient air monitoring to track silica dust. "The Petitioners are relieved that Judge Boldt acknowledged that, given likely emissions from this facility, more needed to be done to ensure that FML Sand was complying with air standards for very fine particulates," said Midwest Environmental Advocates Staff Attorney, Sarah Williams.

As modified by this decision, Fairmount Minerals' air pollution permit will include an ambient air monitoring requirement to ensure that the facility, one of eight frac sand mines in a five-mile radius in Arcadia, wouldn't create more silica dust than federal and state law allow. It is important for courts and state agencies to recognize that, at minimum, frac sand mines and processing facilities should monitor for both types of dangerous fine particulates, PM10 and PM2.5.

But citizens remain concerned about the impacts of ever increasing frac sand mining in our state on their air, water and way of life. Because the DNR has not been requiring all facilities to install ambient air monitors for PM2.5, the smallest and most dangerous particulate matter, we can't know the full impact. Independent studies are coming out that suggest facilities may be contributing to unsafe levels of very fine particulates in the ambient air.

---

---

---

---

It is important for the DNR to issue stronger air pollution permits for frac sand mining in Wisconsin because permits establish the public health and environmental standards under which mining companies operate. Permits also lay out what powers the DNR has to enforce air protections in the future. Strong air pollution permits are a critical part of protecting our health and the air we breathe.

But citizens cannot and should not have to go to court to challenge each inadequate permit, one permit at a time. That is why citizens asked the DNR for a strategic analysis to study the full environmental impact of frac sand mining in Wisconsin. Petitioners asked for an environmental assessment in this case and were denied. To understand the big picture of frac sand mining's impact on our air, water and land, we need a comprehensive environmental analysis for the whole state.

Midwest Environmental Advocates is a public interest organization that uses the power of the law to support communities fighting for environmental accountability. Learn more about the Midwest Environmental Advocates on the web at [midwestadvocates.org](http://midwestadvocates.org), like MEA on Facebook or follow @MidwestAdvocate on Twitter.

**SAND ON TOP OF SNOW IS OFTEN REPORTED; SAND ON TOP OF CARS, THE ROOF OF HOMES, AND OTHER LOCATIONS INCLUDING THOSE IN CHIPPEWA FALLS AND VARIOUS TOWNS IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY ARE COMMON. IS ANYONE LISTENING? MINES TAKE OFF IN FULL GLORY ON WINDY DAYS. NO WATERING IS OBSERVED AND NO SUPERVISORS ARE IN SIGHT!**





Large barges on the Mississippi River are carrying frac sand. These barges were observed in Iowa from the Blackhawk Bridge. Courtesy of Ric Zarwell.

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 Sentinel 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](mailto:sunnyday5@charter.net), noting your request.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: [WWW.CCC-WIS.COM](http://WWW.CCC-WIS.COM) for additional information Patricia J. Popple  
715-723-6398  
[Sunnyday5@charter.net](mailto:Sunnyday5@charter.net)

---