



.....keeping watch on the industry Issue: # 41 Date: December 22, 2014

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones during this Winter Season!

Got Science? Stickers are fun, but propaganda that undermines science is not. To obtain a sticker that says so, take the true or false quiz at [www.gotsci.org](http://www.gotsci.org) and get your own “got science” sticker free.

Sponsored by Union of Concerned Scientists

A story to be told about our friends along the Mississippi fighting for safety of citizens: Please share this widely! It demonstrates some timely work on the part of some great citizen soldiers!

[CARS Calls Attention to Deteriorating Local Bridges and Meaningless New ND Oil-By-Rail Laws WDNR Hearing January 7, 2015 - BNSF Rail Expansion La Crosse River Marsh – YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgyAe2SnyUQ> (Outstanding video by Alan)



Coon Creek Bridge, Stoddard, WI-Photo: Guy and Alan

In June, Guy and Alan took photos of pictures of deteriorating rail bridges along the Mississippi just south of La Crosse. Later Maureen, Alan, Irv, Karen, and Guy met with the Senator Baldwin, and our whole team met with US- DOT Secretary Fox and Representative Ron Kind. Sen. Tammy Baldwin demanded inspections. See the first two articles for photos and info.

This week CARS challenged the new North Dakota law regulating Bakken Oil. **Unbelievably, the new law allows oil shipped by rail to be as high as 13.7 PSI (Pounds per Square Inch).** This is more explosive than the oil train that exploded taking 47 lives in **Lac Megantic Canada (tested at 9 and 9.3 PSI)**, greater than **Texas Eagle Ford crude (8 PSI)**, **Gulf of Mexico crude (3 PSI)**, and **gasoline (9 PSI)**. Bakken crude usually has a PSI between 11.5 and 11.8. See the last two articles for info.

[A matter of faith: Rail bridge conditions hidden from public view](#)

[We must do more to ensure rail safety](#)

[Alan Stankevitz: Change does little to boost rail safety](#)

[Consider these numbers. Let's dedicate ourselves to ending the smoke-and mirrors game](#)

[The WI-DNR just announced it will hold a Public Hearing on BNSF's request to build a second rail in the La Crosse River Marsh on Wednesday, January 7th from 2-5 p.m. at the Black River Beach Community Center, 1433 Rose Street, City of La Crosse.](#) The purpose is to allow citizens to ask questions and raise concerns, enabling the DNR to make well-informed decisions to protect the integrity of the Marsh. Please mark your calendars and attend! More details tomorrow.

Sincerely,

CARS, Citizens Acting for Rail Safety

Elaine Anderson, Irv Balto, Marina Dvorak, Nancy Heerens-Knudson, Ralph Knudson, Maureen Freedland, Bruce Kuehmichel, Chuck Lee, Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Curtis Miller, Fred Nicklaus, George Nygaard, Rich Pein, Karen Ringstrom, Jeff Sexton, Jan Stack, Alan Stankevitz, Guy Wolf

For timely news on rail safety: [DOT-111 READER](#) Facebook: [CARS, Citizens for Rail Safety](#)

Website: [Citizens Acting for Rail Safety](#) Email: [citizensforrailsafety@gmail.com](mailto:citizensforrailsafety@gmail.com)

To help defray costs of flyers, copies, ink, photos, etc, please send a check for any amount. Please be aware that we do not have tax-exempt status for deductions. Thank you!

CARS, Citizens Acting For Rail Safety, Jeff Sexton, Treasurer 2820 Cass Street, La Crosse WI 54601

[And there is more on the rail:](#)

[Railway expansion could shut down businesses in Big Lake, Minn. - KMSP-TV <http://>](#)

[www.myfoxtwincities.com/story/27691112/railway-expansion-could-shut-down-business](http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/story/27691112/railway-expansion-could-shut-down-business) Gov. Holds Roundtable Over Rail Safety Concerns « CBS Minnesota <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/12/22/gov-holds-roundtable-over-rail-safety-concerns/>

Inspectors find 100 defects on Bakken crude oil trains, tracks

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/transit/2014/12/15/inspectors-find-defects-oil-trains/20447041/>

As the number of rail spurs, rail lines and rail cars hauling sand and crude oil expand rapidly, how will we respond in our communities regarding this heavy industrial complexity? Can a small group of concerned citizens begin to raise questions and take actions locally to reduce the dangers to others?

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Governor Cuomo banned fracking in his state. Here is a link to a story that could change Wisconsin events.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/18/nyregion/cuomo-to-ban-fracking-in-new-york-state-citing-health-risks.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/18/nyregion/cuomo-to-ban-fracking-in-new-york-state-citing-health-risks.html?_r=0)

WE CAN BAN FRACKING, NEW YORK PAVES THE WAY | COMMON DREAMS | BREAKING NEWS & VIEWS FOR THE PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2014/12/18/we-can-ban-fracking-new-york-paves-way>

NEW YORK STATE IS SAFE FROM FRACKING! THANK YOU! DECEMBER 17TH 2014 ON VIMEO

<http://vimeo.com/114822488>



Ted Auch, Fracktracker

In September of this year, Midwest Environmental Advocates released a PETITION for a STRATEGIC ANALYSIS of FRAC SAND MINING. You had the opportunity to individually or collectively sign the petition. The signed petitions were delivered to the WDNR Board in October, but it is important there be more support for the strategic analysis to occur. Have you and your groups encouraged your City Council, your Town Board, or your County or other groups to write a resolution supporting the action? If not, we hope you will do so as soon as possible.

Petition for a Strategic Analysis of Frac Sand Mining - [Full petition text with citations](#) (PDF)

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The Town Board in the Town of Howard formed a resolution and approved it for advancement to MEA and to the WDNR Board. Here is a story about Chippewa County advancement:

### Local frac sand resolution for study gains traction

[http://chippewa.com/news/local/frac-sand-resolution-gains-traction/article\\_b9c30db5-fe10-5940-bb53-1e4fd85d8eca.html](http://chippewa.com/news/local/frac-sand-resolution-gains-traction/article_b9c30db5-fe10-5940-bb53-1e4fd85d8eca.html)

Fugitive Dust Potential: Photo by Julie S.

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EOG RESOURCES: Is there a sludge storage area on this site? Photo by Julie S.

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.

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CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: [WWW.CCC-WIS.COM](http://WWW.CCC-WIS.COM) for additional information. It is a great site for pictures of what the frac sand industry is doing to our surroundings.