



*.....keeping watch on  
the industry*

Issue: #303

Date: November 7, 2019

**"The Price of  
Sand"  
An Interview  
with Jim Tittle**



**Frac sand mines began dotting the maps in Wisconsin around 2008. Jim Tittle from Goodhue County, MN, began his work on a documentary a few years later. His work as a photographer and artist was known, but with great intensity, he took on the intensity of photographing the growth of the industry and interviewing many people along the way in his film, The Price of Sand.**

**You can view and hear Jim's story on the**

**Director's Cut,  
a PBS interview with Jim, which also shows  
excerpts from the film at:**

**<https://www.pbs.org/video/directors-cut-jim-tittle-price-sand/>**

**The program provides an outstanding review of a few of the issues related to the frac sand mining, a heavy industry that seems well established in the mid-west but which appears to be in a "bust" stage at the current time; seeing the film in total provides some of the preliminary issues from a time awhile back.**

**Silica is used primarily in the oil and gas industry as a proppant to keep cracks in the shale created through a process using chemicals, water and sand known as hydraulic fracturing to allow gas and oil to flow freely for extraction.**

**I am reminded of a quote from an internationally known friend who is well aware of the proliferation of the hydraulic fracturing industry which includes silica mining even though mining and movement of silica is not as frequent in the mid-west as it has been:**

**"For a fact, the oil and gas industry is NOT going away anytime soon, and it will continue its innovation seeking better, more efficient and lower cost options for recovery. Even more difficult than educating citizens and public officials is the task of keeping current with technological changes...This requires eternal vigilance. But, most of all, we really need to learn and use industry nomenclature to avoid confusion and misinterpretation. After all, it IS the industry's native language."**

**And so the flow of accurate and increasing information and research is critical....**

Patricia Popple 715-723-6398 [sunnyday5@charter.net](mailto:sunnyday5@charter.net)

*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.*

***CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: [CCC-WIS.COM](http://CCC-WIS.COM) and for additional information, [click here](#) for panoramic aerial views of frac sand mines, processing plants, and trans-load facilities. [FracTracker.org](http://FracTracker.org) is also an excellent source of information.***