

Citizens expressing disfavor regarding frac sand mining facilities in the early stages of discussion were rebuffed by paid and elected governmental officials and the frac sand companies regarding the potential dangers of heavy metals being leached into the groundwater. Studies by Jay Zambito et.al. indicated that heavy metals are being found at the sites they selected for a scientifically based study. Read the report. Arsenic is a predominant finding in wells and other containment systems in the areas studied but there are other metals that are also of concern. Take a look at this critical study.



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

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Photos by FracTracker, Ted Auch

"Geochemistry and Mineralogy of the Wonewoc-Tunnel City Contact Interval Strata in Western Wisconsin" by Zambito, J.J., IV et. al.

As frac sand mining was being introduced into NW Wisconsin about 2008-2010, questions were asked about the potential for acid mine draining or leaching. Would there be any heavy metals leaching into groundwater as a result of frac sand mining? Citizens were assured there would be no problem by local officials, the engineers, the mining company, and the DNR.....after all, these were non-metallic mines. However, in 2014, Dave Johnson, WDNR, at a DNR sponsored meeting in Eau Claire, WI, announced that heavy metals were of concern in certain areas of WI having been found in storm and waste water ponds and the sludge produced in the processing. Boreholes, private well systems, and hand samples found in NW Wisconsin were producing some significant findings.

**Here is a copy of the Powerpoint shown in 2014.
[open the powerpoint here](#)**

While Chippewa County and state officials were conducting studies on water quantity as impacted upon by hi cap wells, it was determined that heavy water usage was lowering pH levels and that water elevations made a difference in those measurements. In 2016, it was announced that the WDNR would be studying water quality. Perhaps that study has started, but as of 2019, it had not begun due to the lack of finances.

At the urging of citizens and others, Jay Zambito IV, et. al. in association with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, have undertaken this important and now documented scientific study regarding water quality which impacts animals, plants, and other life throughout the regions of the State and beyond.

Take a look at the study. People living around or near frac sand mines would find water testing of their wells of great importance. Human health could be affected if levels of metals are exceeding the maximum reading.

[VIEW THE GEOCHEMISTRY STUDY AT THIS SITE](#)

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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 and for additional information, [click here](#) for panoramic aerial views of frac sand mines, processing plants, and trans-load facilities. FracTracker.org is also an excellent source of information.

VOTE on NOVEMBER 3!!!!