

Special Report in the Wall Street Journal about frac sand mining in NW Wisconsin



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

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Mary Drangstveit and her husband, Leland Drangstveit, on their farm next door to a Hi-Crush sand mine.

**Mary and Leland
Drangstveit have
been interviewed!**

**Professional
Photographers
Jenn Ackerman**

**and Tim Gruber from the Wall Street Journal took
their picture.**

**A Wall Street Journal article
features a report about people living near frac
sand facilities in NW Wisconsin and the
environmental impacts of the industry.**

Today, The Wall Street Journal published online a big feature article about the frac sand industry in Wisconsin. It should be on the front page of tomorrow's WSJ print edition. The author interviewed one of our impacted families, Mary and Leland Drangstveit, who are quoted and pictured in the article.

It's mostly a business-oriented article, but it does describe some of the nuisances from mining and other environmental impacts. The article also quotes one of our experts, Dr. Ted Auch, and refers to the research of another one of our experts, Dr. Crispin Pierce UW-EC who has been involved in air quality research near frac sand facilities and their impact upon the health and environment of people living in the vicinity of frac sand mines. Interestingly, the Wall Street Journal photographer, using a drone, captured evidence of Hi-Crush violating its Air Pollution Control Permit again. The image at the top of the article shows visible dust emissions from the stacks of the baghouse—something that is not allowed under the permit. You can view the image in the document. One of our friends captured video and still images of this a year ago, too.

Here's an excerpt of the article about the environmental impact:

"Environmental toll"

"While the sand mines gave a boost to local economies, they also took an environmental toll. Neighbors worry chemicals used in sand processing could leach into drinking water. In 2018, Hi-Crush deliberately breached a retention pond in an effort to rescue a trapped bulldozer operator, releasing some 10 million gallons of orange-hued water onto farmers' fields and the nearby Trempealeau River.

Testing by state officials found no immediate risk to human health, though it did find elevated levels of arsenic and some heavy metals. Hi-Crush said the release saved the operator's life and committed to clean up afterward. "We are in the final stages of the restoration process," the spokeswoman said.

In a 2018 study, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

researchers found air samples taken near two sand mines had elevated levels of a particulate matter associated with increased lung-cancer risk.

And while sand-mining companies in Wisconsin are required to set aside money for reclamation, such efforts in open-pit mines rarely succeed, said Ted Auch , an environmental scientist at FracTracker Alliance, a nonprofit that tracks fracking's impact: "The inherent fertility of these sites is lost." " Wall Street Journal, 10-8-2020

If you sign up for a 30 day trial to the Wall Street Journal, you should be able to read it at the link noted below. It is an outstanding article related to an issue here that caused a great deal of concern to WI people starting in 2008.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/wisconsin-fracking-sand-jobs-11602104015>

There's No Oil in Wisconsin. The Fracking Bust Hit It Anyway.

Mines that sent trainloads of 'Northern White' sand to West Texas sit idle, costing jobs and hurting local-government coffers

By
Alexander Osipovich
and
Ryan Dezember

*Photographs by Jenn Ackerman + Tim Gruber for The Wall
Street Journal*

**Take some time to read this Wisconsin related
article.**

**Vote: November 3 if you haven't already voted by
absentee ballot!**

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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.