

Ambient air, PM 4 and lower particulates containing silica (prevalence outside each boundary of industrial sand mines), diesel and gas emissions from processing, heavy machinery, idling trains.
How particulates can impact surrounding homes, businesses, and schools.
Frac sand mining is a relatively new industry with fast-growing growth. Exposure standards for airborne silica dust need to be established and take into consideration the needs of the general public: the elderly, children, those with lung ailments.
Factual air quality concerns and development of reasonable standardized guidelines.
what assurances are there that Sand Mines do not pollute our air? Do they pollute the air in and around the mines? What constitutes pollution? Are pollutants visible? Are they not visible? What sort of health problems does sand air pollutants cause? What steps does the Sand Mines and/or monitoring groups take to make sure our air is pollutant free? Can we as citizens believe the results of the monitoring groups? Are the monitoring people/groups monitored by qualified and knowledgeable people who are not connected to the sand mine operations?
Temporary monitoring to demonstrate compliance with yearly rechecks
Ambient Dust Monitoring for Particulate Matter PM4 or PM2.5 and PEL standards to comply at 50 micrograms of respirable crystalline silica per cubic meter. Anything higher is unacceptable for people living within a 1 mile radius of a mine.
Particulate, pollutants and smog
I feel the company in Chippewa Falls has done a good job with this issue. Others should follow there example.
Smog, pollutants, increased exhaust
Continuously Monitor particulate pollution within 1 mile of sand mines
Measurements should be taken at various distances from frac-sand mines, up to 10-miles away, to determine how far the dust travels and at what concentrations.
How will it be monitored, compared to a baseline before the industrial sand mining and processing in a particular locale? Have other studies been done in other parts of the US or the world. What would be the cost to have on site agency inspections performed quarterly and how would/could it be funded? How do WI env permit fees compare to other states?
How well existing technology meets existing air quality standards. There should not be a set of standards different than for other air quality standards.
The dust you see is feldspar iron oxide, calcium carbonate and clay
<a href="https://wisair.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/air-monitoring-analysis-chippewa-falls-wi.pdf">https://wisair.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/air-monitoring-analysis-chippewa-falls-wi.pdf</a>
How sand mining can affect the health of people, animals and general air quality and how it can decrease visibility and/or aesthetic value to an area
Airborne particulates Potential for public heal risk, i.e., silicosis, etc.
All the usual and customary concerns stated innumerable times by concerned citizens
What is silica dust doing to our health? I have a relative who works at a hospital near operations. He says the hospital has had to turn away certain patients due to complications from silica dust. I also have relatives who began suffering allergy-like symptoms when operations moved in near their homes. I've experienced cold-like symptoms when visiting family near these operations that clear up within a day or two of returning home.
No concern
Emmissions from industrialized equipment and machinery. Increase of airborn particulate matter.
In addition to ensuring worker safety regarding inhalation of silica, there should be no output of gases/elements that would affect the temperature or oxygen levels for the people and wildlife in the area. Studies are needed to show mining's contributions to climate change.
The public needs data from independent long term and short term studies of air quality near industrial sand mines. Especially studies for fine dust particles. Without this we cannot set standards.
Fugitive Dust control
It is important that we ensure that tiny particles aren't getting into our air and causing health problems.
Silicosis
I am concerned about the effectiveness of air quality monitoring at mining sites, be it a limitation of technology or personnel resources or both.
Controlling fugitive dust particularly the fine particles.
They are all important, but the citizens shouldn't be making the rules or telling the DNR what they should or should do.
The acute and long-term effects of airborne particles originate from sand mines. The inhalation of silica sand can cause silicosis, an incurable disease. There are no state standards for airborne silica dust and therefore are not considered when permits are issued.
silicosis associated with the inhalation of silica sand
check the air in the area of sand mines. If they meet standards, I understand they produce less negative air than a farmer tilling their fields.
#NAME?
Increase silica dust monitoring near mines, processing sites, and transportation routes

<p>air quality monitoring should be conducted near and at a distance from any mining operation; specific rules are important; there should be closure of any facility exposing residential/even rural areas to respirable crystalline silica and particulates associated with this industry; tests should be done in barns where farmers are exposed to respirable crystalline silica dust when cows are occupying barns....there may be hazardous exposure levels even though the sand is waste and has been cleaned (read the NIOSH studies from July 16, 2014) in regard to worker exposure and dangers inherent in this industry even though sand has been cleaned. Best management practices are not enough; specific high level tools must be required (enclosed street sweepers (vacuums) with HEPA filters must be required). Specific dust control measures must be used to control dust blowing off the mines; if not controlled, facilities should be shut down on windy days.</p>
<p>Measure the fine particles of silica in the air. I feel like there must be some that are not visible. This winter has been extremely windy and I have had respiratory congestion without illness more than ever before. The sand mine closest to me only mines during the winter. I am nit alone in experiencing these symptoms. I would like to know if science backs up what people are experiencing.</p>
<p>is getting poorer where me and my family live, and is already affecting the area where our children go to elementary school in the holmen school district. Is this going to get worse?</p>
<p>As to effect to the close neighbors.</p>
<p>Carbon emissions, particulates, and air quality within a 10 mile radius of mining operations.</p>
<p>I live in one of the sand counties. Loose sand is already a problem here; it is not uncommon to get sandblasted by tons of sand in the air during windy days. In the winter, you can even see blown sand on top of snow. One of my major allergies is dust, so sand in the air tends to be a big problem for me (in addition to the damage to vehicles, etc)</p>
<p>Compare agricultural dust, and none paved County road dust to sand dust assumed to come from mining operation</p>
<p>Fugitive dust. Fumes from sand trucks.</p>
<p>HOW FAR THE SILICA CAN TRAVEL</p>
<p>Fine silica dust floating in the air and being breathed in by children and adults.</p>
<p>CURRENT REGS ALREADY IN PLACE !</p>
<p>When the wind blows hard and constant from the East, we get the sand coming over to our property. You can see the sand blowing around when you drive past the sand mine. For the people living in this area, one of the qualities of life has been clean and healthy air. Silica sand is a known carcinogenic. We have animals on our hobby farm, and believe not only the humans but the animals as well are at risk.</p>
<p>Please look at additional air quality studies at each mile distance, from 1 to 5 miles, in all directions of each sand plant for silica and health/medical complications that residents in those distances have experienced since the opening of each mine. Consider water table contamination for the same distances. Also research the additional exhaust from the diesel vehicles being used to haul the sand on our roadways.</p>
<p>Worker safetyNeighbor safetyMeasurement criteriaMonitoring criteriaResearch available to support criteria</p>
<p>Start to monitor the air at ALL mines. Make it mandatory for mines to monitor air. We need air standards for silica dust. You all have some influence in the government of the this state. Help to change the laws that are lacking in providing the health, safety and welfare of ALL citizens.</p>
<p>What are we breathing? The research is easy to find on the internet.</p>
<p>Silica dust and the carcinogens in the sand and dust. The distance this can travel.</p>
<p>Not only the air quality in and around the mine site, evaluate air quality as the silica sand is transported on the highways. Also the impact of the silica sand dust and the particles getting into the air on extremely windy/high humidity weather/and various weather conditions.</p>
<p>There is visible silica sand along Hwy35. When people breath silica dust it can produce silicosis, inflammation of the lung.</p>
<p>My son-in-law is a world renowned professor/researcher of air particles. He is very concerned about the impact of sand mining on air quality, not just from sand particles but also the decline in air quality due to the number of trucks used to transport the sand. There are no studies that have been done to prove that sand mining is safe for those who live close to the mines.</p>
<p>Driving past two sand mining operations several times a month, I see sand coating the asphalt and see sand dust clouds lingering in the air.</p>
<p>I think the DNR and the sand-mining industry would improve their reputations greatly if they requested and subsidized extensive and ongoing monitoring by third-party agencies. These third parties should be required to regularly prove that they have no connection of any kind other than subsidy to either the DNR or the sand mining industry. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>breathing air that we inhaled and exhaled are being destroyed</p>
<p>I would like to see frac sand mines and processing sites to be required to test air quality near and away from the sites including testing for the smallest particulates that can cause silicosis.</p>
<p>I understand that the dust created in the mining process contains particles that are similar in nature to asbestos and that there are insufficient funds for the DNR to monitor the particle count. I have heard that the industry is self regulating the output and this is not adequate or even remotely effective.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.psr.org/chapters/wisconsin/assets/pdfs/frac-sand-mining-health.pdf">http://www.psr.org/chapters/wisconsin/assets/pdfs/frac-sand-mining-health.pdf</a></p>

Health effects of airborne dust from mining operations. Since the mines went into operation, I have had sinus issues when I've never experienced sinus issues in the past. I've been to the Doctor and there is evidence of an irritation that we can't seem to get cleared up. Antibiotics don't have any affect on it. I suspect that it is a constant irritation caused by particulates in the air. Dust is on everything all the time.
Miner exposure to airborne silica particles, as well as residential exposure near sand mining areas.
Most concerned about whether or not this will affect things along with groundwater-- have not noticed ab problem yet
Yes, all ways to test it
Look at long range impact. Small particular can have a devastating health impact many years late. Asbestos (?) is a prime example.
Carcinogenic dust is a major concern. There is an obvious public health threat posed by frac sand mining.
resulting poor air quality around or near operations is a great concern for everyone!
Silica sand causes cancer! Sand mining should be banned in the state of WI. Protecting our natural resources is the most important job the DNR has !!!!!
Air quality is a big issue - dust & silica particles cause respiratory problems & aggravate asthma & heart conditions and increased susceptibility to tuberculosis as well as causing silicosis which can lead to cancer as well as just air pollution in general!The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources cranked out letters of noncompliance " warnings to fix a problem before it becomes serious enough to merit a notice of violation " at numerous facilities. 'Some of these companies should have known better, said Marty Sellers, a DNR air management engineer. 'They seem to put construction and production ahead of regulations.'" from <a href="http://wisconsinwatch.org/2013/03/frac-sand-dnr-violations/">http://wisconsinwatch.org/2013/03/frac-sand-dnr-violations/</a> Usually, Sellers said, the DNR expects 90 percent of companies in a regulated industry to comply with rules on their own. But in his visits to a dozen frac sand facilities, Sellers encountered the opposite pattern, and he sent letters of noncompliance to 80 to 90 percent of the sites.
Particulate travel distance for sand and shards.
This is high priority to make sure that air is dust free.
The particulates that are generated are extremely dangerous to surrounding humans and animals. The wind can carry these well beyond the mining boundaries.
Blowing fine silica sand is a hazard to immediate neighbors of the mines, and also to everyone along the transportation routes.
silica air pollution at and near mining sites
silica in the air, effect on people, animals, and plants
I am not sure what affects/effects this would have on air, but I am sure there are some, and please keep in mind that Air is more valuable than Oil, as it is necessary for life.
I am concerned about silica dust and the health consequences of exposure. Towns in Texas are already seeing silicosis and scleroderma in those living or working near sand mining. Where in the DNR's tight budget will the money for monitoring air quality come from? Also, for those who live near train loading sites we've seen violations in Prairie du Chien, where the operators just get a small slap on the wrist and the stray sand continues to fly.
Air monitors for people living in the area to be sure that the air is safe- monitored by a third party.
Issues related to fine silica particles and dust.
Yes, silica sand monitors
Fugitive dust and wind erosion control
Ambient silica dust. Compliance (or lack thereof) of sand mines with EPA PM2.5 and PM10 standards. Needs assessment for particulate monitoring in general and at specific sites. Acute and chronic health issues related to silica dust exposure. Air impacts of diesel-powered machinery and trucks and dust from truck traffic.
To residents
constant, independent air quality monitoring prior to mining ops start, and ongoing throughout
There is a sand fracking operation near 190 Ave outside of Bloomer, near where my great grandparents had a farm. There is a small daycare center near there and I've heard the air quality is so poor that those rural children have to wear face masks.
Will silicosis be an effect of mining?Will cancer be a potential outcome?Does the Clean air and water act provide protection?
Silica in the air poses health risks to those in proximity to sand mining operations. The heavy traffic associated with large trucks hauling off loads of sand create more effluents.
I want clean air to breath for me and those living around me
Particulate matter of silica in the air. Affect on those around it and cancer risks.
silica dust exposuretruck traffic exhaust
Micron size allowed for particulate matter. This material gets transported and is often airborne in extraction, trucking, and installing at frac petroleum sites.
Air pollution from dust
We need to filter the air from each homestead.
Currently I understand that the regional EPA monitors do not capture high dust events or identify what particulates are being counted. Silica dust is <2.5 pm. Because silica is a known carcinogen, we need better monitoring.

I'm looking at your topics list, and I don't see mention of any ongoing monitoring for this parameter. Discussion of how monitoring will be done might be in the actual text, but comprehensive ongoing monitoring should also be a significant part of the process, so I would like to see monitoring procedures mentioned in the index of topics considered.
The particles can be really really small, yet really unhealthy. Make sure to have equipment that tests for the smallest of particles. But better yet, don't allow the mines to expand so that testing is not even necessary. This industry is not good for the earth or for people in the long-run.
Silicon - Silicosis Dust nuisances
At what levels do the sand being mined infiltrate the air in the areas around mines.
Sand mining directly and indirectly effects and degrades air quality.
Measure air quality all around a sand facility and downwind of the facility. Measure for small particulates PM2.5 particulates, and measure how far the dust travels from the site so that residents have a better idea how much will be blowing around their property.
The effects of breathing the dust from sand processing plant on humans. Long and short term. Incidence of asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, etc.
Particulates and how far they travel from the facilities.
I would like to see monitoring of the air quality at every facility. Spot checking here and there is not the answer. What you cannot see can hurt you.
Specific to Diesel Exhaust, studies have been done with regard to having numerous truck trips per day passing residences,,, this should be known and made known.
Measure the smallest particles of silica that are the most dangerous for your lungs.
What is the true PM4 silica content of air directly downwind of typical operations, both at the mine and at the processing plants? Is there any impact to pm2.5 measurements, as has been asserted by Crispin Pierce?
Since the sand plant went in near our house it has been covered in dust year round. Shutting the windows does not help much. I
I have asthma and am already on two different inhalers. How will the air quality affect my health and the others like me with similar conditions?
Amount of sand in the air that will affect the air quality of people working in the mines and surrounding community. How it will affect people with respiratory problems.
I think there are some air impacts, but mostly from the Diesel traffic associated with mining. I would like to see more conveyor and rail operations.
what are the health effects of the chemicals being blown around in the air
I feel that silica dust ( a known carcinogen) produced by sand mining is a definite concern Another concern is the dust that blows off the backs of trucks and frac sand sites.
How easily sand travels into homes/schools near the mines. How to control and maintain low silica levels in the air. What measures will each mine be required to take if silica levels reach a certain dangerous level (to be determined as well), 3rd party surveillance of compliance with agreed suitable levels of silica in the air. If/when mines will be shut down either due to noncompliance of safety measures/etc.
I am concerned that there is not adequate staffing in the DNR to police the mines that already exist. In fact at one of the hearing in our county a DNR representative admitted that the site proposed would probably never be inspected because there just weren't enough people.
Blowing fine particulate matter is hazardous to one's health. What happens to bicyclist, walker etc. when traveling near an active sand mine during windy weather?
Latest EPA tests done in wisconsin that indicates 2.5 ppm particulate matter is at lowest levels in 30 years in wisconsin, and has gone down even with numerous mines operating.
Air pollution and thus its quality, are needing tighter restrictions on emissions from factories and fuel.
Silica dust getting into the air is a major concern. Silica dust has been shown to cause incurable respiratory problems such as silicosis. <a href="https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/crystalline-factsheet.pdf">https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/crystalline-factsheet.pdf</a>
Yes, for particulates.
The impact of frac sand mining on respiratory health
monitoring of air around sand mines, loading stations, rail cars and trucks carrying frac sand - monitoring to be done by DNR or independent officials from the mining companies. WI state university of Eau Claire has student projects doing some independent air monitoring.
Discuss the findings of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in Winona Wisconsin and other monitoring stations throughout the state. <a href="http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/air/air-quality-and-pollutants/air-pollutants/silica-sand-mining/air-monitoring-data-at-minnesota-silica-sand-facilities.html#winona">http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/air/air-quality-and-pollutants/air-pollutants/silica-sand-mining/air-monitoring-data-at-minnesota-silica-sand-facilities.html#winona</a> Also discuss the findings on by Dr. John Richards pertaining to concentrations of PM4 crystalline silica on the ambient air quality of surrounding areas.
Air quality and dust control are extremely important, with a particular focus on airborne silica exposure for mine workers and truck drivers. I do not believe, however, the sand mine industry should have any stricter regulations in regards to air quality than any other industry as it pertains to outside of the plant. For example, it should be no different than any requirements put on dairy farms, feedlots, bakeries (airborne flour), etc.

<p>No visual or other health effects noticed in either employees, family or customers of my business. My business is located 1/2 mile to the west of Musky Propants in Pierce County and 8 miles north of Wisconsin Industrial Sand of Maiden Rock, in Pierce County, Wisconsin.</p>
<p>I would like to see results of PM monitoring upwind and down wind of long term mud fines storage areas prior to reclamation activities</p>
<p>Immediate air quality impact of air quality in areas around sand mining - like those known in the mining of northern MN (lung diseases).</p>
<p>I would appreciate the DNR stepping up and monitoring for smaller particle size fugitive dust. Wisconsin Industrial Sand Company proudly touts their research, but it does not investigate particle sizes that Drs. Pierce and McCawley report as causing silicosis.</p>
<p>Maintaining current air quality standards would be important.</p>
<p>We can not find out about how the air quality is really effecting us because it takes years to show side effects. Kind of like tobacco.</p>
<p>I have seen many many times the sand dust rising from the loading site in Prairie du Chien, which is ludicrously described as steam. Mind you it is not scientifically determined; instead it is surmised. When we finally do the science, and link to health and life quality complaints, the blowback will be large and deserved to government, business and politicians. This will cause lawsuits, and business bankruptcies and abandonment, causing further blowback because of angry citizens.</p>
<p>Not sure what you want here, but all of these aspects are important, so I'll just say yes . I am not a researching in this area, but I assume you have already received plenty of information.</p>
<p>WI residents should not lose any air quality due to business ventures.</p>
<p>Do sand mines add additional particulate matter to the atmosphere? How much? What are the effects on human health? What can sand mines do to mitigate air quality damage?</p>
<p>Whether silica dust is escaping mine areas to affect schools, homes, businesses, and passersby in the vicinity, and if so, at what levels. Whether sand mine workers are subject to dangerous levels of silica dust. Whether sand mine companies have the capability to minimize the silica dust that escapes the boundaries of their operations.</p>
<p>The public needs to be fully informed on air quality. Research needs to be done to understand short and long term affects of sand mining, industrial stock pile, and processing of silica.</p>
<p>What is composition and quantity of the substance sprayed on sand piles to prevent airborne particulates. What is the history of past violations. Have there been penalties and have they been actually enforced.</p>
<p>I am concerned that Wisconsin has really no parameters or standards for air quality as it relates to this industry - i.e. like Minnesota adopted.</p>
<p>More research needs to be done on the amounts of blowing sand coming from the stock piles. Silica is a hazardous material and it can be carried on the wind for many miles before settling in peoples homes and lungs. The wind is a force of nature and we have no control over how hard or long it blows and what is carried in it, therefore it is very important that we keep silica dust from entering the wind and being blown into schools, homes and the lungs of the citizens.</p>
<p>The 2011 American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for crystalline silica as quartz and cristobalite is 0.025 mg/m3 for an 8-hour time-weighted average-minute period with an 'R' notation. The 'R' means that the sampling must be for 'respirable particles' or those that can be inhaled deep into the lung. Respirable particle sampling must be done with a special sampling tool called a cyclone that limits the air sampling to dusts that are a specific size (less than 4 microns). The Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) concentration (the level that can cause immediate death) is 50 mg/m3. The 2015 TLVs® and BEIs® with 7th Edition Documentation, CD-ROM, has updated information. Since the values given are for 8 hour periods, ambient air quality standards should be less than 1/3 of this since people are exposed to ambient air for 24 hour periods 7 days a week. Children, elderly, and others already dealing with impaired health (either from earlier exposure to respirable silica or other ailments need even lower thresholds to live. This would probably also hold true for pets, livestock, and wildlife.</p>
<p>Work in concert w/ EPA to check on the damage to our lungs from frac sand.</p>
<p>The proposed sand mine will effect the overall health of the people and animals in the surrounding areas for many miles. All land vegetation, trees, people, and animals due to the dust debris and disruption of the ground. This area we live in which is called the great river road , will no longer be one of the world's most pretty's areas to live because it will turn into mass destruction of scenic beauty! The trees will all die, the and the people will no longer have a river to look at because the land will be destroyed along with the river all because someone just wants to make some money by selling some sand and rocks for big dollars.</p>
<p>Analysis needs to include a provision for evaluating, quantifying and assessing damages frac sand mining causes to air quality. Reduced air quality is an external cost that should be borne by the industry not affected communities.</p>
<p>I am concerned about unknown adverse affects of very small (PM2.5) sized silica particles, whether inhaled or contacted (skin and eyes). I would like to know detection distances, as many particles seemingly can travel great distances.</p>
<p>Consider the fine sand particles in the air that we all breathe in. Having air monitors in place and reviewed on a regular basis, all before any mining can be started, as some sand mines have waited years before getting them. Unless, ofcourse these air monitors are not very good quality at detecting what is actually in the air.</p>

Clear information about how the silica created by sand mining will be affecting both the neighbors to such a mine and the workers themselves.
please consider
#NAME?
What are the short term as well as accumulative long term (25 or 50 years)effects of sand mining dust and chemical exposure, not only to nearby humans, but wildlife, including migratory animals....will wildlife move out of the sand mining areas due to air quality issues?Where does the dust and particulates go.....what is the particulate load that is introduced to the atmosphere, and how far can it travel?What is the particulate load that is introduced to the atmosphere per year? How does that compare to other industries, such as farming and other industries....is it miniscule by comparison?
Is full of blowing sand the kind that gets into your lungs and stays there.
Include particulate matter.
the effect of dust in general and noise and silica dust on area residents and mine workers,coordinating with MSHA
Particulate matter generation and its effects on individuals health and quality of life and environment impact
It needs to be constantly measured.
Need to require sand mines to monitor to the 2.5 micron size to protect our air quality
Please look carefully at Dr Crispin Pierce's findings and implement more monitoring of PM2.5 fugitive silica dust. The current PM4 or PM10 monitoring misses the most dangerous, smallest, particles. Study the effects of air pollution from the explosives themselves.Study the effects of heavy diesel machinery operating 24/7.
silica dust
I am completing this form on Sunday, April 12, while winds are high and sand from farming operations is swirling outside. The industrial sand mines in Trempealeau County have created much larger open areas of sand than those created by farms. I am concerned about the very fine respirable silica, PM 2.5. The DNR needs to make sure that mines install air quality monitors on their boundaries, and on adjacent lands, and these monitors need to test for PM 2.5, which has been shown to be a health hazard. The mines should bear this cost. The cost is very little compared to the amount of money to be made by the mines. Data should be gathered by special DNR staff whose position(s) are funded by the mines.
I am very concerned about the cumulative impacts of frac sand mining and frac sand drying plants. I live within 1 mile of 3 sand mines (1 fully operational 2 fully permitted). My children attend New Auburn school who have 2 dry plants in town and 2 additional dry plants just outside of city limits. There is dust everywhere!! I would like the DNR to require and include PM2.5 monitoring. I would also like the DNR to set a crystalline silica standard like California and Texas. The more mines concentrated in an area need to be monitored intensely to protect the health of the citizens living in the area.
all aspects
I believe that an extensive amount of research regarding air quality has already been completed by John Richards. I believe referencing the data that has been compiled from areas where mining occurs and where no mining is currently taking place would support the statement that mining sand has little impact on the quality of air in areas surrounding mining operations. It is my opinion that any future work will only support this idea. I think that a continued effort to monitor air quality at mining operations would provide further proof that there is little impact on the air quality near industrial sand mines.
In addition to the increase in silica spikes, please consider the accumulative impact of PM given the soil that becomes airborne from crop fields that do not have cover crops. It is important to have air monitoring equipment required on each mine both upwind and down wind with the results going to the towns independent of the mine's analysis. If you are downwind of a sand mine on a gusty day, it is not possible to sit outside or have an outdoor event. The sand particles actually hurt the skin, not to mention the impact upon inhalation.
Monitoring before and after a sand mine is approved
If done the right I think there are no problems
The air monitoring data collected from stations at ISM plants, and from monitors NOT located near ISM activity for comparison. The monitoring data from independent studies obtained using accepted methodologies. What measures, steps, plans, controls are in place at each facility. I believe that information from biased sources using unacceptable data has misrepresented the industry. Is there another industry that monitors it's own air quality as closely?
A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining impacts on air quality.
crystalline silica, diesel fumes, other particulates
Silicosis from sand dust and toxic chemical pollutants from the machinery and processing
Slica dust
Yes please
AIR QUALITY
Particulate matter wind blown from mining, storage, transportation and use. Damage to humans animals and property due to degraded air quality.
EOG in Chippewa Falls covered their sand piles because moisture was making it hard to process. It wasn't because they cared about what my family might be breathing.
We want to know the amount of respirable silica found in the air near any of the mining operations. We want to know how the air monitoring is going to be done and at what times of the day and night. What would happen if the air near the mine was found unsafe?

<p>very important..people living near the mines are at risk of lung disease, especially if they have other medical issues, eg., asthma; COPD...  air quality within the windshed area--including dust,asbestos, and dust from trucking and shipping sites.  Air particulates are already dense in my area. I have asthma.</p>
<p>Air contamination</p>
<p>Sames as 8.</p>
<p>Fine silica particles, that are released into the air, when the sand is brought up from it's natural state. Case in point, we now experience a fine white dusting, that covers everything, and shows up very well on a dark surface. I agree that dust occurs naturally, but since the sand mines have begun operation in the area, the dust is more prevalent. It has also affected me, personally,with the increase in symptoms of dry irritated eyes, and sinus congestion.</p>
<p>Establish a base line air quality before mining and frequently test duringmining to maintain such air quality. Especial concern for any elevated levels of silica in the air both on and off the mining site.</p>
<p>Assure air quality allows all living creatures can breathe the air, including those with respiratory problems.</p>
<p>In our community, the wind is blowing the sand from the sand mining and it is not comfortable for people living near.  fresh air is a necessity of life....done.</p>
<p>I heard that silica is a carcinogen. I already suffer from respiratory problems, especially from allergies, and do not want more trouble.</p>
<p>i,\$Cumulative impacts: What are the impacts caused by a high concentration of mines in one area?i,\$Secondary impacts: What are the additional impacts that Wisconsin can expect from the frac sand mining boom related to changes in population, land use, air quality from trucking, rail demand or other foreseeable effects?i,\$What are alternative methods or controls that the industry could adopt to minimize impacts to the environment?</p>
<p>i moved here for the air quality and now its being threatened by frac mining</p>
<p>The DNR should include an analysis of potential health impacts of PM 4 and PM 2.5 and whether or not those size particles pose a significant public health risk. The DNR should consider working with the Department of Health Services to provide this information to local residents.</p>
<p>I have noticed a great deal of wasted sand falling on the ground and in the road washing into streams and into our car's vents. The area is very sensitive to ecological changes</p>
<p>Air monitoring should be required at all frac sand mining operations. There should be air monitors required on all sides of the mine site and/or mining operation site. The monitors should specifically monitor for 2.5 micron particles since that is the size of silica dust particles.  Silicon and silica moleculesOthersPlease use US Agency of toxic substances and disease registry re health effects as well as peer reviewed scientific studies.</p>
<p>I would like to see the DNR seek public input through hearings re the experiences of those living close to operating sand mines with regard specifically to any health issues they may have experienced.</p>
<p>Fracking generates methane, which is 21 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than CO2!!!, leads to more fossils being burnt and, therefore, more pollution, and more heat from CO2 production in addition to the methane ...none of which is desirable in the least.</p>
<p>The 2012 study lacked data on the amount of respirable crystalline silica, known to cause silicosis in mine workers, contained in dust from mines, and there are no state or federal regulatory standards for silica dust in ambient air. Analyze results from independent sources, such as Crispin Pierce at UW-Eau Claire. Research the experiences of those living downwind from these sites and the how dust has changed their quality of life. Evaluate need for testing and regulating at smaller micro levels. Evaluate cumulative impacts of multiple mines and operations in a general area. Include exhaust from diesel engines from heavy equipment, haul routes, and increase rail use as part of your modelling and estimate these related costs.</p>
<p>There should be no allowable diminution or risk factors to quality air. I don't believe that any enterprise has the right to compromise air quality and create potential health issues.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Fracking_and_air_pollution">http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Fracking_and_air_pollution</a></p>
<p>Need to study effects of crystalline silica on people living near these sites. New Auburn School is a prime example.</p>
<p>Monitor air quality near schools and towns.</p>
<p>How far can silica sand travel?The area of air around a frac sand mine, train with frac sand, or truck with frac sand that is contaminated with silica. How far away from these things do you have to be to guarantee you are not breathing in the silica sand?</p>
<p>Consider cumulative effects of multiple mines near one another. Also, consider not only the air pollution from the sand, but also the pollution contributed by related increases in trucking or rail transportation of the sand. Moreover, consider the decrease in air quality from the burning of the fossil fuel which was enabled to be extracted by the frac sand.</p>
<p>We need to test for the smallest particles, which pose the biggest threat to human and biologic health. And should be paid for but not performed by the sand mining industry.</p>
<p>Please review the literature concerning damage to lungs (human/animal) by the fine particle sand.</p>
<p>We have no idea how much silica is being released into the air.</p>

<p>On more than one occasion, I have seen a roller type wheeled vehicle cleaning the road near the frac sand plant east of Cameron a few miles which throws small dust particles about 40 feet in the air. I drive through New Auburn on a regular basis and there is always sand on the side of the road being churned into the air by passing trucks every minute. Due to this, air quality has to be effected.</p>
<p>On adjacent property.</p>
<p>Dust control, affects of dust exposure on health of mine employees and public, risk of silicosis.</p>
<p>How about sand dust all over the place!</p>
<p>Blowing sand covered the city of Augusta within hours of a filtration system malfunction. The company had 7 days to fix the problem. Operations should have to cease until problems like this are fixed, companies should not be able to put the public at risk for days while continuing to run.</p>
<p>Incidence of silicosis;loss of quality of life for people living near some mines and processing plants</p>
<p>none</p>
<p>How far the dust is blowing, What they can do to stop the dust or minimize it.</p>
<p>Test air quality taking into consideration of wind patterns and number of mines in a small area.</p>
<p>I DON'T THINK WE ARE DOING ENOUGH TO MONITOR THE AIR QUALITY AROUND THESE OPERATIONS. I KNOW THE TRUCKS HAULING SAND SHOULD BE COVERED, BUT MANY TIME I HAVE SEEN THESE TRUCKS LEAVING THE PROCESS PLANT ON HWY 10 BY ELLSWORTH LEAVING BEHIND A CLOUD DUST GOING DOWN THE ROAD.</p>
<p>How wide spread does the sand travel?</p>
<p>Any wind from mine,sand covers our property any belongings.making living there unbearable</p>
<p>See #8</p>
<p>You cannot notice how polluted the air is when breathing but you cannot even hang laundry outside because it will be brown by the time it dries.</p>
<p>blowing sand</p>
<p>Assessment of airborne silica particulate matter near and downwind of mines, particularly fine material less than 4 microns.</p>
<p>Asthma inhaler prescriptions in demographic areas near sand mines.</p>
<p>It seems that as I pass the sand mine by New Auburn, my lungs feel tight and my throat closes up a bit.</p>
<p>I don't like the washed piles of sand out I the elements blowing all the time. If I lived right next to that I would hate that. If it was covered with a shed I would have no problem with that.</p>
<p>Impacts of airborne particulates on the health of the environment and persons exposed to them either through their work or proximity to an active sand facility or mine.</p>
<p>Air quality is affected by more than one industry. When farming operations are tilling and prepping their land for planting and harvesting crops, that very dry and dusty dirt floats through the air for us to breath just the same as any of the air from the sand mines and that has been taking place for many years longer than the sand mining industry.</p>
<p>Sand mining has not changed the air quality</p>
<p>What are people and animals breathing in?</p>
<p>Provide into to the public so they get accurate info</p>
<p>WDNR's August 2011 Report to the Natural Resources Board on Silica says that fine airborne crystalline silica is carcinogenic; that no federal air quality standards control it; that the most dangerous particles are finer than four microns; and that WDNR has no crystalline silica monitoring data -- mainly because it has no guidelines and no resources to gather them. Nevertheless, WDNR has been permitting frac-sand mines and processing facilities to operate without appropriate air monitoring to track silica dust. THIS IS FLAT-OUT WRONG!</p>
<p>This should be monitored. We were told that there is an air monitor at UW - Eau Claire, which is at least 60 miles away.</p>
<p>I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. We need guidelines for airborne particles of frac sand permissible at frac sand mines, released during transportation and loading, and at cleaning facilities.</p>
<p>We are told that the air is safe and their are controls in place to reduce the chance of silica blowing around, yet this last week when it has been so windy, you can see clouds of sand blowing. I have pictures of the fields in our area next to the mines that the snow is a light brown. It does not take an expert to see that their are not controls in place, nor is anyone or any agency monitoring the mines. I am in the health care field and know that this is not healthy.</p>
<p>Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future</p>
<p>Sand particles in the air within certain distances from a mining operation.</p>
<p>I am concerned and think air quality should be monitored as I am a Registered Radiologic Technologist and have done multiple exams in my 25 years of service. I have done many chest X-ray on many patients who have expressed concerns about the air quality surrounding their homes which are very close to either a mine or processing plant. I, myself have observed sand along the roads at least 1 mile away from a processing plant, so you know it is moving through the air, anyone with any common sense could figure that out. I have drove the same road/roads for over 30 years.</p>
<p>Please get involved in more testing, we know that silica dust is a cancer causer, mining produces silica dust. there are days in our area when there is a orange haze in the air.</p>
<p>YES</p>
<p>Silliacosis</p>
<p>I would like ongoing monitoring of the air quality . The cost of the monitoring to be born by the companies making the money.</p>

<p>Make the awareness of the sand mining effects a public forum with plenty of notice and announcements. Stay out of the politics of it. Invite OSHA to participate. Raise awareness of silicosis. Share all documents available to public &amp; require full inspections of facilities before they open.</p>
<p>The extremely small size of the sand particles is not measured properly in most areas. There is a greater amount of airborne particles created than was created by the smaller scale historical local gravel and sand pits. Once in the lungs, these ultra fine particles remain in the body.</p>
<p>Asthma and health issues. My daughter suffers from severe asthma after the sand plant moved in but never had it before. Long term consequences of particulate inhalation?</p>
<p>I have heard it said that there is no problem with air quality with these mines. If you have ever driven through where there is a mine, you can see dust. If you can see dust, how much more is there that you can not see.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the air quality, especially with reference to breathing in particulate matter that could be small enough to harm my lungs. Both of my children have asthma and my father has COPD.</p>
<p>Notice alot of sand particles in the air on windy days</p>
<p>Sand mines are highly regulated and must keep records daily for dust control. I see more dust come off of the farm feilds I live next to.</p>
<p>The dust from this operation causes cancer just as asbestos.</p>
<p>How prevalent is silicosis in people who work in sand mines? How much exposure does it take for silicosis to begin to take effect? Is it safe????</p>
<p>Make sure the air quality is regulated. I live in new auburn wi and most the time the Dust is horrible in town. On really windy days it looks like a dust storm in arizona. Thus is a major problem that needs to be addressed.</p>
<p>Is there any difference in air quality after the sand mine went in to operation</p>
<p>The connection to lung problems from fine silicate material.</p>
<p>No silica in the air. Worried about lung cancer.</p>
<p>Lots of extra dust contributing to allergy and to mess.</p>
<p>I'm concerned about particulates in the air causing cancer</p>
<p>Yes, I am concerned for children and their ability to breathe.</p>
<p>With the high wind we get he in WI their needs to be a regulation that a sand mine can't be put with in a 5 mile radius of residential property unless there is a written agreement with the residents.</p>
<p>Definitely an area of concern;</p>
<p>Dust is dust when it blows off ground level. When the dust comes from deep within the earth every aspect of analysis should be double checked and made public record.</p>
<p>I feel air monitoring should be done at least 4 times per year.</p>
<p>We need clean air....to live</p>
<p>Adopt the EPA standard for &lt;=2.5pm/ug3</p>
<p>How does all the dust mining creates effect a normal person, person with health problems, children, pets and wildlife</p>
<p>I am bordered on three sides by HiCrush sand mine which is just getting established. I am concerned about dust from digging sites, large sand piles, and when blasting occurs.</p>
<p>I am very concerned about the cumulative effects of frac sand mining on the quality of air in</p>
<p>Checking the quartz in air.</p>
<p>Not only close to a mining area, but miles away.The mining industry only has one thing in mind and that is to make \$ at all cost and when they are done they will pull their equipment and the Wisconsin residents will be left to clean up there mess!</p>
<p>On windy days you can see the sand blowing everywhere. My neighbors and I notice sand on the side of our homes and deck. This is a known hazard to peoples health. I don't understand why mining is being put before people.</p>
<p>I am concerned about silicosis. Air quality is very important to me.</p>
<p>When driving past sand mine often have to close windows /vents of car as particulates are in the air.</p>
<p>Airborne sand and impact on health</p>
<p>When the wind blows, sand blows thru the air. When winds are at certain speeds, mine sites should be monitored for airborne matter and the necessary steps should be taken by the mine to contain this matter.</p>
<p>Dust from dry, blowing sand!</p>
<p>Near any processing plants</p>
<p>Increase in dust and sand in air.</p>
<p>There are places in our area where we can't drive in the car on the highway since my wife can't breath due to the particulates in the air. I've seen and felt the grit that is everywhere near any mine, we'll run or not. I've been to or through a number of cities and areas where in only a few minutes time requires a trip to the car wash and a thorough vacuuming of the car. If an industrial plant were spewing black ash onto and into people's homes and businesses the uproar would be swift. Why not the same for this insidious sand? Go anywhere within a mile or two on a breezy day and look for the haze. That'll point you to the mine. It's a given. If it's particularly uncontrolled it looks like a Saharan dust storm. Storage needs to be contained no just wetted down. The effects of this on people' health is already noticeable but the future bring the likelihood of even worse health consequences for locals as well as miners &amp; employees.</p>

Testing is needed
Effect of silica particulars, especially very small, on humans and animals. Dust pollution on properties near an industrial sand mine or processing facility
Air quality and regular inspections of air quality indicators need to be included in the analyses. In particular, the threat of silicosis and other factors in areas of sand mines is a significant long term health concern. Ongoing air quality monitoring and penalties should be in place and <u>enforced</u> while mines are in operation.
Air quality with an emphasis on an increase in particulates and the associated health effects. Especially at extended distances.
What are the particulate levels near the sand mines and drying plants? What is considered safe and can this be compared to previous mining areas.
Silica dust or other potential pollutants as a byproduct of sand mining
Concerned about air borne silicon sand and associated health risks. On windy days, I see great quantities of sand blowing off of the large sand piles
Very poor near the mine especially when windy. It looks like a beach.
Check the air quality with farmers in the fields
health risks
Monitoring to insure clean air at all times to avoid risk of health issues for residents.
testing of air quality is essential
I am concerned about fine silica sand being in the air; near Maiden Rock, people have fine sand on their window sills, if they have laundry hanging outside, etc., and it can't be safe to be breathing that. That has to be causing health issues.
Noise Pollution due to 24 hour operations?
There is inadequate monitoring of air quality for individuals near mines. Silicosis is a deadly disease but takes several years to become a problem. The neighbors who stay in the area will pay the price.
I have seen no impact in air quality, and I understand silicosis is an occupational hazard. not public threat. I live very near operating mines, but own no mine myself. The jobs and revenue this industry supplies is critical. I ask myself and others what it would be like if every sand related job was gone tomorrow. I should also add I do NOT work in the industry. It is good to monitor, but let's be realistic. Our gravel pits in this state have seen zero scrutiny in comparison to what the sand industry has.
Yes, if they are mining they should have to cover the sand so it doesn't float up in the air. Windy days are extremely bad. Going by the mines around Augusta WI you get a film on your skin and on your car from the mines. The cumulative effects of inhalation of silica sand can cause silicosis, an incurable disease that has also been known to cause cancer. Because of this threat, the federal government regulates workers' exposure to the dust, but there are no limits set for the general public, especially infants, children, the elderly, or those with existing health problems. There are no national or state standards for airborne silica dust which are desperately needed to protect us.
blowing sand from both the mine and the over 900 trucks that were used at the peak of ops. could not open my windows or sit outside
It is my major concern. Silicosis is a lethal lung disease caused by inhalation of silica particles. Here in the Chippewa valley we observed a great number of new mining operations and the construction of a silica plant. In addition, the dust can exacerbate other lung diseases as asthma and COPD.
slica and other particulates in air around mines and plants
Fugitive dust. Silicosis.
The effect of air born particulates on adjacent crops, animals and humans. Silicate is of particular concern.
All good
Fantastic
Please make sure a proper range is covered for air quality monitoring, error on the side of too large of an area being studied. If there is a negative impact on air quality we need to make sure we don't just assume the locations right next to mines or processing plants are the only areas potentially affected. This could have the potential to spread far and wide with how fine the particles are and how far they could travel.
I would say it is very important to monitor air quality, especially in areas very local to the mining operation. I would be interested to know if the mining (machinery and debris) is causing an elevation in air pollution.
There does not seem to be any monitoring of the air around or near the mines. It is cloudy with sand dust on a windy day.
Damage to lungs of children and those with susceptible lung disease Damage to furnaces and air filtration in homes and schools
Why aren't there air quality monitors in towns like Barron, WI?
Fine dust in air from the operations and from off fall of dust and sand from the trucks that is left on roadways and stirred into the air by traffic. Also the cleanup of roadways in cities where sand has fallen from trucks and is stirred up into the air when sweepers try to clean it up.
DNR must set strict guidelines for operators. Sand processing can put harmful particles in the air that are known to cause cancer.

<p>All questions about air quality should be looked at! How far do the dust particles travel in the wind? How much sand dust is lost from the trucks along their designated routes impacting the people that live on the truck routes? What are the health aspects of breathing in the air if you work or live by the sand mine, all ages should be considered. Animals should also be included. These are just a few questions to look at.</p>
<p>Regulations are inadequate and ought to be vigorously enforced to a level down to 2.5. All sand operations ought to have permanent air monitoring. Siting of mines should be prohibited in populated areas. Farm animals are affected by breathing wind-blown particles.</p>
<p>Because we live and ride horses downwind from the sand plant, it has become apparent that it is affecting the air from breathing and eyes have been watering, which they never did in the past. From the particles in the air. The sand plant is less than a 1/4 mile away on windy days you can see the fine sands sifting across the highway, has to be in the air. A little water sprayed on key areas can't possibly contain it all.</p>
<p>ensure that particles aren't emitted that would compromise human health, especially considering those with asthma and other chronic conditions.</p>
<p>I am very concerned because I live next to railroad tracks where many sand trains travel daily as will many dump trucks that take sand to the washers causing a lot of sand to blow into the air. I feel the air quality should be checked regularly at the sites, railroad spur areas, and in the area in general.</p>
<p>There is more blowing sand when the wind picks up which does add more dust into the air.</p>
<p>Amount of fine sand being blown off site into the air and the health consequences</p>
<p>Long term effects on health and welfare of Wisconsin residents as well as those people living directly near a mining area.</p>
<p>Sand mining companies require monitoring devices at all locations.</p>
<p>I believe some sand mining companies do a good job in monitoring air quality and some do not. I'd like to hear about both.</p>
<p>The process produces an extremely fine dust that is carcinogenic in nature. I have driven by mines in this area of the state on a motorcycle and literally felt like I could not breathe as I got into clouds of dust from the mine. There are times this dust travels miles from the actual mine and will cover decks, cars and homes in a very fine layer of material.</p>
<p>The sand mine should have monitors to detect what is going into the air from the mining process</p>
<p>Needs to be monitored at least quarterly</p>
<p>Measure ambient air quality readings of fugitive silica dust in a five-mile radius of existing frac sand mines.</p>
<p>I know several people and talk to others that live near sand operations. They all talk about health concerns with the fine particles in the air around them and in some of their houses.</p>
<p>Silica has been shown to have carcinogenic properties. Levels of silica need to be monitored and controlled to prevent adverse health impacts on the community. How will this be done, how will this be funded, how can citizens be sure regulations will be enforced? This is particularly relevant where current mines have been sited around towns and schools.</p>
<p>DNR needs to set appropriate air quality standards for sand mining, specifically for particle sizes less than 4 microns.</p>
<p>Air quality at mining and related facilities as it impacts employee health. Air quality in surrounding areas of mining and production. Environmental and public health factors.</p>
<p>Health impacts of airborne silica. Amount of sand blown off of the stockpiles at wash plants and loading areas</p>
<p>study particulate matter that accumulates near the plants, whether the particles can get lodged in lungs, and how far the disbursement of particles go from the site, including whether particles fly about during transport.</p>
<p>Ensuring zero level air pollution by sand mining operations through regular air quality testing performed by regulated agency, forcing operations to have no negative health impact on the public.</p>
<p>Air should be checked before, during, and after any mining operation to allow for clean air in WI</p>
<p>Use testing with filter small enough to stop the fibers. Test areas on different times of day. Test in home quality of air for any resident even Amish many of whom have complaints of worsening dust issues</p>
<p>silica dust is not listed as a hazardous air pollutant even though it is more dangerous than silica due to its shape there is minimal to no monitoring of silica dust near frac sand mines and when it is monitored it is only PM10 and the monitors are placed in areas where they don't capture the full extent of PM concentrations. UFP (ultra fine particles) of silica dust can travel a hundred and in essence all of western WI is now contaminated and all human and animal health is at risk</p>
<p>Air quality should be monitored at all sand mining sites. This sand does cause cancer and lung diseases.</p>
<p>The silica. I have advanced COPD</p>
<p>I am concerned about the small particles in the air that could affect our lungs and breathing. My son works for a reputable mining company, (Mathy) and they require yearly x-ray evaluations to track the amount of sand particles in their workers' lungs. They have things in place to help employees with health problems. Who would help us? The general public? None of the operations that have been permitted in the past are as large or expansive. Nor are owned by companies we know little about.</p>
<p>The DNR should include an analysis of potential health impacts of PM 10 and PM 2.5 and whether or not those particles pose a significant public health risk. The DNR should consider working with the Department of Health Services to provide this information to local residents. The DNR should also determine what impact fugitive dust from frac sand mining and blasting has on air quality and how it can be mitigated.</p>
<p>There needs to be more study of air quality in and around these mines. Comprehensive studies available to the public.</p>

<p>I'm concerned about the quality of the air because all I hear about the silica sand is that the particulate matter isn't considered dangerous when it is known to be more dangerous than asbestos, and that the smaller matter can be blown as far as a hundred miles from the mine site. The other thing is that air monitors are set up on the sides of the mines where they don't register the actual readings that are on the sides where the wind affects, south and east .</p>
<p>Use only scientific data, not personal observations of citizens. Also compare the air quality issue to other activities in the area of the sand mines, like the ATV/UTV trails in Jackson county.</p>
<p>Silica sand in our air can be very detrimental. How and who will be in charge of measuring this? Will it be someone paid for and at least partly chosen by the sand mine company itself?</p>
<p>This needs to be acknowledged as a human carcinogen. It's a fact and can't be disputed. On and off site monitoring. Why no off site monitoring? Why is testing limited to only PM 10 when PM 2.5 is the size most associated with adverse health risks? Is there a relationship between levels of PM 10 and PM 2.5? Standards for employee exposure may require special clothing and respiratory protection and suggest exposure limits. Are there risks and exposures for those who live near and are potentially exposed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? What are the effects on those neighbors who may suffer from auto-immune disease or other respiratory illnesses. What are the effects of PM 10 and PM 2.5 on livestock? on wildlife?</p>
<p>I would hope that air quality tests were done prior to the sand mines coming in, but regardless, the air has got to have been and continue to be negatively affected by the mines.</p>
<p>I would like air quality monitored. This is a very windy area and the sand blows everywhere. Would like evidence based silicon sand limits. Especially important is to monitor where children are playing.</p>
<p>When the sand is being transferred from one location to another, minute particles of sand are released into the air and can travel for some distance. While there are documented cases of silica sand respiratory issues for users in high concentrations, there is not enough data to show if sand transfer plants pose a risk to surrounding communities. <a href="http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/air/air-quality-and-pollutants/air-pollutants/silica-sand-mining/index.html">http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/air/air-quality-and-pollutants/air-pollutants/silica-sand-mining/index.html</a></p>
<p>Get the facts out on air quality and do NOT cite or reference UW-Eau Claire professor Crispin Pierce. His data are misleading, inflammatory and not consistent with scientific research.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.superquarry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Bridge-2009-environmental-silicosis-risk045.pdf">Http://www.superquarry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Bridge-2009-environmental-silicosis-risk045.pdf</a> Above web site has research summaries of silicosis and detrimental related issues. Specifically note the autopsies done on a group of 4 pigs downwind of sand mine for one year with lung lesions due to silicosis. Sand clouds (crystals) can be seen from small planes near Badger Mining at Taylor, WI, 1/2 mile wide and 2 miles long. More surveillance with air monitoring. More enforcement of ordinances.</p>

<p>Destructive effects of filling in wetlands, pond overflows, use of flocculants in the quantity and frequency used at the mine, proper disposal of accumulated dredgings in the bottom of settling ponds, consequence of excessive silt/sand loss into ditches, wetlands, etc. , what wetland plants and insects are affected by silteffect of years of dewatering and dumping of ground water into wetlands.</p>
<p>How will wastewater be contained?</p>
<p>hunting, fishing, tourism, pollution, sink holes</p>
<p>We need to protect our waterways for both clean drinking water and habitat for native flora and fauna. Sand and silt will wash into the waterways. We also need to worry about chemicals used in the mining and washing processes and forbid those from ending up in our water systems.</p>
<p>factual data collection and analysis leading to reasonable standards</p>
<p>Sand mines do disrupt the vegetation in the mine area as well as the habitats nearby...sand from the air, mining ( wind ) truck traffic move sand to these areas nearby. Streams and marshes are affected. Habitat for fish and other aquatic forms will be effected.</p>
<p>sampling of surface water for particulate, stream bottom sample for baseline purposes</p>
<p>Make sure all retention ponds meet or exceed regulations and permits to: avoid siltation erosion, eliminate mortality of aquatic life, avoid altering the chemical properties of a water body, avoid suspension of sediment that may be contaminated and to maintain a diverse population of aquatic life.</p>
<p>Runoff, ph, pollution, flooding</p>
<p>This is close to my first choice along with # 10. What's there to say about the destruction of Wisconsin's natural beauty and all its inhabitants.</p>
<p>I'm concerned these operations will damage streams, rivers, and other wetlands. Pollutants in the water.</p>
<p>Continuously monitor water quality surrounding sand mines and report it to the public</p>
<p>Same as above, in regard to changes in well water, river, stream and lake quality.</p>
<p>In what ways do impairments constitute a taking by the operator? What existing State and federal laws are in place to protect these resources and compensate the people of the state of WI for damages, degradation and other impairments? What other laws &amp; regulations are needed? How many more field staff are needed by the agency to adequately inspect active sites? How will they be funded? will it be monitored, compared to a baseline before the industrial sand mining and processing in a particular locale? Have other studies been done in other parts of the US or the world. What would be the cost to have on site agency inspections performed quarterly and how would/could it be funded? How do WI env permit fees compare to other states? In what ways do impairments constitute a taking by the operator.</p>
<p>I am concerned about water quality and catastrophic releases of sediment and pollutants to surface waters. While regulations are designed to protect surface waters, there seems a trend for companies to violate or ignore the regulations. There have been some high profile enforcement actions but given the profit margins in the industry, I am concerned that the penalties are an inadequate deterrent. Finally, given staffing cuts I am concerned that there is inadequate oversight by regulators. While some additional staffing resources have been dedicated frac sand mining, the general trend is for less water staff dedicated to oversight and regulatory compliance.<a href="http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20141112/40-wisconsin-frac-sand-producers-violated-environmental-rules-study-says">http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20141112/40-wisconsin-frac-sand-producers-violated-environmental-rules-study-says</a></p>
<p>See answer to item 7.</p>
<p>Way more pollutants comes from land</p>
<p><a href="http://mntu.org/mntu-adopts-position-statement-concerning-silica-sand-mining/">http://mntu.org/mntu-adopts-position-statement-concerning-silica-sand-mining/</a></p>
<p><a href="https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/documents/23.%20March%20Final%20Silica%20Sand%20report.pdf">https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/documents/23.%20March%20Final%20Silica%20Sand%20report.pdf</a></p>
<p>How sand mining operations waste/sand particles can potentially get into waters, and how it can affect the plants and animals in aquatic habitats/wetlands. If runoff pollution from these operations is properly disposed of/processed, and how any waste is stored and how it is kept from leaching into waters/aquatic habitats</p>
<p>how far away from a sand mine are aquatic habitats affected?</p>
<p>Waste water management is a concern.</p>
<p>Effects of surface water runoff as well as possible increase of total suspended solids and other chemicals. Changes in surface water drainage and it's affect on the watersheds base and peak flow. Degradation of existing aquatic habitat from direct mining and indirectly through chemical and and particulate runoff in to lakes and streams.</p>
<p>No mine should be near any body of fresh water (springs, river, lake, stream) because there is always runoff and dumping of runoff always seems to be lacking in awareness, consideration, and care for the aquatic habitats and wetlands surrounding a site...which leads me to believe mining should be EXTREMELY limited in Wisconsin as there are a lot of waterways. I would request an historical analysis of surface water changes over the last millennia to determine how waterways have changed, been re-routed (both naturally and 'artificially'), and/or have been depleted. There should also be studies regarding quantities and quality of life for the aquatic species in the surrounding area and those 'down river' i.e. on the receiving end of water/wetland pollution. Wisconsin has a rich biodiversity that should be retained for the species that cannot control it as humans can.</p>
<p>Incorporation of wetland restoration into reclamation plans.BMP's/Test plots involving soils with flocculants. Some examples in Chippewa Co. Contact Chippewa Co. Land and Water Dept.</p>
<p>Suspended solids, petroleum runoff</p>

<p>The existing operations have a history of retainment breaches and contamination of waterways. My concern is that there are not adequate state or local personnel resources to monitor the maintenance of retainment facilities and to adequately respond to breaches.</p>
<p>Ensuring that wetlands and bodies of waters are protected. Ensure any discharge from the settling ponds is as clean if not cleaner than surrounding bodies of water.</p>
<p>yes</p>
<p>Sediments can run, and be pumped, into nearby surface waters, threatening aquatic wildlife, habitat, and water quality.</p>
<p>silt and sand sedimentation into streams; increased risks of mudslides; water pollution from chemicals that are used in sand mining</p>
<p>#NAME?</p>
<p>Enforce our clean water laws! companies are violating laws all over the state, and the DNR is failing to enforce our laws</p>
<p>Hill removal reduces the efficiency of water infiltration thereby reducing water quality as well as habitats. There should be no further movement of wetlands allowed. They will never fully be replaced via mitigation. In addition studies need to be done on water quantity as more and more sand is washed and creeks, streams, lakes and other bodies of water are reduced in terms of quantity and thereby quality with the introduction of hi-cap wells which consume vast quantities of water.</p>
<p>There have been several runoffs from area mines during heavy rains. There are several trout streams in the area and I am concerned about the impact on aquatic life and the species that feed on them.</p>
<p>We live close to water source and our tap water is starting to smell funny and even gets cloudy a lot and our dogs even dont like it, also it leaves a salt like residue on plastic products? why is this?</p>
<p>Surface waters are already stressed so it is very important to protect and preserve what we have.</p>
<p>All water sources.</p>
<p>Since sand particles do not cling to each other, they are easily moved. Sedimentation is already a problem on our developed lakes. Adding sand to these habitats (along with whatever is attached to the sand)will increase pollution to surface water and wetlands, negatively affecting aquatic habitat.</p>
<p>Monitor aquifer flows , before any operation on mining, as a base line.use EPA, selected stream base line data. sorry I do not have a link, I do know some streams have been randomly chosen for extensive base line work, by EPA Diamond Valley Creek being one of them.</p>
<p>Unpermitted discharges of wastewater into surface waters. Spills/breaches from holding ponds like the one that fouled the Wild &amp; Scenic St. Croix River in 2012.Usage of toxic chemicals for which we don't have standards. Polyacrylamides are frequently used to remove unwanted minerals from sand, and are a carcinogen.</p>
<p>Anything destroyed should be made whole. We can't keep losing wetlands.</p>
<p>CURRENT REGS ALREADY IN PLACE !</p>
<p>We know that there have been spillage issues at the sand mines, and one in particular was a spillage into a trout stream in our area. The water contains chemicals that do not belong in our streams and lakes. There is risk to aquatic plant and animal wildlife.</p>
<p>Do research studies to determine kill-off of animals (wild or otherwise) within the same 1 to 5 mile radius of each sand plant.</p>
<p>Concerned</p>
<p>Surface water contaminationChemicals involved in processingChemical breakdown analysisDestruction of wetlandsAffect on trout streams</p>
<p>Wetlands are being destroyed at nearly every mine site that is being proposed. You and I know that you cannot mitigate a wetland. It is impossible to reproduce the biological diversity for a wetland. The small fines that are imposed are nothing when trout streams are polluted.More Boots on the Ground are needed to respond to the problems of pollution. More testing of Metals in the ground water is needed.</p>
<p>This one is so important --- these are the treasures that so many of us are passionate about -- what is Wisconsin if we loose these --- what is our ethical responsibility to protect wildlife and our own habitat for the exchange of money for a few individuals and the inevitable pollution from fracking when we could be implementing green technology in the home setting and business. Mainstream news can deliver information as well as internet sources.</p>
<p>Run off from the sand piles, the sand sorting and especially the sand washing areas. There was the spill in Eau Claire(?) county into a river that killed a lot of fish. Flocculants are very harmful. All this needs to be studied.</p>
<p>Analyze the water quality as it leeches into the ground. What impact will this have on breeding habits and food for animals in the area. How widespread will these chemically infested waters go - how much of an area can and will be affected from the mining site. What plants/grasses/trees will be affected. What happens during periods of heavy rain with the holding ponds of contaminated water?</p>
<p>The spills that have occurred around the state demonstrate the lack of oversight of the settling ponds and the danger to streams and rivers, as well.</p>
<p>I have questions about how sand mining impacts The Mississippi River, in my area near Maiden Rock.</p>
<p>Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the watershed. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>bad</p>

Water should be tested for leakage of chemicals from the processing sites. Water should not be contaminated by chemicals that could kill or negatively impact wildlife. The
The DNR does not appear to be adequately staffed or funded to handle the large number of developing mines and mining infrastructure. Our neighboring town of Stockholm has recently been forced to fend off a rail road expansion that would have harmed a wetland area. This should have been defended by or with the help of the DNR.
<a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a>
I would like to see the use of unique RFIDs for frac sand mines. This would answer the question whether or not these mines are responsible for contamination or not. It would eliminate any question as to what is causing or not causing problems. If the tracers are specific to a particular mine, we would know who should be held accountable rather than allowing contamination and the state or the citizens having to sort out who is responsible. If each mine is required to use a unique RFID for it's process, if contamination occurs, we will be able to hold those corporations accountable rather than blaming a whole industry for problems caused by a few. <a href="http://charuaggarwal.net/rfid.pdf">http://charuaggarwal.net/rfid.pdf</a>
Not enough testing has been conducted on most chemicals used in the sand mining process; could disrupt entire ecosystems since amphibians and insects at the bottom of the food chain are particularly sensitive to chemicals and are food for other animals. Wetlands can clog up with sedimentation since they are a natural filtering mechanism, causing flooding where it would otherwise not occur.
Yes, using all methods of testing
Disruption of habitat and life quality.
Analyze if the chemicals used to mine frac sand runoff into waterways or leech into groundwater and how water quality changes after a mine is developed.
all the above are of great concern around or near sand mining operations
Sand wash plants pollute streams when a pond leaks and impact aquatic wildlife.
The fast-growing sand mining industry is grappling with a rising number of environmental problems across western Wisconsin. Many of the cases involve waterpollution -- where vast piles of sand, sediment and dirt have washed off properties, often after heavy rains, and contaminated waterways. Since November 2011, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has issued 20 notices of violation to 19 companies, according to agency records. from <a href="http://www.twincities.com/politics/ci_23832678/sand-mines-wisconsin-unearth-environmental-problems">http://www.twincities.com/politics/ci_23832678/sand-mines-wisconsin-unearth-environmental-problems</a>
The distance sand affects a river/stream/creek surface water system should be clarified.
It is extremely important that chemicals and dust do not get into our water.
Some mines use polymers to coat the sand and these can be very hazardous to surface water. Other mine run off and soil disruption will reach surrounding areas.
maintenance of water quality to sustain health of aquatic species and ecosystems
I have heard of many locations over the last few years that experienced the nearby water sources have gone toxic as a result of run-off from the Sand mining. I consider this a huge threat to WI wildlife and the Entire Great Lakes System. And water is not just essential to life, but with us being connected to the largest Freshwater Supply in North America, it is our Responsibility to protect that water source. I wish I had saved all the links referring to this but have not. Water, just as air, is MORE Precious and valuable than oil!
The LaCrosse wetlands will lose 7 acres to railroad expansion to facilitate shipping of sand by rail. Mitigation will be in another river basin. As climate change is already producing super storms with 100-year flooding, should we be reducing the wetlands that can prevent flooding in an area with 50,000 people? This is multiplied by several other rail expansion plans further north along the Mississippi River to ship sand. Near my home they are beginning to mine sand within yards of the Wisconsin River and I am concerned about the airborne drift of silica sand into a riverbed that was brought back from a polluted mess caused by the paper industry. The area provides flood mitigation also in an abundance of wetlands and migratory bird nesting refugees along the Wisconsin River. Finally, the bluffs of the driftless area are important filter mechanisms for our potable water system. It can take up to 2 years for rainfall to soak and filter through the bluffs and into both groundwater and surface water sources of drinking water. Why would we risk our water for short term profits for a couple companies?
Study the effects of the sand mines on the water, aquatic habitats and wetlands.
Runoff issues/contamination
Yes, monitor.
soil erosion effects on surface water and wetlands
Potential for cumulative impacts on surface water. On-site wash water storage--best practices, safety, toxicity, potential for runoff and effects on transient wildlife. Potential for water quality degradation from acrylamides (incidental and cumulative).
To residents
constant, independent water quality monitoring prior to mining ops start, and ongoing throughout
Will any of the above be compromised if sand mining takes place?Are wetlands protected?
Adjacent water bodies have all too often been negatively impacted by these operations, including pollution caused by residual products, harming of aquatic plants, ultimately harming fish and animal populations.
Lakes in our area have problems already! We don't need this mining adding to the lake quality problem

<p>Study appropriate setbacks from streams and lakes. Also develop site rules that prevent sand and other soil from running off when we get heavy rains. Determine appropriate limits on open area in a sand mine. As a farmer we try to limit dug ground in the spring and put in buffers to limit runoff and erosion issues. Sand mines need strict rules in this area otherwise they just open up big areas at once and a gully washer happens then they say they can't prevent runoff for that much rain, well it does happen and they have to figure it out. Seems they don't care.</p>
<p>earthquakes due to fracking will change everything!</p>
<p>effects on local stream quality effects on springs effects on trout habitat effects on aquatic invertebrates</p>
<p>How to prevent infiltration of sediments and runoff into groundwater streams and surface waters.</p>
<p>Potential impact of runoff from mines. Impacts on surface water temperature, chemical make up, pH</p>
<p>If the mines do not go in well then less testing is needed.</p>
<p>These waters are so important to our water supply and that of wildlife. FSM cannot continually ignore safe practices regarding contamination and disposal of chemicals and by products. Permits for all mines- not just larger ones- need to be in place and should be sporadically checked. Fines are not large enough when you consider permanent damage to groundwater sources that has been documented.</p>
<p>I'm looking at your topics list, and I don't see mention of any ongoing monitoring for this parameter. Discussion of how monitoring will be done might be in the actual text, but comprehensive ongoing monitoring should also be a significant part of the process, so I would like to see monitoring procedures mentioned in the index of topics considered</p>
<p>Again, we don't need frac sands mines. We need sustainable green industries that are based on renewable energies such as wind, solar and hydro-power.</p>
<p>Consumption of water used in the process, waste water disposal</p>
<p>How does airborne sand infiltrate these habitats.</p>
<p>Sand mining and its various components of industry adversely effects water quality and aquatic habitats and wetlands.</p>
<p>What does sand silica particulates do to fish gills? How does it affect other aquatic life? How does a mine that destroys several acres of land and its topography, change or interfere in the water cycle and how groundwater is replenished? How does water draw down affect groundwater levels? How are wetlands affected by interrupted landscapes and sand/silica that is blown or washed into wetlands?</p>
<p>Effect of surface water receiving the waste water from these plants.</p>
<p>Sand and industrial runoff into nearby surface waters. Designing facility BMPs for reducing runoff into nearby surface waterbodies.</p>
<p>Run off should be closely monitored</p>
<p>What impacts to surface waters have already occurred,, a list of all those to date.</p>
<p>Contamination in the wetlands....(we have seen spills)</p>
<p>Are standard industry measures sufficient to prevent damaging surface runoff? Does the industry have a good record compared to other industrial sectors when it comes to compliance with measures to prevent water quality issues? What can be done to improve the performance?</p>
<p>I am concerned with the amount of pollution that will be added to the environment.</p>
<p>how it would affect the amount and health of animals that would live in areas around mines</p>
<p>I think the biggest impact is water quality. Although I support and understand the need for mining, I also acknowledge that run-off and destruction of wetland/aquatic habitats are happening. I wish that could be minimized as much as possible, using reasonable regulations. Unfortunately, I believe State Laws are SO impossible and cumbersome to change, locals really need to use their authority to do something about it.</p>
<p>what are the negative consequences of so many mines? How is it changing the water chemistry? How is it negatively impacting our aquatic habitats and wetlands?</p>
<p>I feel that damage done to the to our land would greatly impact our wildlife, water and the wetlands. Taking away our natural habitats and wetlands can only have a negative impact on our county.</p>
<p>3rd party tests of all water samples</p>
<p>Wisconsin needs a longer setback from all streams and wetlands. There should be a pre-mining analysis of streams, ponds and wetlands to establish their health for future references. The DNR should deny permits if streams and wetlands are endangered.</p>
<p>The sand washing procedure can load up the waste water with particulate matter which may settle out elsewhere</p>
<p>Include farmers runoff, and the comparisons between, chemicals sand mines use, compared to chemicals farmers use every year.</p>
<p>The state DNR needs to work with local tribal leaders on solutions concerning environmental impacts in these areas. Stricter regulations are needed on waste disposal.</p>
<p>Frac sand mining causes a concerning release of multiple types of pollutants into surface water. Waste piles can spill over, burying/suffocating nearby wetlands. Polyacrylamide and polydadmac are Health Department chemicals of emerging concern and may be poisonous. Why release them without knowing for sure? <a href="http://www.startribune.com/local/215335701.html">http://www.startribune.com/local/215335701.html</a></p>
<p>yes</p>
<p>testing should be regularly conducted on water quality in the streams and wetlands which may contaminated with run-off from holding ponds or sand piles in the mines or around the loading stations</p>
<p>Explain how future incidents of stormwater discharges can be avoided, what size holding ponds may be needed to further reduce these incidences. Perhaps explain why there were other instances where surface water was compromised.</p>

I am certain the existing regulations in regards to water quality and wetlands are sufficient.
Background: Resident Union Township, Pierce County Wisconsin 36 years same place. Past president of Travel Pierce County, Travel Agency funded by the County of Pierce. (Active participation 4 years). Past President and active participant of PCEDC (Pierce County Economic Development) As having owned and operated my business and lived in Pierce County for 36 years I have not noticed any issue with water quality or issues with aquatic habitat or wetland issues.
Turbid discharges may contain high concentration of metals, I would like to see a study of the impact of mud fines on surface water impacts. Turbid waters discharged to wetlands may filter out metal concentrations and elevate metals to toxic levels for wildlife habitat, I would like to see a study to determine if this is an impact to be concerned with.
I would appreciate the DNR understanding that water quality can be impacted by runoffs that have occurred, and actually doing something about it in the form of forced remediation, substantial fines, and more.
I personally believe the inability to mitigate wetlands used in projects like these should not be so strict.
Would like you to explain why neighboring residents of sand mines didn't have any water in their wells after sand mines were put in. Never had problems before they were there.
It has already been determined that self regulation is not working, with the already prosecuted and pending pollution. Tightening regulation to inspections and funding inspectors will help, because without a doubt there are those who will take the route of profit, quickly, before they get caught at a highly dangerous environmental disaster.
Yes.
All three should be left/returned by the company to at least the quality they were before the business venture began.
Whether surface water is adequately protected from sand mine filtering and processing water that might contain carcinogenic chemicals such as PMMA. Whether surface water and the species it supports are adequately protected from sand and other particulates in runoff, especially in large rain events.
We live in an area that is quickly developing in the sand industry. I am dumbfounded/surprised to see the State allow processing plants in low land areas, next to streams and rivers including development on/next to DNR stream rehabilitation projects. What do the chemicals sprayed on sand do to the waterways, fish and wildlife in time? What about long term build up of these chemicals in soil and the leeching into groundwater?
What are total acres and percent by county that have been converted from wetland to sand mining operations. If new wetlands have been formed to replace them, are they of the same quality as the original as far as being useful for wildlife habitat, etc. Are penalties being enforced for incidents of waste running into surface water.
I am specifically concerned about the potential for non-point source pollution from mining operations and believe minimum buffers should be established to help protect our water resources and the eco-systems they serve. These natural environs are the backbone of Wisconsin's landscape and culture.
I am very concerned about the surface water, there have been runoffs into streams. This sediment loads being put into salmon and other fish streams is dangerous to the wildlife in the stream. The sediment clouds the water, settles on the living organisms on the bottom of the stream and smothers them. In sensitive water areas it would be possible to destroy a large portion of the inhabitants of the stream. With our streams destroyed, fishing, recreation, and the money generated from tourism would be decreased.
Make sure mines and processing plants don't ruin our water. Once contaminated it is all over.
The proposed sand mine will contaminate and completely deplete the overall all water supply from the river and the house hold wells on land owners property. Also will contaminate the river water and animals who inhabit the surrounding earth all around. The river will be depleted of water and all the beautiful birds, turkeys, pheasants, fish, deer, birds and etc. will all die. The river will be basically sucked dry and it will not be able to have the barges or boats to go through anymore.
Analysis needs to include a provision for evaluating, quantifying and assessing damages from sand mining causes to surface water quality, aquatic habitats and wetlands. These are external costs that should be borne by the industry not affected communities.
The Driftless area of WI is unique and hosts many fresh water springs. They are fragile, beautiful, often the subject of attraction by visitors to this area. Study to detect changes (flow rates, quality) in output should be included for springs located near and distant to mining operations.
All of the above. Wetlands should NEVER be disturbed. All water is the most precious commodity we have. Without clean water, we can say good-bye to civilization. We need clean water to survive, as do our deer and other wild animals. There is sand mine near our home that when they blast, sand comes into a neighbors water supply right from their faucets in their homes. So why is this sand mine still operating????
Since a number of the mines are basically on the Mississippi River and there have been instances of run-off and leaks, I would like to know how this might affect the river and the groundwater.
Please consider.
Chemical runoff, sand runoff.
The mines use tons of water and let the waste pollute rivers and streams killing fish and polluting the trout streams.
Include and discharge and amount of water use.

Resolve the concerns about acrylamide in fine material residue being returned to mine sites and placed above groundwater tables by developing reliable information about the breakdown of these materials, how it migrated through the soil and its effect on humans, as by seepage through the underlying soil and into groundwater; resolve concerns about sand mine blasting and the effect it has on the water table, especially in areas with karst formations; address remedies for those whose wells, even if faulty to begin with, must contend with excess sand in the water as a result of blasting, causing pump and filter and appliance problems for nearby residences; address/consider excavation runoff and the protection of nearby wetlands.
How does mining effect each of these areas and what are the short and long term impacts.
I worry about the destruction of these ite,s.
Concerned about flocculants, acrylamides, and other chemicals that may affect our water. Concerned about the number of failures that have happened with holding ponds. Only people catching this are the citizens.
Please do detailed studies (biodiversity, wildlife populations, macroinvertebrate counts, etc) of aquatic environments that have recently had major sediment runoff events. Compare current state to that of the area before the runoff event.
runoff,
Mines are routinely violating surface water regulations. The fines need to be increased until the size of the fines actually prevents future violations.
The amount of wetlands that are being destroyed, particularly in Barron County has been extremely concerning. With so many mines concentrating in certain areas, there seems to be a legitimate risk to surface water quality. Mines have experienced a lot of run off and the DNR does not seem to have the staff to respond to complaints.
all aspects
I don't think that this subject has much to do with Industrial mines. Industrial mines are required to maintain a designated distance from surface water bodies, aquatic habitats, and wetlands. Industrial mines are monitored and fined if they impact any of the above.
Since wetlands in Wisconsin have decreased by 50%, it is important that we preserve the wetlands we have. Since the hydrology of every site is different, setting a prescribed setback from lands and stream is inadequate. Every site should be analyzed for the recharge and hydrology flow with individual mine recommendations as well as analysis of the accumulative impact of high capacity ag wells and other sand mind high capacity wells and storm water discharge on wetlands.
What happens to our wildlife and our animals after they drink the water contaminated with polyacrylamides.
The DNR Has laws to follow
A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining impacts on surface water quality, aquatic habitats and wetlands. pollution by wastewater containment breaches, flocculants, subsequent pollution of ground water. Particulates in water affecting habitat quality.
The processing of sand can lead to sedimentation of surface water
Yes please
<b>SURFACE WATER QUALITY</b>
Run off contamination, silting of rivers, streams and drainage equipment. Damage to spawning areas. This can impact recreation, tourism, fish and wildlife that long term will be much more valuable than this sand. Remember the sand once mined is gone - we could keep nature forever. Pay attention to our lakes, streams & ponds!
Some of the lands near the mines are wetlands. The importance of the wetlands is unquestionable as so many species frogs,birds, fish, and insects rely on these areas for sustenance. The circle of life in the mining areas is definitely in question. We are concerned about runoff water from the washing plants as we have heard the mining company uses polyachrilamides when washing the sand. Do the chemicals used in the washing operation breakdown or remain in the water.
very important. We received a notice with a \$20.00/month higher water bill that our drinking water has higer than it should levels of radium for about a year..approximately after the sand mines started operation without our input or knowledge.
any input of materials, wash water, etc. into any state waters or any drainage leading to state waters.
We already have runoff nitrate contaminants
Concerns about frac mining fluids leaking into streams and such, and ruining ecosystems. <a href="http://www.dangersoffracking.com/">http://www.dangersoffracking.com/</a>
Contamination for Fracing operations
I am not a scientist, but disturbing our beautiful natural resources like this seems to be a very dangerous and slippery slope. All these areas listed need to be studied and carefully monitored so the mining interests do not turn our wonderful state into a wasteland/place not fit for plant,animal or human life as we know it.
I am greatly concerned about the water quality. First, the amount of water that is being consumed, for the production of clean silica sand. Second large concern, is the carcinogenic chemicals that are used, to clean the sand, and how it is disposed of. I am not at all satisfied with the way it is being put into a holding pond.
I am very concerned about the impact of frac sand mining on water quality.
NOT MINING in areas with extensive wetlands or aquatic habitats, making sure any wet lands disturbed are repaired or replaced, frequent testing of surface water quality to establish a base line and maintain such water quality both during and after sand mining.
Assure water quality allows all living creature to survive and enjoy the water.

<p>We are concerned about the water levels in our community. We have a wetland near our home which we are concerned will be drying because of the rearranging of the land by the sand mining and the lack of rainwater and snow staying in the land because everything is stripped.</p>
<p>In Wisconsin, we fish, we trap, we use our water for crops, habitat and recreation....ALL are more important than any mining</p>
<p>The driftless area has many sand mines, as well as some of the best trout habitat in the country. Keeping these streams cool and clear should be a top priority.</p>
<p>Primary impacts: What are the impacts caused by a high concentration of mines in one area? Secondary impacts: What are the additional impacts that Wisconsin can expect from the frac sand mining boom related to changes in population, land use, air quality from trucking, rail demand or other foreseeable effects? What are alternative methods or controls that the industry could adopt to minimize impacts to the environment?</p>
<p>these are the things that are irreplaceable once they are disturbed Please no more damage</p>
<p>Investigate affect of storm-water runoff into streams, rivers, and other surface waters from sand mines to determine if further steps need to be taken to ensure that the sand does not have an adverse impact on local fish and wildlife, which are often an important part of the local economy and way of life.</p>
<p>Any change to the area with wandering streams is very sensitive to any change in soil content or levels. These sands are too fine to be let into a stream where the habitat is not use to filtering or consuming. Fine sand is in the ground for a reason. An unnatural amount released to nature can cause catastrophic changes to our drinking water and ecosystems.</p>
<p>All water issues should be monitored on a frequent and regular basis so that the mines stick to the regulations. Everyone who has done research on the mines knows about their history of violations and the meaningless fines which are of such small amount that many mines would rather pay the fines and keep taking the risks that violations will go unnoticed due to lack of DNR personnel to uphold the regulations set upon the mines.</p>
<p>Please recognize the unglaciated area is unique niche habitat with uncatalogued rare species that need to be investigated and catalogued.</p>
<p>Topsoil erosion into streams and wetlands. Also sand erosion into same. Also use of chemicals in sand processing, i.e. what are the chemicals and are those chemicals getting into surface waters.</p>
<p>Fracking leads to the destruction of habitats and wetlands (of which there are so few remaining) and pollutes surface water quality ...also: not desirable.</p>
<p>Every community is unique. Explain in the report the nuances of hydrogeology and the many different influencing factors. Specifics are needed in order to draw conclusions, not generalities based on a single study at a single mine site. Likewise, this supports the notion that decision-making and regulations on mining must be kept local, since every community and mining site is unique. Identify the past failures of retention systems at existing mine sites and discuss their impacts and all related costs (e.g., monitoring, enforcement, fines, clean-up). Describe how and when the public and municipalities have input into projects that are proposed that may impact wetlands. Explain the wetland mitigation process and provide analysis that demonstrates that wetland mitigation projects are preferred to protecting or enhancing existing, natural wetlands. We have destroyed the majority of our natural wetlands; your study should not put a price on this limited resource.</p>
<p>I've actually attended meetings at which mine interests have stated, if we mess up wetlands, we'll build new ones. That pretty much covers the level of understanding and concern these interests have displayed.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.waterqualityplus.com/fracking.htm">http://www.waterqualityplus.com/fracking.htm</a></p>
<p>Trout streams have had runoff and DNR does nothing about it. Wetlands are considered unimportant or are mitigated which does nothing for the area where they are destroyed.</p>
<p>Measure water quality in these sensitive areas and make sure these places are not drained. Make sure wildlife is not drinking from contaminated water.</p>
<p>Limits on number of mines and/or amount of acreage that should be allowed to be mined at one time in each county to help reduce the negative effects on the environment.</p>
<p>Consider animal habitat, erosion, and groundwater effects.</p>
<p>All concerns of mine.</p>
<p>I'm concerned about several kinds of wetland habitats that would be affected adversely by sand mining:Wetland Valleys " these include several different natural communities - Cold Trout Streams, Sedge Meadow, and Wet Prairie. All are found in the narrow valleys formed between the bluffs. These natural communities have been declining for years as farmers have installed drain tiles and planted crops in the valleys, and pastured cows along the creeks. There's been an effort by state and local agencies to help landowners recognize these problems, and to clean up and restore especially the trout streams. Mining would further disrupt and pollute these wetland communities. Wetlands along larger rivers " including the backwaters along the Mississippi, Chippewa, Buffalo, and other Driftless Area rivers. These areas are critical for wildlife. They are important flyways for migrating ducks and songbirds. They provide spawning habitat for fish and amphibians. These wetlands are already threatened by increased rail traffic and the threat of rail accidents. Additional facilities for loading sand have been proposed, which would fill large areas of wetland, and increase the danger of contamination of nearby wetlands.</p>
<p>The fine particle sand also adversely affects the quality of water, aquatic habitats and wetlands by silting the water and making it difficult to assimilate by living things.</p>
<p>I drove the Great River Road on Hwy 35 next to the Mississippi River last weekend from La Crosse to Prescott and it can almost be re-labeled the Great Frac Sand Road. Tons of trucks on the road and operations right on the river. Unbelievable what must be happening with all the sand in the air and migrating into the river system. A must for intensive analysis.</p>

<p>Concentrated flows from mines that are a change from natural drainage. I've witnessed first hand that sand mines are not controlling their runoff and the newly concentrated flows are having negative impacts on waterways and downstream property owners. Either no one is catching this in the permit reviews or else no one is enforcing the permit requirements.</p>
<p>I would like to see more staff monitoring the mining operations. Regardless of what the companies say, there are many environmental effects that can go on for days/weeks without proper monitoring.</p>
<p>Wetlands should never be filled in to build a mine.</p>
<p>No mining should occur in wetlands - wisconsin will need to recharge aquifers after the mines close</p>
<p>none</p>
<p>Surface water shouldn't be affected as long as there equipment isn't leaking hydro oils, and the sand isn't running into the lakes and streams, filling in the waters.</p>
<p>I WORRY ABOUT ABOULD WATER TABLE, I DON'T WANT TO REPLACE MY WELL.</p>
<p>Concerned about the possibility of fine particulates intruding my lungs on a daily basis. We just do not know what it is going to do in terms of COPD, lung cancer</p>
<p>There is not any surface water near the house</p>
<p>run off</p>
<p>Impacts to habitats, especially wetlands and small streams.</p>
<p>This very same sand is the water purifier when it is underground, so why is it considered bad for the water quality now?Concerning wetlands, if they make wetland areas at another location near, the aquatic life will move to the new area.</p>
<p>DNR already checks water quality enought</p>
<p>How does this affect water quality, fish and other aquatic species, and the wetlands?</p>
<p>Provide into to the public so they get accurate info</p>
<p>I am concerned that frac-sand mines in Wisconsin use large quantities of surface- and groundwater to wash the sand and use flocculants, including polyacrylamide, which research has shown to decompose into carcinogenic and neurotoxic acrylamide. WDNR needs to evaluate this potentially serious threat to public health</p>
<p>I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. Runoff and other pollution from FSM (frac sand mines) need to be addressed.</p>
<p>One can just drive by and see the run off from the mines in our surrounding creeks and rivers. I have submitted pictures to the DNR in the past with proof of this. Last week my husband and I were walking in my fathers woods where Turtle Creek runs through and before Superior Silica were our neighbors, the water was clean and clear, it now had a film on top and you can see sand that has accumulated and was sitting on top of the water where the water was more stagnate. I have pictures that I have taken.</p>
<p>Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future</p>
<p>Why sand mines are being built in places that used to be wetlands.</p>
<p>Yes,with all of the breaches that have already happened, again, common sense.I've heard workers at sand mining pit areas wonder why the dirty water is above the clean ponds. Hmmm</p>
<p>A company next door is allowed to put cancer causing agents in unlined ponds, nothing happens to them. These actions have been reported in the local papers. There are massive amounts of erosion, nothing is done.</p>
<p>YES</p>
<p>All of this needs constant monitoring plus I believe these questions need to be addressed prior to the mine's construction.It seems that the requirements for small business and private landowners is much more rigorous than for these business.</p>
<p>Share all the facts with the public.</p>
<p>There are frequent leaks of sand into streams</p>
<p>It seems if there is dust, and or sand particles in the air, they will settle some where. How can this not effect water, habitats and wetlands.</p>
<p>I believe that if we are going to maintain our water quality and provide adequate wetlands and habitats, regularly scheduled testing should be done. If the area is contaminated or found not to be of the quality to sustain life, the sand mining operator should be found at fault and pay for the clean-up and restoration.</p>
<p>See that alot of processing plants are built very close to wetlands and they should not be</p>
<p>the pollution and degrading of the environment will destroy the local ecosystem.</p>
<p>Will the chemicals used in washing the sand also leech into our cricks, ponds, rivers, and lakes and negatively affect humans and animals who ingest or come into contact with that water? What do the mining operations do with the recycled wash water after the chemical has been introduced during the wash process?</p>
<p>Water tables being taped into is a concern of mine. Water water from plants. I live on lake Altoona and am concerned about tainted water running down stream and into water tables and lakes.</p>
<p>Wells must be contaminated by the processes they use.</p>
<p>Flowers that were listed as endangered are now gone as the sand mines have dug up all the land. How can this happen when they were protected???</p>
<p>Needs to be regulated more than now.</p>
<p>are the sand mines taking precautions to make sure they are not polluting wetlands</p>
<p>All</p>
<p>No runoff. Look what's happening in Barron County, Burnett County, and northern Chippewa County.</p>

<p>Many Sand mines allow run off, causing pollution. Additionally, the compounds dredged up from the mine have been known to cause cancer. There should be no change to water quality, aquatic habitats and wetlands because of a mine.</p>
<p>All a concern.</p>
<p>Important to consider;</p>
<p>It is taking away from natural habitat and most likely tainting all water sources. Eventually damaging all living things. Public records please. I feel a watchful eye should be keep on run off into creeks, rivers, lakes and streams.</p>
<p>So do the wildlife...</p>
<p>Need stricter standards for ponds and storm runoff. To many preventable accidents.polyacrylamides should be strongly controlled.Acrylamide is a building block for the polymer, polyacrylamide, a material used in genetics in molecular biology laboratories as a matrix for separating nucleic acid components during DNA sequence analysis and during protein identification. In the world at large polyacrylamide is used in water purification to flocculate suspended organic matter, in irrigation water to improve soil texture and in pesticide formulations to limit spray drift. Recently the world health organization (WHO) had a closed meeting to reveal the finding that cooked vegetables had significant levels of acrylamide (1). The finding received worldwide notice because acrylamide is a potent nerve toxin in humans and effects male reproduction, causes birth defects, and cancer in animals. The WHO releases implied that the acrylamide finding was a surprise and that the pollutant probably arose from cooking the vegetables (1).</p>
<p>Same as #7</p>
<p>There will be a 900 car railroad spur across the road from my property. They have proposed a plan which will include filling in many wetlands. They have purchased 160 plus acres in that area so I don't see why they couldn't go around them. This area is close to a free flowing creek and not far from the Trempealeau River which flows into the Mississippi River. The drying plant and large sand pile will also be in this area I am greatly concerned about contamination</p>
<p>Must be protected!The mining industry only has one thing in mind and that is to make \$ at all cost and when they are done they will pull their equipment and the Wisconsin residents will be left to clean up there mess!</p>
<p>I am tired of seeing wetlands and aquatic habitats destroyed so that greedy people can profit. Water quality is utmost importance to me, as is groundwater.</p>
<p>Unknown</p>
<p>Impact on Wetlands</p>
<p>Any area that has a stream, creek, etc that runs thru it where a proposed mine wants to operate should have that above ground water area inspected and documented and any necessary steps taken to preserve it.</p>
<p>Washing of fine particles into stream. Specifically O'Neil Creek from sand used for cattle bedding.</p>
<p>Wash and waste water (dampening water) runoff is a concern. Pollutants and naturally occurring undesirable particulates that are now exposed are not being controlled well. Once the toxic waste runoff is in the streams, seeping into the ground, or running down the ditch it's too late to repair the damage. The current containment systems are inadequately inspected and fines for failure of such structures are far too low to impose any real hardship or create any impetus to better design them.</p>
<p>We must preserve our wetlands at all costs.</p>
<p>Effect of water levels and quality on wetlands and streams or rivers. Particulate discharge into surface waters.</p>



<p>The DNR should know exactly what chemicals are coated onto the sand and should be monitoring the water for these chemicals. Any dams or containments should be approved by the DNR or Army Corp of engineers and should be inspected annually.</p>
<p>All should be preserved, not destroyed.</p>
<p>essential</p>
<p>Again, that fine sand filters through everything- birds and animals are breathing and drinking it. We poisoning our air and water.</p>
<p>Wetlands getting abused due to surface road water containing off product from transportation.</p>
<p>Sand mines will destroy the area our wild life inhabits. Between the noise, and destruction of our wetlands.</p>
<p>I think present regulations cover this area well.</p>
<p>Most Wisconsin mine sites are only designed to withstand a 10 or 25 year rain event. During a larger rain event, silt, sand, and even gravel can be washed into nearby surface waters, threatening aquatic wildlife, habitat, and water quality. Recent examples include: The Preferred Sands mine, a Minnesota-based company in Trempealeau County, caused a mudslide after a heavy storm. Interstate Energy Partners, a Minnesota-based company, spilled silt-laden water from a holding pond into the St. Croix River in Burnett County over the course of five days. The Panther Creek Sand mine in Clark County was found to have a leaky holding pond after the DNR received a complaint about muddy water in a stream. The Chippewa Sand Company had a wastewater pond overflow in a drainage area, eventually soaking into the soil.</p>
<p>concerned about the water being used also the run off by wet plants</p>
<p>Also a concern.</p>
<p>drainage into water bodies, maintenance of existing wetlands</p>
<p>I am concerned about run-off to trout streams like the Trempealeau River. Badger Mining was issued several citations back in the 1980's for polluting the Trempealeau River. Exemptions in ss 29.29 for sand running off from sand mine parking lots allowed them to get away with it.</p>
<p>We already see the effects of run-off turning local waterways milky after precipitation. One cannot believe this is beneficial to the aquatic life.</p>
<p>No real problems caused</p>
<p>Excellent</p>
<p>Again please look at this one from a big picture standpoint. If there are negative impacts we will have to consider all waterways downstream of any impacted water system, as well as the humans/animals/insects/etc that are reliant on those waterways. This area has the highest likelihood of cause large scale (long term) damage if negative impacts exist.</p>
<p>It is crucial surrounding areas are monitored. Wetlands are such an important part of our ecosystem and are one of the main water cleaning systems on the planet. Clean water is crucial for anyone or thing involved. Key indicator species must be carefully monitored to assure the safety and welfare of all living things surrounding the mines.</p>
<p>Very concerned about runoff into small streams.</p>
<p>Draining dangerous chemicals into wetlands,</p>
<p>Who holds superior silica accountable when a silt barrier goes down? I had to call the DNR to get them to fix the barrier on HWY 8. The workers drove by it everyday and did not fix it. It was fixed the day that I called. The public should not have to hold this company accountable.</p>
<p>Studies need to be done concerning that natural filtering and lack thereof once sand is removed from our watershed. Also the wash ponds need to be controlled and monitored for ground water effect and also for the effect on the scenery of the local area (effect on tourism, housing values, etc.)</p>
<p>As above except water quality at the surface affects groundwater that we eventually drink.</p>
<p>Every aspect of the water quality should be considered. Mining waste water should be totally confined to the mine area, and any run off to neighboring areas such as wetlands and creeks should be totally prohibited. Any leakage should be punishable by STIFF fines ,not just a slap on the wrist, for the mining company. They can afford it!</p>
<p>Runoff issues are numerous. Inadequate berms built with unstable soils have failed in many instances, polluting trout streams, wetlands and the Trempealeau River.</p>
<p>I am sure over time this will start being effected because there is already a haze and from a couple of miles a way I can see the smoke for the sand plant and haze when they are running</p>
<p>A friend who lives next door to a mining operation has a small above ground pool and continually fights a 'scum' of silt on the top of the pool. The mining company ignores complaints and/or assures them it is harmless and/or not related. Needless to say they lived there many years before they suddenly found themselves next door to a mining operation.</p>
<p>it is very important to ensure that our natural habitat isn't ruined, polluted and destroyed. I do not trust sand mines to report the truth about what they do and believe it is the DNRs job to monitor better! once we pollute the water, it is a done deal</p>
<p>I live on a small lake where a sand washer will be located. It is less than a mile from my lake. Our area has wetlands, marshes and swamps also. We have concerns that no one has taken the time or was required to to look at the impact this sand washer will have on our lake and the fish and wildlife in it.</p>
<p>No change noticed.</p>
<p>The impact on all from the site runoff/blowoffImpact from train car spills</p>
<p>Long term effects on all.</p>
<p>Go see what Badger Mining in Taylor, WI (Jackson County) has done to reclaim land. AMAZING. Something people need to see. Sand companies can improve the land if they choose to.</p>

<p>There have been numerous breaks in holding ponds in the area near our home that has gone into streams that were thriving trout streams. It will choke the oxygen right out of the water and kill the fish. There is a large amount of water used in the mining and processing plants and it seems to be virtually an open door policy on permits for high volume wells. There is no doubt this will eventually effect home owners like us. Mines have covered/filled in wetlands that had been there for many many years--New Auburn area off Hwy 53 is an example. They had a more difficult time putting the highway in than the mines had in destroying something that cannot--regardless of what the mine companies say--be replaced!</p>
<p>If the mines are close to wetland something should monitor the ground water so that it does not effect everyone</p>
<p>Measure the effects of errant colloidal clay particulate matter (due to failing settling ponds/tanks) on surface water quality, aquatic habitats and wetlands on a ecological and social level. Permit settling ponds and tanks which are rated to withstand 100yr rainfall events to reflect the impact of climate change on the landscape of Wisconsin.</p>
<p>There already have been to many documented cases of runoff in local waterways with minor punishment to discourage the company to better prevent this in the future.</p>
<p>We have now seen how improper construction and maintenance of sand mining waste deposits can be affected by storms and flooding (Blair area). More effective monitoring and regulation of waste water management HAS to be considered to prevent permanent damage to our surface water quality, aquatic habitats and wetlands. At NO time should a conditional permit be approved that will affect aquatic habitats and wetlands!</p>
<p>I would like the issue of contamination of surface waters from breaches in sand mining holding ponds addressed. The DNR should consider distance to surface waters and direct drainage (including dry runs)to surface waters when considering stormwater permits for sand mines. Sand mine operators should be required to mitigate any damage to surface waters or wetlands due to illegal discharges from wash plants.</p>
<p>Run off Regulations An employee of one mining operation in Barron Co. told me that the company was doing very little to be compliant with environmental regulations, didn't care, and would gladly pay any fines (if they were caught) rather than follow through with regulations and procedures.</p>
<p>Impact of siting so many of these processing facilities and mines in wetland areasQuality of bank sites constructed by the sand minesRunoff impacts from sand stockpiles</p>
<p>Ensure zero level impact on water quality, aquatic habitats, and wetlands by regulated testing that forces mining operations to have no negative impact on public health or disturbance of nature.</p>
<p>Water should be tested and also the animals living in and near the water, to make sure mining operation is not damaging the wildlife.</p>
<p>the waste water impoundments have breached at many mining sites. the fines for these breaches are paltry and mines reopen without being required to completely remediate the effects of their activities.</p>
<p>This should also be monitored on a daily basis.</p>
<p>A well is my only source of water</p>
<p>There are chemicals that leach out of sand mine operation. What regulations do we have for their retention ponds? None that I am aware of. What regulations are in place to assist counties with inspecting these facilities? What run-off control is required on the site? At this time these questions are left unanswered. This business should be regulated the same as any other in our state.</p>
<p>Investigate affect of storm-water runoff into streams, rivers, and other surface waters from sand mines to determine if further steps need to be taken to ensure that the sand does not have an adverse impact on local fish and wildlife, which are often an important part of the local economy and way of life.</p>
<p>Wetlands are already disappearing. How will sand mining affect wetlands that are left?</p>
<p>On my land where the overflow has happened, the animals have moved away, and the birds that are usually in the swamp area have moved clear of the area. The grasses and small stream that move through my property have filled with sediment and have a white substance that shows on the leaves and a white cloudy look in the stream.. and as a native I'm concerned that the desecrated land is keeping the animals of the forest that I'm used to away..</p>
<p>They are dealing with sand, what harm is sand going to do to water? I do not see this as being an issue that even needs to be addressed.</p>
<p>Pollution of our surface water with sand particles and chemicals appears to be a high probability. It is my understanding that these sand particles can be so fine they show up everywhere in the water and in aquatic life. How will this ever be stopped or cleaned up?</p>
<p>2 different risks to surface waterâ€¦ the effects of high capacity wells used on surface water quality, flow, and rates AND the effects of geographical/land changes on surface water quality, flow, and ratesâ€¦. and the combined effects of BOTH occurring in the same area?How does this land use affect groundwater recharge areas?How do these uses effect ASNRI areas on a local level?</p>
<p>Yearly testing</p>
<p>Mines should not be allowed near wetlands or aquatic habitats!</p>
<p>Sand mining (especially the hilltop mining) changes the landscape of the natural environment. While I believe that most reputable companies take care to put back the surface soils and arguably they open up more farmland by removing hills, the natural water shed of that area will be forever changed by the removal of the hill. This can divert water from marshlands or streams and alter the home of wildlife.</p>

Water contamination, violations at(Guza)mine at Independence not lining bottom of their settling pond with cement. More need for violation control

<p>effect of flocculents and other chemicals (resin) leaching. Local effects of concentrated high capacity wells. Effect of dewatering when occurring in close proximity to flocculents/chemicals. The potential for the appearance of arsenic or other dangerous chemicals from the stone once the elements are exposed to air. The effects on surrounding wells of chemicals, heavy water use, consistent blasting and tremors.</p>
<p>The frac sand deposits are located in areas where there was/is water near the surface, so it is very difficult to do industrial sand mining without negatively impacting groundwater. DNR is supposed to protect the land and water living organisms need to survive and thrive. The DNR should be encouraging renewable energy rather than helping businesses that damage natural resources. Although, if Gov. Walker's proposed budget passes as is, the governor-appointed DNR secretary will have all policy-making power, so no science or rational arguments against frac sand mining will matter. This entire input form will be ignored.</p>
<p>How much water will processing draw off? Our well has failed in drought before, requiring digging a deeper well. It's not an experience I'd care to repeat. And the water table is lower now after our years of continuing drought.</p>
<p>Flammable tap water. General pollution of the drinking water supply. Illness in people living in fracing zones.</p>
<p>Groundwater is a very important resource and needs to be protected from wasteful mining practices. In years of drought, groundwater maybe the only resource that gets farmers through the year. We drink this water. We need to be sure chemicals stay out of the water system.</p>
<p>factual data leading to standardized monitoring</p>
<p>What effects of Sand Mining are there on water quality? Does the Sand mine affect the aquifer in its location and/or does it affect the larger aquifer?</p>
<p>water sample testing Water levels in wells within 1/2 mile of mine</p>
<p>High Capacity wells use too much water and threaten our states water table as well as people's personnel wells. State should establish a benchmark to measure residents existing well level and health etc. before allowing a high capacity well to be used for sand mining. Flocculants ie. polyacrylamide can turn to acrylamide in the washing process and is a known neurotoxin of which the EPA has a 0 tolerance.</p>
<p>Safe drinking water</p>
<p>This is my number one concern. Caused by the depth of the mine. Removing the natural filtration put here and developed over millions of years by nature.</p>
<p>Will effect the quality of our groundwater.</p>
<p>Continuously monitor ground water quality surrounding sand mines and report it to the public</p>
<p>Wells that are affected by the same aquifers in the areas of sand mines should be constantly monitored to catch any pollution resulting from mining activities.</p>
<p>How will it be monitored, compared to a baseline before the industrial sand mining and processing in a particular locale? Have other studies been done in other parts of the US or the world. What would be the cost to have on site agency inspections performed quarterly and how would/could it be funded? How do WI env permit fees compare to other states?</p>
<p>See answer to item 7.</p>
<p>We have a huge aquifer in our area</p>
<p>I have great concern about the long-term effect of mines drilling high capacity wells into our deepest aquifer. There are also reports of sand being found in the residential wells tapped into the shallower aquifers.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.civilsocietyinstitute.org/media/pdfs/092514%20csi%20bar%20frac%20sand%20mining%20report%20final%20-%20embargoed.pdf">http://www.civilsocietyinstitute.org/media/pdfs/092514%20csi%20bar%20frac%20sand%20mining%20report%20final%20-%20embargoed.pdf</a></p>
<p>How sand mining operations waste/sand particles can potentially get into waters, and how it can affect the plants and animals in aquatic habitats/wetlands. If runoff pollution from these operations is properly disposed of/processed, and how any waste is stored and how it is kept from leaching into waters/aquatic habitats</p>
<p>Potential for ground water reduction Potential for ground water contamination</p>
<p>Likewise</p>
<p>How does the change in the natural landscape change the recharge to groundwater? How does the cumulative increase in high capacity wells influence groundwater?</p>
<p>Increase vulnerability of groundwater to contamination from removal of overlying earthen layers. Will frac sand mines breach the water table and require pumping? If so will this water be returned to the aquifer or discharged overland to different watersheds where evaporation and erosion may become concerns.</p>
<p>This should be one of the biggest areas of research due to groundwater quality issues in general and the outputs/pollution of any mining operation. Long term analysis of groundwater quality and quantity, including factors of other human-related activities in the area, should be performed and models should be created that discuss various outcomes and different scenarios, with proposals regarding mitigation and solutions that leave little to no impact (both short-term and long-term).</p>
<p>What happens to the wells of homes in the area of the mine if the mines go below the aquifer? What are the potential hazards? Should limits be set on amount of water used?</p>
<p>Mining in groundwater impacts on quantity and quality</p>
<p>I am concerned that the review and approval process for proposed high capacity wells does not...cannot...consider the cummulative impact of existing HC wells in the watershed recharge area. Although I realize this is a political issue, it is simply irresponsible and stupid.</p>

Ensure that groundwater supplies are not taxed and protected.
yes
Several potential problems such as changing groundwater flows, effects on nearby wells and streams, rising water temperatures of concern for cold-water trout streams, and cumulative impacts of multiple mines in a small geographic area.
water pollution from chemicals that are used in sand mining; mining companies that overuse groundwater from Wisconsin wells;
#NAME?
tell us what chemicals are being used to wash silica sand so the DNR can monitor these chemicals! We need our bluffs to keep our groundwater healthy
All groundwater wells must be tested before mines go in; it is now known that heavy metals in water are leaching out via the low pH levels and the findings of sulfides particularly in the Tunnel City formation which when disturbed mix with sand from the other formations. No one should have to tolerate having to drink water with heavy metals in it.
There have been contaminated wells in my town already and as more mining or mine exploration happens there is the potential for more contamination by bacteria. I also wonder what impact all of the blasting will have in the release of heavy metals that are contained within the sandstone. Companies are finding ways to use more of the sand than originally planned leaving less material to reclaim the mine area. Some of the groundwater is relatively shallow not leaving much opportunity for natural filtration.
not sure
Same as surface water, very important needs to be protected and preserved.
All ground water sources.
I don't know whether these mining operations would require high capacity wells. If they did, it could further deplete our aquifer, which is already negatively affected by the high irrigation and climate change in our county.
analyze recharge and use, by mining and other high capacity use,( ag and canning companies) Cities. Mining needs to be in mix. not last nor first. Reuse needs to be a high priority, and reduced evaporation, from mining ponds.
Removal of top soil to access sand creates the prospect that groundwater will be contaminated, especially in karst landscapes.
WHEN MINING INTO THE GROUNDWATER TABLE AND RECLAMATION PLAN CONSIST OF A POND/LAKE HOW IT EFFECTS TO GROUNDWATER TABLE LONG TERM
I am deeply concerned about the washing facilities and their ability to pollute our groundwater.
CURRENT REGS ALREADY IN PLACE !
Due to sand/sediment in our well water, we have had to invest in a drinking water filtration system. Since a large blast this past January, we have had constant sediment from our hydrant in the barn. The hills have provided this area with a natural water purification system. The mining disrupts this hill filtration. And also, the industrial blasting and movement of ground, as well as huge uses of water to wash the sand, put us at risk for water quality and well problems.
Please look at additional groundwater quality studies at each mile distance, from 1 to 5 miles, in all directions of each sand plant for silica and health/medical complications that residents in those distances have experienced since the sand plants have begun operation.
Availability of groundwaterAquifer capacityWell interaction effectsChemical changes to water as a result of drawdownAffect on neighboring wells in quantity and qualityAffect of digging into water tableChemicals going into groundwaterDisposal of pumped groundwaterAffect on neighboring streams and rivers by removing groundwater
Good science is being conducted with Chippewa County's research on groundwater and USGS personal. Now studies need to be done on how and what the water Quality is. This is more important at this stage of the game than the long term study of groundwater.
This one is so important --- these are the treasures that so many of us are passionate about -- what is Wisconsin if we loose these --- what is our ethical responsibility to protect wildlife and our own habitat for the exchange of money for a few individuals and the inevitable pollution from fracking when we could be implementing green technology in the home setting and business.
The quantity of water used in the process is a concern. The practice of putting the waste water back underground. Very dangerous to our aquifer.
How much damage will this do to the groundwater for surrounding wells? How many wells can potentially go dry for neighboring families? How many chemicals can and will get into the groundwater and wells. Look into the impact of the high intensity wells used by irrigation systems now and add to this all the water used in sand frac mining, when will there no longer be groundwater to sustain any quality of life for family wells.
Groundwater is a precious resource. Contamination of water that feeds personal wells in the area is destructive to rural life. How will we live with this?Drought is prevalent. The amount of water used for sand mining is unsustainable.
The enormous amount of water used to clean the sand poses a threat to our supply of fresh water. The experts around the world have warned that access to fresh water will be the greatest challenge for future generations. We have an abundance of fresh water in this state and seem determined to squander it for financial gain. The water belongs to us all, not just the wealthy and powerful.

I'm concerned about the impact sand mining has on the groundwater and The Mississippi River basin, that there are not adequate safeguards considering the vast amounts of water being pumped out of the ground to wash the sand. This also leads to concerns about drawing down the aquifer, especially at a time when we are looking at drought issues in our region.
Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the watershed. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.
very bab
Groundwater quality should be tested to make sure it is not polluted by chemicals that render it unsafe to drink or support wildlife. Water should be routinely tested for compliance to state law.
I want to know the the chemicals used in the mining process are not leaching into the water table. My understanding is that the mines use vast amounts of water and chemicals to wash the sand prior to shipping. The water is then collected in underground holding ponds and seeps back into the ground water. There needs to be regular oversight of this process by the DNR and no traces of chemicals in the ground water.
<a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a>
Testing of water 'downstream' rather than at the actual site. If they are putting chemicals into the ground, then these chemicals won't show up near the site but rather 'downstream' from the site. Water is becoming a scarce commodity and if these mines cannot clean the water they are using they shouldn't be using as much as they do. Well sampling and stream flows should be tracked and water samples of all wells statewide. Well diggers should notify the DNR of each well dug and the depth of each, so we can determine if private wells are being affected.
A lot of limestone and karsts in the area, which are quite permeable to contamination, especially when topsoil erosion has occurred.
Yes, using every method available.
Destroying the natural filtration of our water system, aquifer.
Again, what chemicals used in the mining process leech into the groundwater and how big of a threat is this to water quality? High capacity well systems are installed in these sites. How is this affecting the water table? Look into the feedback loop and how the installation of high capacity wells lowers the water table, promotes more high capacity wells in other areas such as agriculture and further depletes the water table.
this is, or course, the most ultimate concern!!!
Wash plant chemicals pollute the ground water and high capacity wells lower the water table.
While the volume of water used is significant, the chemicals added to the water to process the sand are also problematic. Polyacrylamide, a chemical that removes impurities of sand, contains traces of acrylamide, a neurotoxin and known carcinogen. This chemical can potentially enter groundwater or surface water from wastewater ponds at mining sites or from piles of sand waiting to be transported. from <a href="http://host.madison.com/news/local/writers/jessica_vanegeren/report-frac-sand-industry-impacting-lives-of-thousands-who-live/article_6a8a14be-44ea-11e4-93b2-c790a5a19568.html#ixzz3V8vvivSn">http://host.madison.com/news/local/writers/jessica_vanegeren/report-frac-sand-industry-impacting-lives-of-thousands-who-live/article_6a8a14be-44ea-11e4-93b2-c790a5a19568.html#ixzz3V8vvivSn</a>
Mining within 10 feet of the water table is obviously a horrible idea.
Differently ground water should be the best quality, because of the many who use wells as their drinking water.
The contamination of ground water should be our greatest concern. Once we lose the integrity of ground water, life will never be the same. Both fracking and frac sand mining threaten our ultimate water supply.
I am concerned about this as well, as all water sources are Intrinsically connected, and for all the same reasons listed in number 8.
Again, where will the money come from to monitor groundwater quality and quantity? The DNR has not been able to hire enough inspectors to date, so where will additional help come from? There are reports of arsenic in groundwater in the Trempealeau area and parents are stressed about exposing their children. There appears to be great quantities of water used by mining to clean the sand. We were right to be concerned about high-capacity wells proposed in Crawford and Vernon counties a couple years back, and are now finding these wells used across the state for sand mining operations. We are an ag area and we need water available to current residents and businesses before we open up new operations.
The effects that the sand mines will have on the groundwater quality and the possible effects to the wells of those living close by.
Concerns about contamination. Also concerned about the large quantities amount of water that sand mining operations use.
Yes.
effect of use of flocculants in water tables
Potential for groundwater contamination. Potential for cumulative effects on groundwater. Cumulative impacts on water table of withdrawals from high-capacity wells at frac sand sites. Potential for disruption of agricultural and municipal groundwater supplies.
I'm concerned about the cumulative groundwater being used by agribusiness AND sand mining
To residents
constant, independent water quality monitoring prior to mining ops start, and ongoing throughout
Will groundwater be contaminated? If so, do not allow mines. Water is life.
Private water wells have been either polluted or all together collapsed, leaving no options for water source to adjacent neighbors to sand mining operations.

We need good water to drink and cook with
Test wells before, during, and after mining activities. Test how far a contamination incident can extend to neighbors near and further away. How far do underground aquifers extend and how far can contamination carry.
Earthquakes due to fracking will change everything!
effects on base flow of streams cumulative impacts on local aquifers
Preventing runoff and airborne silicate loess from entering wetlands or surface waters.
Nitrates and other chemicals in groundwater. Groundwater with drawl amounts and effects on neighboring wells and streams
We need to preserve it.
Ground water quality is important to all of us. The US is now tightening fracking rules on Federal land- we should do the same for all FSM sites. Updates for well construction and analysis of water volume and quality are important.
I'm looking at your topics list, and I don't see mention of any ongoing monitoring for this parameter. Discussion of how monitoring will be done might be in the actual text, but comprehensive ongoing monitoring should also be a significant part of the process, so I would like to see monitoring procedures mentioned in the index of topics considered
PLEASE do regular testing of groundwater quality as there are many multiple threats, including agricultural pollution, sewage, industrial waste, etc. besides frac sands mining. Don't allow any more frac sands mining operations to happen.
See above
Any studies done or planned about such. And if not should be done by independent researchers
Uncontaminated groundwater is a limited valuable resource for our region. Where once it was assumed the DNR was in place to protect our natural resources here, this seems to be no longer the case.
How does tearing up the landscape affect our groundwater quality and how does water usage affect the groundwater levels?
Effect of ground water with the increased use of water in the processing process
Very, very important if it is affected or contaminated it is too late.
Obviously,, this must be monitored
We are going to run out of ground water if this is not regulated quickly ... You just keep letting these farmers & these sand mines keep pumping water. Not fair to the ones whom have to watch there water usage in the city we have to pay for our water usage... Just pissed and you people sit back and let it happen.
Living in a mine/plant concentrated zone our groundwater should be monitored.
Are the aquifers being drawn down? Is it because of the sand mining, agriculture, urban water use, or the combination thereof? If being drawn down, what measures can be put in place to provide a more long term sustainable water withdrawal rate?
Our property has its own well. Should the ground water quantity and or quality be affected in a negative manner, how are landowners like myself suppose to deal the situation?
I think groundwater USE can be an impact. I am not impressed with the DNR high cap well program, and I am not sure that it really is under control. I hope that this program gets the attention and budget necessary to study the impact of GW. I am not sure, aside from wells drilled ALL OVER the landscape searching for the right kind of sand, that there are quality/contamination issues. I think those wells serve as a direct conduit to our groundwater and should be properly filled.
This is a huge concern, since so many people rely on clean groundwater. how is it being negatively impacted?
I am afraid the water an operation can withdraw could greatly effect our water supply
3rd party tests of all water samples and standards set for suitable based upon scientific reasearch
It should be the DNR's responsibility for groundwater protection, inspection and analysis prior to permitting The counties and municipalities are constantly told by those seeking permits that we shouldn't worry because the DNR is protecting our water. I think most of us do not believe that. Cumulative affects of many high cap wells and many mines in an area should be considered as well. New DNR personel are needed.
The sand mine may destroy local wells in the area simply by lowering the water table. Who is going to compensate the homeowner?
Include comparisons between all industrial water usage, to sand mines, and agricultural water use.
Water quality should be priority as it is an essential utility for all. There needs to be better quality in regulations to keep water supplies safe. Runoff areas need to be looked at.
Multiple areas of the state are experiencing dry wells and dried-up lakes/streams due to agricultural use and frac sand mining (high-capacity wells). Emptying our aquifers/groundwater due to overuse is a really bad decision for the future of the state. <a href="http://wisconsinwatch.org/2013/07/groundwater-war-pits-wisconsin-farms-against-fish-2/">http://wisconsinwatch.org/2013/07/groundwater-war-pits-wisconsin-farms-against-fish-2/</a>
Yes
wells should be tested for contaminants from the chemicals used to wash the sand at the mines
Put the consumption of water by the industrial sand industry in perspective with other uses. Then, break down non-metallic mining water consumption into quarry dewatering, sand and gravel operations, and industrial sand operations to demonstrate how much of the total water withdrawals of the state of Wisconsin compare with industrial sand use. It could also be beneficial if the DNR could address infiltration rates and warming of the water and how that pertains to sand mining. It could also be beneficial to place this into context with infiltration rates and warming that occurs when parking lots are constructed and other impermeable surfaces are created.
I do not believe the sand mine industry should be treated any differently in regards to groundwater.

I live 1 Mile to the northeast of a sand wash plant facility and have not noticed any effect from the operation of said facility.
Dissolved metals from mud fines may leach into groundwater. I would like to see an analysis of metal movements of stored mud fines storage.
Impact on wells, not only via ground water contamination, but disruption by blasting impact.Irreversibility of fracking caused by the chemicals used in fracking
I would appreciate the DNR actually requiring mines to monitor for potentially harmful chemicals that leach into ground water. As one mine representative said to me in a public meeting, which of the 100 chemicals would you want me to check for? My answer is ALL of them. Proximity of mines to village water sources should be a concern..
Maintaining current groundwater quality standards would be important.
The frac sand companies are trying to protect their formulas of chemicals to clean the sand. Is this an act of transparency and statement of 'trust us'? I think not.
Yes.
Water should be replaced, gallon for gallon, by the company at the very least to the quality it was before the business venture began.
What chemicals are being used in the washing and processing of sand? Are these products damaging/contaminating ground water? What effect do several high capacity wells have on the ground water aquifer and future supplies?
Whether groundwater is adequately protected from sand mine filtering and processing water.
Groundwater will clearly be affected. Is there regulation in place to prevent groundwater draw down by the high volume wells? Does the public need to just figure out a different option if groundwater levels are fall below well levels. Will sand companies be responsible for digging deeper wells for affected individuals? What happens when groundwater is contaminated?
What has been the long term (relative) effect on the levels of private wells surrounding mines and sand plants. Is there contamination of ground water directly below settling ponds. What is the chemical makeup of the sediment at the bottom of these ponds which will be left over after the mines close.
I am generally concerned about the cumulative impacts of high-capacity wells and drawdown of groundwater in the state
Make sure our creeks and wetlands are kept clean.
The purposed sand mine will contaminate the house hold wells on land owners property. And all forms of water all around it.The quantity of water from the river would be contaminated and depleted from the sand mine using it to keep down the dust and debris particles from going into the air.
Ditto
I am concerned over the amount of water used in processing silica sand and its post-use management. I am not in favor of fresh water use in this way, especially with predictions by 2050 identify fresh water, energy, and food as most limited resources.
With all the STRANGE earthquakes and the drought in California, one has to wonder if all this tampering with ground water and in such astronomical amounts, is having an effect on our climate change and on many currant and upcoming catastrophes. Going so deep into the earth, for the sake of greed, is so not smart!
Groundwater contamination is a huge issue. Many of the homes along the Mississippi, mine included, have private wells. How often should we be testing? What might we see that would let us know of contamination? What should we be testing for? Once contaminated is there any way to reverse it.
Please consider.
Limitations on amount of pumped water; depletion of ground waterPollution of ground water.
Monitor water tables.
see above. Also, with reference to sand processing plants and the use of water, that use should be evaluated int he aggregate with other large scale water use from the same water table, including high capacity ag pumps, other industrial uses and municipal waterworks.
How does mining effect each of these areas and what are the short and long term impacts relative to aquifer water consumption, surface water purification, and waterways and tributaries.
We are going to run out the way these mines use water.
Concerned about the effect on groundwater levels when there is cluster mining areas set up. Also very concerned about chemicals that are being used leaching into our drinking water
Study the St Peters, Jordan, Tunnel City, and other frac sand layers for metals, arsenic, or other compounds that could become activated or dissolve out of the formation after exposure to the elements. Do detailed study of the cones of depression around sand mines.Study levels of acrylamide present with polyacrylamide in flocculant settling ponds. Study the potential for these to permiate into the water table
No high capacity well permits for industrial sand mining (or agricultural) purposes ought to be issued without a study of the groundwater conditions in the area. Each year the permit holder should then pay for a review of groundwater supply and quality before their permits are reviewed for another year. Water levels in the central sands are already decreasing dramatically.
Please look at Chippewa County and USGS study because the cumulative impacts of so many high capacity wells from agriculture and mining will be a major problem if the DNR does not consider cumulative impacts when permitting.

all aspects
I think that the strategic analysis should take into consideration all businesses using groundwater equally when conducting the strategic analysis. I believe that groundwater quality and quantity is not a subject which can be isolated and studied from one perspective only. I believe that the only true way to determine Industrial Sand Mining's impacts on groundwater quality and quantity can only be assessed after factoring in the impacts other industries within a given area have. I think the DNR should take into consideration the data compiled in the Chippewa County Groundwater study. There is a considerable amount of data which has already been compiled in this area. Some of the data can be referenced to other areas.
Please consider disallowing sand mines and their accompanying storm water storage in areas where infiltration is inadequate to prevent discharges and filtration of flocculants and colloidal clays.
How will the chemicals affect our well water that we drink, and bathe in.
Should not be a problem if done the right way
Again, I believe there is a lot of groundwater monitoring data collected to date, quality and levels. The information collected from the Chippewa County Groundwater Study is also relevant. I believe there are misconceptions about groundwater usage; groundwater usage by percentage is a good point here. I also believe that the efforts to recycle groundwater used in sand processing is not well known. Is there another industry that monitors it's own groundwater quality/quantity on a proactive basis?
A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining impacts on groundwater quality and quantity.
Pollution
Pumping out groundwater for cleaning, digging out sand at the level of the water table disrupts groundwater
Yes please
GROUNDWATER QUALITY
My well could run dry or be contaminated if any dangerous runoff or diversion of underground water by mining.
Digging & blasting, not good for ground water! Remember our wells!
We are concerned about our well water. Our well runs deep and our water is pure would the mine have an effect on our aquifer. We have a farm and need water for our animals. What if something happened to our well?
very important for human and wildlife existence.
All drawdown to the water table from the wells used to clean the sand. All changes to the water quality caused by chemicals from concentration sites, machinery used for hauling, transporting, or cleaning.
NA
Concerns about frac mining fluids leaking into groundwater, making it flammable as such in other parts of the country. <a href="http://www.dangersoffracking.com/">http://www.dangersoffracking.com/</a>
Pollution from Fracing operation
Same as 8.
The high consumption of our ground water. We are letting greed, determine our fate. The natural supply of ground water, cannot be guaranteed, not by any experts claim. Because, when it's gone, it's gone! And who are we going to punish, when the facts come to light, and our greatest natural resource is gone?
Establish base line water quality on mining site and maintain this quality during and after mining. Prohibit any major disposal of contaminated water either into surface or groundwater.
Assure groundwater quality allows citizens to drink the water and that the quantity is sufficient to sustain smart growth of the area.
We are definitely concerned about the groundwater quality. We have felt there is more silt and residue in our water since our house filter is getting plugged more often. We are especially concerned that our well might go dry because of all the well water the sand mines are using in the process of cleaning the sand.
We all know that water is getting scarce.... thank God we don't live in California.....this is the most precious resource we have .... We must protect and conserve it.
Many sand mines are in the driftless area, which is much more prone to groundwater contamination due to its karst topography when compared to the rest of the state. The driftless area also is home to many rare plant and animal species. I am also concerned about water draw-down and the effects that could have on aquifers.
i,\$Cumulative impacts: What are the impacts caused by a high concentration of mines in one area?,i,\$Secondary impacts: What are the additional impacts that Wisconsin can expect from the frac sand mining boom related to changes in population, land use, air quality from trucking, rail demand or other foreseeable effects?,i,\$What are alternative methods or controls that the industry could adopt to minimize impacts to the environment?
I also moved here for the clean water another valuable resource that will be effected. not only does it harm the wild life it harms our future generations as well . A stepping stone to a weak nation
The DNR should investigate how the cumulative impacts of high capacity wells may affect water resources to ensure unsustainable rates of pumping do not occur and that private wells are not adversely impacted. Flocculants such polyacrylamide used in the washing of sand must not be allowed to infiltrate surface or groundwater. As such, the DNR must determine whether or not sufficient measures are being taken to line water storage ponds, if the ponds are large enough to contain the water in cases of storm events, and general ability of frac sand mining operations to limit pollution of groundwater.

An unnatural amount of fine sand released to nature can cause catastrophic changes to our drinking water and ecosystems. There are no filters that can remove it adequately. If it gets to our personal filter's, the kidneys, we may be opening up major medical changes/diseases that cannot be undone.
An Amish farmer that lives across from the Hi Crush mine in Bridge Creek has had water issues ever since the mine started up. His brown water was tested by the county and although some levels of contaminants were higher than normal, they deemed his brown water safe to drink. Will anyone want to drink brown water out of their tap even when told it is safe to drink?
How is the movement of groundwater affected by sand mines? Are processing chemicals entering the groundwater?
There is no question that fracking requires massive amounts of water--not only is this a slap in the face to a world that is rapidly running short on water for its massive population, but it also pollutes the water that remains.
The 2012 study lacked data for the fate and transport of linear anionic acrylamides (LA AMD) in groundwater. These compounds are used as flocculants in the water recycling steps for sand processing. Related to #10, how is the hydrological cycle disrupted when forested hillsides with springs are removed for mines? Consider cumulative impacts.
Also heard at a meeting with Larchmont Holdings, it does happen that wells get polluted, but if that happens, we'll drill you a new one. The assumed level of our gullibility and stupidity is galling. When an aquifer becomes poisoned, where exactly will that well be? We have water at this time, that exceeds standards. Again, it should be no one's right to endanger that water quality.
<a href="http://www.theoec.org/campaign/fracking-impacts-water-quality">http://www.theoec.org/campaign/fracking-impacts-water-quality</a>
With 36 states being in crisis or close to being in crisis, we cannot be careful enough with our groundwater. Again, destroyed wetlands mean not enough filtering of our groundwater.
Make sure private household wells are not contaminated or dried up.
What is the rate of ground water contamination at frac sand mines and how does the size of the mine and proximity to local farmers affect that rate?What are the ground water contaminates that frac sand mining leads to?
Consider not only the impact on groundwater quality and quantity from the sand mining, but also the many instances of groundwater pollution by current and past natural gas fracking operations in other states. Because frac sand enables natural gas fracking, this pollution should be considered.
Drinking water is a root of our existence. We cannot allow any chemicals to invade our ground water. Groundwater levels must also be closely monitored.
The usage of groundwater to obtain the frac sand is huge. From what I've read the amount of water used far outweighs the value of the sand extracted.
Come on, as much water as they are using to clean the sand and run operations, do you really need somebody to tell you to analyze this impact????? Yes, analyze it! Where are all the professionals in the DNR?
Very concerned about this as I'm positive my home well is using the same aquifer and most of the mines in my county.
We live and farm with livestock several miles from a mine that was operating 2 high capacity wells with out a permit during the drought of 2013. Our well dried up until they shut down 2 of their 4 wells.
High capacity wells must be regulated to preserve aquifers and balance the needs of competing demands for water
Huge amounts of groundwater mines require that potentially will end up drying up local wells.
none
as long as the equipment isn't leaking oil into the ground.
Top priority since I serve children with my well.
I WORRY ABOUT ABOULD WATER TABLE, I DON'T WANT TO REPLACE MY WELL.
Is the quantity and quality being monitored?
I am very concerned about water quality within the next 50 years I believe the removal of these natural filters could be very dangerous maybe not for me but for the next generation
The groundwater is not safe to drink and sometimes not save to bathe in. The mine says there is now way they caused this issue but everything was fine the 40 plus years the house was there before the mine.
Cumulative effect of mines in an area on the quantity of groundwater available for domestic, municipal and other wells. Assessment of chemical contamination of ground water by returning water used in cleaning sand deposits, especially by flocculants such as polyacrylamides, which is known to break down in acrylamides under natural environmental conditions.
Locations of local aquifers and how they
This is really all we should be concerned about.
The fact that these mines can get to with in ten feet of the ground water that is way to close.
Impacts of disruption to aquifers caused by excavating and blasting.
If they shouldn't use water to mine the sand, perhaps farmers and gardeners and orchards should not use sprinkling/irrigation systems to help the crops grow or to stave off the effects of an unexpected freeze. The water will seep back through the ground (sand), get purified, and re-enter the groundwater.
Irrigation has more effect on groundwater than sand mining
How does the affect our groundwater and its quality? What about how much water is used for sand mining? How long will this last?
Provide into to the public so they get accurate info

See comment 8. I am also concerned that mining inevitably involves pollutants that inevitably percolates into our aquifers. This would be particularly hazardous if the St. Peter Sandstone is mined, because of the karstic Praire du Chien dolomite that immediately underlies the St. Peter.
I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. Especially in the karst areas of the state, ground water pollution is quick and dirty and hard to clean up.
This is one of my biggest concerns. There seems to be no end to how many wells and holding ponds there are in our areas. I am concerned how the waste water is handled. Our local town officials do not have the knowledge to make sound decisions when it comes to our safety nor do our county officials. They are blinded by the money.
Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future
Amount of groundwater being used by sand mines and the affects on the aquifer.
Same as above, I like my water to drink and give my child, don't forget who pays the bills for you all.
read comments in # 8. they apply here.
YES
How much water they use and guarantee wells won't run dry or go bad.
As above.
Share all the facts with the public.
The removal of the natural sand and filtering layers affect the water quality. Simply replacing some of the removed materials does not restore the natural filtering capability
Even if the land is reclaimed, the filtration of the ground water is never the same. Also, water levels in wells located close to the plants? Sand is used as a filter for our groundwater. If you are removing the sand, our groundwater will not be filtered properly. This will lead to water that does not have very good quality. It also would seem that if water is being used to wash the sand, it will limit the amount of water there will be to use.
This is a vital part of maintaining quality of life here in Wisconsin.
Not aware of any problems as of yet, but this could very well change over time
as proven with other mines the leach off from equipment will cause a disaster for the site.
How much water will be taken from our ground water when they are running their wash plants?/What percentage will be used by the mines? How much leeching will occur into our ground water from the chemicals used in washing the sand?
Water tables being taped and dried out.
Very concerned. These plants use more water than ever. Without the regulations of the number of plants in an area how long will it be before this becomes a real problem. We can't keep adding more and more plants and expect everything to be ok. Overwhelmed is the word I'm thinking
are chemicals from sand plants affecting the groundwater
All
Industrial irrigation for farming and sand mines will negatively impact groundwater. Tighter restrictions to preserve groundwater will be needed.
Again, more studies need to be done about the particulates and the potential for causing cancer
What effects does a mine have to the water table in a 10 mile radius of the mine?
I am very concerned about the quality of water. There isn't a way to filter ground water if you take away the filter.
A Hugh concern. Not only contamination but what if they dry up the well. Without water we can't live here.
Important;
Make all testing public record.
Monitoring should be done on a yearly basis.
Water....just as important as food...it takes away the filter for drinking water and uses it to filter oil
Same as above
Does it contaminate groundwater?
They are going to have two large capacity wells as well as some smaller ones. I am concerned about my well
Must be protected! Once it is gone it is gone. Ground water is soooooo important to our lives here in Wisconsin. The mining industry only has one thing in mind and that is to make \$ at all cost and when they are done they will pull their equipment and the Wisconsin residents will be left to clean up there mess!
Well of course they are using ALOT of water. Not only the use of water, but what about all the chemicals they are using and will not disclose what they are? Again I cannot understand why this is being allowed. Our families and neighbors health are at risk. How many times have we seen this in the past? After we get some weird new disease or just die off from some of the old ones because of all this pollution, then maybe something will be done. Make them disclose what they are cleaning this sand with or don't let them in the state!! Please determine what damage will be done to clean groundwater.
Unknown. Use city water.
Ground water monitoring and impact of chemical use in processing of sand

<p>Testing of ground water should be more than 1 time a year. If water is contaminated, it could have been contaminated long before caught. The mine should work with the county or a reputable testing facility to get this testing done. Water testing should be controlled by the county not by the sand mine.</p>
<p>Amount of water used in the processing and the potential contamination of nearby wells. The potential for the operations using water from unapproved sources.</p>
<p>Near any plants</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>The amounts of water needed using high capacity wells on a danger to the aquifer. The installation of additional high cap wells or the increase in demand for existing wells needs to take into account other present and future uses of the aquifer. Wash and waste water (dampening water) runoff is a concern. Pollutants and naturally occurring undesirable particulates that are now exposed are not being control well.</p>
<p>I live in a township that puts groundwater quality as a high priority</p>
<p>Groundwater level due to mining operations or due to high volume wells to support processing. Ground water quality due to loss of level from previous, or contamination due to loss of sand for filtration of surface water penetration. Groundwater quality issues as a result of processing activities such as particulate discharge, surface water pollution, etc.</p>
<p>Ground water quality goes along with item 8. Specifically, comprehensive groundwater sampling prior to, during, and subsequent to the operation of the sand mines should be conducted to ensure that ground water sources and wells are not contaminated by the activity. Nearby and down-stream residential wells should also be tested. In addition, the composition of all processing materials should be provided by the mining operation (in addition to broad-range sampling of any retention areas) and testing for those contaminants should be performed.</p>
<p>Yes. How much water is coming out and how often will the permit be recalculated based on ACTUAL groundwater quantity and quality</p>
<p>How is the groundwater being changed because of removal on natural filtering sand?</p>
<p>Great concern about ground water &amp; how it could affect not only our lakes, streams, etc, but our drinking water as well. Most in the northern Wi areas are on well/septic, not municipal water plants.</p>
<p>The DNR should be monitoring ground water levels to insure that the water level is not dropping due to pumping. Any nearby creeks should be monitored for water flow.</p>
<p>well water - levels, water quality</p>
<p>Quality should not be disturbed or destroyed and quantity should not become a worry or an issue. High capacity wells could result in our wells going dry.</p>
<p>essential</p>
<p>I have heard/seen repeatedly that sand mines eventually ruin the groundwater. How can they be allowed to continue? They are killing us.</p>
<p>Water run off and the massive amounts of water needed to operate the sand mines is abhorrent.</p>
<p>There is potential for ground water contamination. This has occurred several times, Hi Crush in Augusta actually drilled a well without permission and now the community must monitor water for years to come. There has also been contamination in the north and also near Independence. These companies are only given a slap on the wrist when this occurs.</p>
<p>Always a concern, and again, what industry has seen more scrutiny than the sand industry? I am surrounded by mines (with no such mine myself) with a 130 foot well and my water is as good as ever.</p>
<p>There are currently no drinking water standards for some of the chemicals used in sand mining. Many labs do not even test for them, so the health impacts, if any, won't be known for some time. One of the most common chemicals used in the sand mining process are polyacrylamides which are used to remove unwanted minerals from the sand. Polyacrylamides can turn into acrylamide, a neurotoxin and carcinogen. California requires products containing acrylamide to be labeled 'a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer.'<sup>(4)</sup>Sand mining and processing utilize significant amounts of groundwater, usually requiring high-capacity wells (a well with a pump capacity of 70 or more gallons per minute). Water is used to clean and sort the sand, as well as for dust control. Expected average water use ranges from 420,500 gallons to 2 million gallons per day. The effects of groundwater pumping are specific to the local hydrogeology and proximity to surface waters. The DNR is able to limit groundwater pumping rates to protect the water supply of all users. However, this is not always successful. Hi-Crush Proppants in Augusta paid \$52,500 in penalties for operating two high-capacity wells on its site without state permits and operating one well at a higher pumping rate than the permit allows.<sup>(5)</sup> The DNR had originally limited them to 4 million gallons per month to protect two nearby trout streams and a municipal well. The DNR water supply specialist on the case explained that the company wasn't getting the amount of water they felt they needed from their two permitted wells for sand washing, so they added a couple more.<sup>(6)</sup>CONTAMINATIONGroundwater contamination is a possibility once topsoil is removed to access the sand. Topsoil is a natural filter and is often found within layers of the limestone common in these frac sand mining areas. Because limestone is porous, it can lead to sinkholes and fissures that allow polluted runoff to directly tunnel into the groundwater. Without any of the natural filtering that would normally occur, drinking water is put at risk.</p>
<p>It is a concern.</p>
<p>disturbance of local water tables</p>

<p>I am concerned that the water from high capacity wells used for sand mine wash plants will deplete the ground water supply. Western Wisconsin is experiencing drought conditions. There will be pressure for water resources with sand and agriculture interests.</p>
<p>Aquifer levels are already dropping due to intensive agricultural irrigation. Additional high volume wells will drop them even more. Who is going to help me pay for a new well?</p>
<p>No real problem as it is only taking hills off</p>
<p>No changes</p>
<p>In this area I think mining is only one part of a bigger study that needs to be done. It is a good idea to take this into consideration, there is definitely going to be some impact but overall this should be a separate study itself. There is an overall issue with more and more high capacity wells popping up all over the state, mining represents a portion of that trend. Maybe one specific area is to poll all residences within a certain range (5-10 miles) of any mining operation to see what hard evidence there is of impact. Take water samples at every stop and see if there are reports of levels (or re-drilling of wells) that has happened since the mining boom. But obviously make sure the mine was the only major impact on groundwater during that time. Like I said there are various businesses that have been pushing for these high capacity wells. This one is just really touch because we don't have specific samples prior to the introduction of mining as well. I'm sticking with a recommendation of doing a separate study of this topic where mining is one variable considered.</p>
<p>I find so much pride in the water quality of Northern Wisconsin and I would be devastated to see that compromised. It's not hard to find information on the damage caused by fracking in other parts of the world. Entire underground water deposits have been destroyed, leaving residents in disarray. Imagine not being able to use your tap water for common everyday things. This is a struggle so many poverty stricken countries battle. I cannot see why we should reduce our water quality and make our citizens endure the same. Regression.</p>
<p>Except for monitoring wells near the mine, this also does not seem to be followed. We have such excellent water quality it would be terrible to lose it.</p>
<p>Draining and polluting aquifers Large ponds of waste water left to soak into ground</p>
<p>I am very concerned that mines will cause wells to go dry, as I think happened to a farmer in the Tunnel City area and that wells may be contaminated.</p>
<p>Highly important. Sand processing operators seem to take the least expensive way to operate. Once groundwater is contaminated little can be done to reverse such contamination</p>
<p>This question is a major concern! The quality and quantity of our ground water is essential for everyone living now and for future generations! It must be kept pure for our health and the health of the next generations.</p>
<p>Groundwater draw from high capacity wells is lowering the cone of depression, risking private water supply. Chemicals used in separating sand particles are not adequately contained, collected and afforded the protection required by transportation to hazardous and toxic disposal. Reported instances of seepage of these chemicals into the groundwater go unchecked and unenforced.</p>
<p>Not known at this time</p>
<p>Not only does such open pit type mining contaminate wells, streams/lakes. The aerial views of the operations show the huge disgusting pits of waste water. Where does this go? Evaporates 'harmlessly' in the air we breathe? Gets hauled away? If it would 'leak' into the ground, how would the public ever know? And this sand is used for fracking which causes immeasurable damage to neighboring wells, groundwater and aquifers. Our dwindling water resources are irreplaceable and we accelerate it with additional damage!</p>
<p>it is a huge concern when they are fracking below the surface that the ground water will become contaminated. also with washing plants, the amount of water used is a concern.</p>
<p>We have a drilled well as do some of our neighbors. We worry not only about the ground water quality but if there will be a depletion of our water supply when the washer begins production, Many of us have small ponds to support thr wildlife and we worry they will be depleted.</p>
<p>No change noticed.</p>
<p>Is it reducing water tables? Decreasing ground water quality? Impacting wells?</p>
<p>My greatest concerns are about groundwater supply</p>
<p>Long term effects on groundwater.</p>
<p>Described above, but the point is all this high volume well use is going to effect the availability of water for our homes.</p>
<p>same as above</p>
<p>Test at least Quarterly</p>
<p>Reanalyze groundwater recharge in areas where large scale frac sand mining is taking place.</p>
<p>After years of drought in many parts of Wisconsin, the unlimited use of water from out of state corporations that only care about fast profits and will not live with the end results of bad policy.</p>
<p>There are very serious issues regarding the alteration, contamination and/or depletion of our aquifers by both blasting and high capacity wells. Drought years have both depleted and eliminated water reserves for many private well owners. Sand companies must be held liable for the remediation of private well contamination or water loss. Regulations must include routine evaluation of groundwater quality and quantity with the ability to shut down any blasting program or high capacity well that is responsible for negatively impacting either groundwater quality or quantity.</p>

DNR should set minimum distance to groundwater standards for sand mine wash ponds. Also, DNR should consider the cumulative effects of high capacity wells on groundwater quantity and quality and water levels and flow in nearby surface waters in approving permits.
Impacts to water table levels in mining areas. Quality - what is the truth of the matter? Are there scientifically-proven impacts to the ground water?
Impact of wells needed for processing on groundwater table Impacts of any chemicals needed and wastewater management
if the fracking process utilizes groundwater the public is expected to also use, then public supply is being depleted by millions of gallons in a dirty process that does not benefit the public. Any study should figure out a water source to use in the processing/extraction of sand that is reusable or unusable for public consumption.
Ensure zero negative impact on groundwater PERIOD through mandatory regulated testing . Also, ensure that our pure water stays HERE!
Water should be tested before during and after mining, to maintain quality safe drinking water.
large withdrawals of a million gallons per day at frac sand processing sites is affecting well water depth and quality. I have taken testimony on video from people experiencing water changes where they can't drink their well water and others who have no well water at all. processing plants also use acrylimide (a known carcinogen) to flocculate the sand slurry and this waste water is stored in pools. these companies should be required to purify all water and return it to the water. if not required to do this then they are externalizing their costs and internalizing their profits at the expense of people and the environment.
Ground water should be checked on a daily basis also. I have heard of people running out of water also. More regulations.
My well becoming contaminated
I feel that ground water levels should be measured prior to granting permits to these facilities. Limits should be imposed as part of their permit. They should be required to reuse the water from their retention ponds on site. This may be an added expense to them, but so be it. The ground water in this state belongs to everyone. They should have monitoring wells required on their sites so we the general public know just what is going on and what impact they have.
The DNR should investigate how the cumulative impacts of high capacity wells may affect water resources to ensure unsustainable rates of pumping do not occur and that private wells are not adversely impacted. Flocculants such polyacrylamide used in the washing of sand must not be allowed to infiltrate surface or groundwater. As such, the DNR must determine whether or not sufficient measures are being taken to line water storage ponds, if the ponds are large enough to contain the water in cases of storm events, and general ability of frac sand mining operations to limit pollution of groundwater.
how will silica sans mining affect trout streams... if hills are taken down, how will it affect natural runoff that feeds trout streams, how will it affect temperature of trout streams
Is there monitoring and testing of ground water in Chippewa County? If so what are the results? Also is ground water being deleted. Need to know these things before not after a crisis occurs.
the amount of the sand that is taken out WILL affect the aquifer, and already has affect some of the local people and many of the areas where the animals used to call their home. the taste of the water IS affected and to see a truck full of water delivered to a sand mine tells me that they don't even trust the water that they drilled the area for. if what they are doing is safe tell them to drink the water that they drilled for on the site and see if they will drink it.
I again do not see this as an issue that needs to be addressed. The farms in sand country use by far more water for irrigation trying to grow crops on land that they should not be growing on than the mines use.
We are lucky to live in area where there is currently water. However, cities are already battling over water from Lake Michigan. Let alone the desire from the west to gain access to more water rights. Water used in washing sand is wasteful. We need to protect what we have.
Effects of high capacity well usage on groundwater quality, rate, and flow. Effects of geographical changes on groundwater quality, rate, and flow. Combined effect of geographical changes as well as high capacity well usage on groundwater quality, rate, and flow.
Yearly testing.
I would like wells to be tested at an independent lab paid for by sand mine companies. Before the sand mine is started and annually after that. My well is drying up and I have sand coming out with my water. 90 foot well, never had a problem before. We no longer drink our water, have to buy bottled.
The biggest risk that silica sand mining poses to groundwater is what they use the sand for - fracing. I cannot believe that anyone thinks that pumping chemicals and sand into the ground will be good for the groundwater, and surely there has been enough evidence to back that up without me providing a link.
Monitoring and pretesting water supplies for baseline results and enforcement policies.

<p>Research into reclamation. What is being done now is woefully inadequate and seems to be of the quick fix variety. On leased land the assurance that proper reclamation is done even if the owner wants little done.</p>
<p>How or will the pit be reclaimed. I already have two pits on my road that are seemingly abandoned. They seem to use them for dumps. Destruction left behind after fracing. Sink holes. Polluted remains and toxic sludge.</p>
<p>Open-pit mines destroy large tracts of land that we can never get back. There is no such thing and replacing this habitat. We can't put hillsides back once they are gone. More needs to be done to minimize noise pollution.</p>
<p>Land owner input as primary baseline for reclamation and restoration</p>
<p>Sand mines pollute the landscape turning the hills and valleys into a moonscape. This affects the beauty of the area. People move to the country to enjoy the beautiful countryside. They ride their bicycles to enjoy the beauty of the countryside. People will not come to enjoy the countryside if it looks like a moonscape. The roads will be affected by the sand as well as the increased truck traffic. The increased truck traffic will cause our roads to deteriorate at a faster rate. Who will want to visit our area much less live here if it looks ravaged? If people don't come to live here , who will be here to pay taxes and provide services to our communities? Our area will become a ghost community!!</p>
<p>Density of existing covercurrent sheet erosion as well as anticipated</p>
<p>Land reclamation is a big deal and it is sad to see our beautiful Wisconsin landscape destroyed. A benchmark should be established at each new site to determine existing soil health to determine what a mining operation will have on water movement, breakdown of organic matter from stockpiling the overburden and will there be a loss of carbon in the soil. Also, adverse effects on wildlife as their habitats are destroyed.</p>
<p>Loss of habitat (grass, brush and trees) for animals, erosion control</p>
<p>This is close to my first choice along with # 8. What's there to say about the destruction of Wisconsin's natural beauty and all its inhabitants.</p>
<p>I've seen first hand how these operations level entire bluffs. How can we allow our land to be destroyed?</p>
<p>Remediation of land and habitats must be done by the mining company and no costs of remediation or clean-up must be put on towns, communities or taxpayers.</p>
<p>In what ways do impairments constitute a taking by the operator? What existing State and federal laws are in place to protect these resources and compensate the people of the state of WI for damages, degradation and other impairments? What other laws &amp; regulations are needed? To what extent is the DNR adequately staffed to enforce non-metallic mine reclamation laws currently in effect? How will it be monitored, compared to a baseline before the industrial sand mining and processing in a particular locale? Have other studies been done in other parts of the US or the world. What would be the cost to have on site agency inspections performed quarterly and how would/could it be funded? How do WI env permit fees compare to other states?</p>
<p>Some will have to be sacrificed Minimize to the extent environmentally feasible.</p>
<p>All the mines I've seen have been bermed and hydro seeded</p>
<p>I would like to look at the proposed quality of land that will be reclaimed. My suspicion is that reclaimed land will be significantly compacted and suitable for grass grazing, but not necessarily field crops.</p>
<p>how air quality decreases can affect surrounding land habitats, forests, agriculture, populated areas, and overall quality of life</p>
<p>Likewise</p>
<p>The mass change in Land cover is concerning.</p>
<p>With no land cover area habitat is destroyed. Humans cannot recreate habitats to the degree they naturally formed.</p>
<p>Erosion, heavy mining-related vehicular traffic, deforestation, indifferent discarding/moving of rocks, and how a site is left after it has been mined are effects that cannot be reversed or mitigated in a short-term and will have long-term effects.</p>
<p>Should mines be allowed near DNR protected property? If so, at what distance?</p>
<p>Loss of character . Hills are gone, replaced by flat sandy spots. Buffalo Co. is becoming Portage Co.</p>
<p>The size and scale of industrial sand operations will inevitably change the look and feel of the landscape. Those impacts need to be considered at the time of review and approval, which is why I fully and completely support local regulatory control over the siting and operation of such operations.</p>
<p>Ensure that some of the land is returned to a native vegetative state for wildlife, etc.</p>
<p>yes</p>
<p>removal of topsoil in mining processes -- the topsoil acts as a natural filter for aquifers; removal of natural vegetation and, thus, habitat for animals; once the topsoil is removed, native vegetation may never recolonize the mined area; noise pollution from mining that may displace animals; increased sedimentation that negatively affects aquatic organisms</p>
<p>A reclamation agreement must be part of their permit. A mine in my area has been out of operation for at least 2 years and has not been reclaimed. Now this same family wants to open another mine.</p>
<p>Keep sand from blowing</p>
<p>stop ruining our beautiful state!</p>
<p>Ensure that the plant communities supported by these specific land forms are not all eradicated by mining. Ensure that reclamation addresses all invasive plant species that grow on these disturbed sites, not just the NR40 listed species.</p>

<p>What will grow once reclamation has occurred? No one knows specifically although studies are being made in Chippewa Co. The rules for reclamation should be strengthened so that everyone is consistent throughout the state in their requirements. Land conservation officials should be given funding so they can be educated on the most up to date practices; all reclamation should be monitored so it is done correctly so as to protect habitat. Land owners should be encouraged to put solar arrays on reclaimed lands for sustainable, clean energy projects.</p>
<p>I live in a fairly large tract of woodland that has shown an increase in diversity of wildlife in the 28 years that I have lived here. Much of that area will change dramatically when mining happens. The reclamation proposal is to create prairie to replace what is currently woodland. My 160 acres will not be mined but land right next to it will be mined. Decreasing the size of the woodland can't help but change the variety of species.</p>
<p>our habitats are getting affected, you are most aware of this</p>
<p>Land use change is always an issue, following a good!!! reclamation plan is a must.</p>
<p>Effects of mining on runoff, ecosystems, and animal habitats</p>
<p>See answer to no 8</p>
<p>Threat of exotic sp. introduction, keep gob piles to minimum exposure to seed source. clean equipment. When practicable replace what was there before mining with habitat in shout supply, like pasture replaced with prairie or pollinator habitat. seems Like is replaced with like, and 3: sloops with 3:1 sloops</p>
<p>Overall, DNR should be evaluating the stunning rate at which the landscape is being converted from agriculture to this high-impact land use. Limitations should be considered for how many sand mines are sustainable in a given location.</p>
<p>DATA ON MINE SITE PRIOR TO MINING AND AFTER RECLAMATION IS SIGNED OFF ON BY REGULATORY AUTHORITY.</p>
<p>CURRENT REGS ALREADY IN PLACE !</p>
<p>Some people would just as soon live surrounded by sand pits and mining activities 24/7. They do not care about the beauty of the rolling hills of this area, nor do they care about the environmental and health risks created by industrial mining. They do not see the connection between loss of habitat and their love of hunting, fishing, and the great outdoors. And most importantly, the loss of the natural landscape.</p>
<p>Study the wildlife within a 3 mile radius of each sand plant to determine aberrant behaviors and changes to typically expected habitats of the various wildlife.</p>
<p>Concerned</p>
<p>Restoration of soils Restoration of habitat Stormwater control Soil quality after restoration</p>
<p>Studies, EIS, which will somewhat be done through the Strategic Analysis. Where is this wildlife that is being displaced going? Thousands of acres disturbed with clear cutting and no vegetation left? Study what is happening and will happen when species are now concentrated in a small area. Disease and starvation to follow.</p>
<p>The life of a mine is very long even if it sits dormant --- so when will the land be recovered?</p>
<p>There is a mine nearby where they are removing the whole high hill leaving it exposed to wind and runoff. Very concerned about how this will be reclaimed</p>
<p>what impact will this have on wildlife in areas of mines. How will this affect breeding habits of animals due to noise and removal of habitat and how far of a radius from the mine will it affect. What endangered animals might be affected - timber and massauga rattlesnakes. What could move animals into an endangered area. How will this affect birds and nesting? How much soil erosion can be expected. If the land is ever reclaimed what crops will be able to be raised on the farmland? What nutrients will be removed to grow current crops.</p>
<p>I have seen the results of land restoration. The land is not the same. I am a gardener and am aware of all the precautions we need to take in order to preserve the natural cycle of topsoil. If dramatically impacting my garden soil has damaging effects on my gardens ability to grow a healthy, abundant crop, how can removing hills for sand mining not be damaging. I have contact with local land conservationists and have been assured that reclamation will not restore the land to a healthy ecosystem. It will take decades of natural processes to restore what is being destroyed. As far as habit goes, we tend to ignore what we can't see. The natural ecosystems are fragile; we know that for a certainty. And yet, we continue to destroy and hope for the best science to save us from our worst selves. This is foolishness, at best and criminal, at worst. Man is the most selfish creature on the planet.</p>
<p>I have questions about how mining, including the explosives used, disrupt habitat on the ground.</p>
<p>Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the on land cover and habitats. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>terriable</p>
<p>I would like an analysis done on how the frac sand mining affects local habitats. For example, if prairies or forests are removed, how would this affect local bird populations? Other wildlife in the area? I also worry about how the soil would be affected. If farmland is converted to a frac sand mine, would that region ever have the ability to be farmed again? Or would farming on that land be gone forever? If the land could never be farmed again, isn't that bad for the state, which is known for its farming? And shouldn't the ability to grow food be high on the list of priorities?</p>
<p>I've heard of agreements to restore top soils and habitats but I doubt that these companies will follow through once the sand market crashes. What assurances do we have that the money will be there? Are we requiring restorative money to be paid in advance?</p>

<a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a>
Surveys of habitat should be required and paid for by the mining companies prior to permits being issued. A limit on the number of mines needs also to be considered until more research as to the effects of mines on the area is analyzed. Rather than allowing hundreds of mines, limit the number to a few until studies can be conducted to determined the health and environmental effects. It is better to have a few well operated mines, than to have hundreds of mines which are going to require cleanup which the state won't be able to afford.
Wildlife habitat constantly battles fragmentation as it is. Too much sand mining is happening too fast to keep pace with proper plans to maintain wildlife populations. <a href="http://conservationvoters.org/issues/frac-sand-mining/">http://conservationvoters.org/issues/frac-sand-mining/</a>
Yes, using all ways of testing.
Altering the landscape and how that impacts runoff
Frac sand mines obviously destroy the beauty of the hills in western Wisconsin. They are an eye sore that hurt tourism. They also destroy habitat and disrupt the ecology of an area. Residents, tourists, and sportsmen all notice adverse effects.
Again, a very great concern!
Sand mines scar the bluffs, result in erosion, and destroy golden eagle habitat.
Sand mines destroy the natural beauty of our great state (thereby destroying needed agricultural land & buffers & beautiful landscapes good for tourism) and also destroy wildlife habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, & other wildlife. Several threatened or endangered species may be affected or killed as a result of frac sand mining. The primary species of concern given its prevalence in areas used for frac sand mining is the Karner blue butterfly ( <i>Lycaeides Melissa samuelis</i> ), a federally listed endangered species. Karner blue caterpillars feed only on wild lupine ( <i>Lupinus perennis</i> ), a plant that grows in the sandy soils of the Central and Northwest Sands in Wisconsin. from <a href="http://midwestadvocates.org/assets/resources/Frac%20Sand%20Mining/2014-9-12_FINAL_frac_sand_stratgic_analysis_petition_PDF_Color.pdf">http://midwestadvocates.org/assets/resources/Frac%20Sand%20Mining/2014-9-12_FINAL_frac_sand_stratgic_analysis_petition_PDF_Color.pdf</a>
I feel that learning effects of ingestion of particulates on all specimens is important. Ducks, cows, bees, humans must be studied to understand environmental impacts.
It is important that land is returned back to the way it was.
Sand mines strip the land of all life: vegetation, insects, animals. It is total habitat destruction.
footprint of mining area, impact on nearby ecosystems, restoration plans
habitat destruction
We are already feeling the ill effects of excess greenhouse gases from the overuse and abuse of the Big Agricultural farming system. We need whatever grasses that thrive in the sands to stay in tact, not only as more oxygenation and reduction of unwanted greenhouse gases, but also a precious wildlife habitat along those areas. There are fewer and fewer areas left for the natural inhabitants of the land (the wildlife) to exist. We need them! It is a delicate and balancing ecosystem that is on the brink and needs to be cared and nurtured rather than destroyed. What we do to the land and creatures of it we do to ourselves. Oil will do us no good if there is nothing left to eat or drink for we will not be able to exist.
The driftless area is home to many rare forms of plants and insects as it remained untouched by the glaciers. Many of the bluffs and valleys that sand mining wants to raze harbor these. In addition, the DNR needs to protect our trout fishing and hunting habitats from damage and that means looking at the problems of runoff from mining operations. Our trout streams were all deeper and cleaner before intensive up-and-down hillside farming practices in the early 1900s led to hillside instability and massive runoff of silt into streams. Flood problems have plagued this area in SW Wisconsin since we lost those deep river and creek beds. What will the DNR do study the habitats and land contours of the mitigated sand mining sites? How will the DNR replace rare plants and insects? How will they mitigate disturbed trout streams and lost browsing for deer?
Long range effects of the area once the sand mines are closed and the reclamation of the land later. Be sure that the sand mine companies reclaim the mines once they leave for future generations.
The effects on the beauty of our natural habitats, as well as effects on plants and animals. Concerned about less land for agricultural use.
Yes, habitat change, critical habitat damage.
deforestation and loss of wild life habitat
Quantify the habitat loss from sand mining to date, by Curtis habitat type and aggregate. Quantify loss of topography (how many cubic feet of earth material has been removed?). Look at ancillary impacts on surrounding ecosystems from dust, noise, light pollution, etc.
I am concerned about the bright lights in the night sky, the changes to flat lands from hills, the dirt, the aesthetic impact of the mines.
To residents
Must set aside enough money in a trust fund to restore land cover and wildlife habitats prior to breaking ground
Habitats need to be protected in order to protect biodiversity.
Land over is compromised by the mess left behind by sand operations. As mentioned earlier, lakes, streams, and ponds are polluted causing environmental externalities for all.
How much land can be open at a site? How does destroying forests to mine affect local wildlife. How does destroying scenic beauty affect neighbors, tourism, and general quality of life?

earthquakes due to fracking will change everything!
effects on goat prairies and prairie remnant effects on grassland birds loss of farmland/pasture potential for long-term restoration and reclamation
Limiting frack sand to prevent dead soil zones, reducing forest canopy loss, fisheries degradation. prevent creating corridors for invasive species via out of state transportation.
Erosional impacts from mining operations on surrounding habitats. Effects of mining operations on land cover and habitats after mine has been reclaimed.
The list is long, The DNR gave us a list of reasons that include preservation of the evidence of cultures that inhabited the land.
Depleting our countryside of forests and hills leads to erosion and questionable use of whatever is left behind. Strict reclamation planning and funds set aside for this purpose should be securely set aside. Soil samples of sites after mining need to be taken. What contaminants are left behind and what is this soil even good for after its depletion?
I'm looking at your topics list, and I don't see mention of any ongoing monitoring for this parameter. Discussion of how monitoring will be done might be in the actual text, but comprehensive ongoing monitoring should also be a significant part of the process, so I would like to see monitoring procedures mentioned in the index of topics considered
See above answers.
None of these mines have any reclamation (which is not possible anyway), they simply come in, take out sand and make the land unusable forever.
Please pay a visit to the Ho-Chunk Nation Traditional Courts, located on W9598 Hwy 54, Black River Falls, WI for specific air, land, water and health concerns. They meet every Monday to discuss matters involving Nation concerns - your sand mine oversight being one of them.
How does a sand mine affect wildlife habitat?
The result of the loss of crop fields and prairies replaced by unnatural holes of water
The ecosystem, recreational, and CO2 sequestering value of habitats destroyed and disturbed by frac sand mining.
It is important that sufficient funds are set aside for restoration. Restoration probably is not a good choice of words as the land will never be the same. The sand that is removed can never be replaced. It is a natural filter. I would like to detailed and well thought out plans as to what will be done when the mining operation is completed.
what impact are mining operations having on local wildlife? Have any mines closed, and if so, have they been returned to an appropriate state? Are there additional permitting requirements necessary to ensure mine closures do return the land to an acceptable condition?
The habitats of animals is already shrinking due to the increasing numbers of people drawn to the rural life. Where are the animals expected to live?
Same as thoughts on aquatic.
Continued fragmentation of habitats? Long term impacts? what happens after the mines close?
The raping of our land of the ground cover can only have adverse effects on our environment
Sustainability of mining and how to ensure each mining company follows through with restoring the land after mining is complete (more than just a fine; grounds to shut down that certain company). What counts as acceptable restoration of land? The Price of Sand documentary covers a lot of these issues to consider. <a href="http://thepriceofsand.com/">http://thepriceofsand.com/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3JSL2uzJrg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3JSL2uzJrg</a>
I believe that NR 135 should be more specific about what the land should be returned to and how it will be done. NR 135 was written for mines that would probably never be reclaimed. These mines have huge footprints made in months compared to years for typical gravel pits. They also shouldn't be able to mine on prime farmland or ruin wetlands. Most counties don't have staff that specialize in reclamation.
At some point the mine will be played out and shut down. There must be a plan up front to somehow return the land to a worthwhile use, and just a big hole in the earth with or without water doesn't get it.
Look at areas of runoff and farming.
Frac sand mining literally covers areas in waste piles of sand. It's a terrible idea and by default any area covered is a destroyed habitat for what used to live there.
Yes, birds, deer and other migrating animals
destruction of natural wildlife habitat
Are there known restoration projects on frac sand mines? Is it possible to restore topsoil to an arable condition? Will trees be replaced where they were clear cut upon the mine site to maintain air quality? Will erosion and wash into streams become an outcome? Dan Manpole of Chippewa Land conservation
I think it would be beneficial to explain that much of the land cover and habitat has already been modified in the form of agricultural fields, subdivision etc. Also, a section addressing the quality of habitat created from reclamation would be beneficial.
Requiring a reclamation plan is a good idea, but nothing overly burdensome.
No issues.
I would like to see contemporaneous reclamation at current mines and how soon after start up a mine can begin reclamation efforts.

<p>It would be useful if the DNR actually understood that nr135 requirements should be enforced with more appropriate land cover materials. Dr. Cynthia Laine has gone on record about this with Wisconsin Industrial Sand Company's Maiden Rock plant.</p>
<p>Many different types of reclamation are possible and should be considered if they are reasonable.</p>
<p>If are state was Montana hunting land would the state try to protect it?</p>
<p>The unlikely combination of frac sand mines and rivers is not sustainable. I was camping at St Croix National riverway and endured 6 am - 6pm noise. I will not go back. The Wisconsin riverway should, as well be off limits.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Both should be left/replaced by the company at the minimum to the level they were at before the business venture began.</p>
<p>Impact on wildlife? Aesthetics and beauty of the landscape?</p>
<p>Whether the land that is used for mines can actually be returned to productive agricultural land as the sand mine companies claim, and if so, at what cost relative to the agricultural and wildlife benefits the land inherently possesses before a sand mine is dug.</p>
<p>Clearly lack of reclamation laws are the reason for the sand companies being here to start with. In Wisconsin we have for years traded higher taxes to maintain the beauty of the landscape. Now we pay higher taxes and get to look at sand mines. It would seem reasonable to begin looking at areas of high sand mining interest and set limits to development to protect habitat.</p>
<p>What is the effect on wildlife when continuous forests and fields are broken up by open sand pits and equipment. Does this affect feeding patterns, mating, etc?</p>
<p>I am concerned about the extensive alteration and destruction of our natural landscape</p>
<p>I guess I would like to ask, what habitats or land cover? When you strip off the earth from a large (160-900 acre) area what is left? Large areas of open exposed land increases erosion, sediment in streams, and is not what people want to drive to Wisconsin to see. How many species are able to live in an active mine? What are the effects on the eagles, hawks, owls from the blasting, noise, silica dust and the removal of their hunting grounds? Where do deer, bear turkey, grouse, squirrels and rabbits find refuge to have young, overwinter and feed?</p>
<p>Big bucks not sand trucks!!!</p>
<p>The land will be destroyed from the sand mine removing all the earth's natural beauty. Which consists of oak trees that have been here for 200 years or more and all of the natural vegetation and the land itself will cave in eventually and completely be destroyed from depleting the ground sand and rock from the earth itself. The habitats of the earth which consists of animals and people whom dwell in these surrounding areas would be destroyed. The animals would have nothing to eat and starve to death and die. The land will be depleted of sand and rock and the people's wells and animals drinking water will be contaminated and the air quality will be so bad that no one will be able to live in the area because everything will become contaminated and the landowners will be forced to move and no longer have a place to live.</p>
<p>Ditto</p>
<p>No reclamation effort can adequately restore a resource like this. Once it is gone, it is gone, and a fragile environment changed forever. Clear cutting of trees in the upper midwest was an example from our recent history that adversely affected the landscape and tied to greed on a large scale. Are we to be a generation accused later of not acting when we had the chance? There are alternatives (wind, solar, multi-species cropping strategies) to addressing the challenges ahead.</p>
<p>My area is being taken over by sand mines. I have always suggested that IF they have to be, set a limit on how far apart they can be. Then make it in miles, considerable miles. The less we have in one area the better chances of these big disturbances to our land and its inhabitants, whether wild animal or humans. Our area is getting to look disgusting. Such a beautiful land and we are currently destroying it all.</p>
<p>Once they scrape off the top of the bluffs there is no putting it back. The mines are complete eyesores and I see no way to manage that. If this study can find a way, let us know.</p>
<p>Please consider.</p>
<p>Hills never grow back this is special land called the driftless, beautiful and different including the way the water is filtered through the different layers of rocks.</p>
<p>Loss of wildlife habitat</p>
<p>Adequate fencing and berming should be considered as part of the overall operation; also avoiding the kind of structural height and night lighting that interferes with co-existence with wild life and human life. I think that reclamation process can do a good job of restoring cover and habitat, but sand mining is a very invasive process, and excellent oversight of excellent restoration is important, along with ample and accessible financial security over long periods of time.</p>
<p>What are the short and long term impacts to wildlife and forestry. How will the land be restored after mining to something agriculturally productive or environmentally useful.</p>
<p>Mines will destroy cover and habitat.</p>
<p>Hundreds of acres of forest land and hills are being destroyed. These areas are what is needed to recharge the groundwater and provide some filtration for the water. The land is not being reforested based on reclamation plans. We are losing wildlife habitat and replacing with hundreds of acres of open sand. Needs to be a limit on the amount of mines operating in a given area. Concerned about the land reclamation not holding and being left with barren fields and invasive weeds.</p>

<p>Study the effects of noise and light pollution on nearby ecosystems (human and otherwise). Determine the feasibility of re-establishing ground cover on reclaimed land. Establish parameters and requirements for reclaiming land. Study feasibility of growing crops profitably on reclaimed soils. Establish maximum area to be mined at one time.</p>
<p>The mines should escrow substantial funds for reclamation before they begin operations.</p>
<p>We have over 1600 acres permitted. What is happening to the wildlife?</p>
<p>all aspects</p>
<p>Please consider the potential loss of native prairie/savannas in the bluff areas. These are 1/10 of 1% of what they used to be. You have mentioned studying loss of endangered species. What about endangered ecotypes?</p>
<p>When will the land be able to sustain the same quality of crops that had been available prior to mining.</p>
<p>The DNR reviews this to have it done the right way</p>
<p>Reclamation. How much data is available regarding reclamation; is the current structure working? What is the future of reclaimed mines? May be too early for the recent boom to have answers.</p>
<p>A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining impacts on land cover and habitats.</p>
<p>Pollution impacts on surface and groundwater impacting connected wetland habitats; Habitat loss due to land use conversion from farming.</p>
<p>Destroying natural habitat can have affects on local flora and fauna, agriculture, and residents of the area</p>
<p>Yes please</p>
<p><b>LAND COVER AND HABITATS</b></p>
<p>Mined areas look like the backside of the moon for generations - NOBODY ever restores the land. You can still see mine sites from over 100 years ago today and that damage was done with hand tools.</p>
<p>Beautiful &amp; natural what is being done to our land, right??</p>
<p>How many trees and plants will be destroyed when hundreds of acres are cleared for the mines. Are there any protected plants and small animals on the land? How will the land be reclaimed?</p>
<p>water levels are lower or nonexistent where they used to be high..effecting land cover' plant growth; trees are dying and animals are endangered we have had three legged skunks and frogs in our yard.</p>
<p>All conversions of cover type from pasture, woods, agricultural, or prairie to mining or manufacturing.</p>
<p>Development and density are reducing absorption and increasing runoff</p>
<p>Contaminated water can leak into ground/soil habitats and wreak further havoc on the environment.<a href="http://www.dangersoffracking.com/">http://www.dangersoffracking.com/</a></p>
<p>Defacing land from Fracing operations</p>
<p>Same as 8.</p>
<p>By removing natural ground cover, (trees, scrub brush, grasses), you remove natures tools that provide necessary items, that cleans our air, and filters our rain water. Also, the removal of this vegetation, removes the natural wind screen, which when removed, allows the winds to move across the area, unobstructed. Lets not repeat history, and create a dust bowl here in Wisconsin, or anywhere in the U.S. Carefully survey site prior to mining for plant populations and after mining fully restore mined land to as close to original contours and plant ecology as possible. Check to see that plant ecology has been restored and is thriving.</p>
<p>Assure the habitats allow all living creatures the opportunity to live in the area without negative impacts, both short &amp; long term.</p>
<p>The bare land and the big piles of sand have replaced the beautiful forests in some areas and farmland in others. It is no longer the aesthetic area that it used to be.</p>
<p>The beauty of Wisconsin is our great heritage.....it is the key rung or our tourism trade....Protect it.</p>
<p>The driftless area's unique landscape is being fragmented by these eyesores. The one near Tunnel City has destroyed the views for a few nice housing developments and I don't want to see this trend continue. Also, rare ecosystems called Algific Talus Slopes in the Driftless area are rare and fragile- a frac mine should never interfere with them.</p>
<p>i,\$ Cumulative impacts: What are the impacts caused by a high concentration of mines in one area?i,\$ Secondary impacts: What are the additional impacts that Wisconsin can expect from the frac sand mining boom related to changes in population, land use, air quality from trucking, rail demand or other foreseeable effects?i,\$ What are alternative methods or controls that the industry could adopt to minimize impacts to the environment?</p>
<p>Air and water quality will be effected as well as habitats for our rare flowers and butterflies that barely exist now. Please have some integrity for life. .these are sacred lands please protect them</p>
<p>The DNR should look at how the loss of vegetation and increase in amount of exposed land from frac sand mining affects erosion. They should also investigate if runoff events are confined to the mine area or if there is a greater environmental impact.</p>
<p>Habitats are affected by any mass change. An earthquake or flood or tornadoe occurs naturally and nature can respond. But a change manmade that does not occur in nature can devastate a plants ability to prosper. If we kill the plants that feed the wildlife, the wildlife will disappear. Without wildlife we cannot exist. There is too little wild left in the world. We need to protect it to keep the balance of nature and prevent further climate change caused by man.</p>
<p>When mining reduces the hills in the historic Driftless Area to flat land or meaningless bumps, what happens to the wildlife, vegetation, forests, etc. Research shows that reclaimed soil will take years to become fertile again, if at all.</p>

The landforms in the unglaciated area are unique and should be protected. Some of the landforms contain effigy mounds that have not all been catalogued. These need catalogueing and rare and endangered and previously unknown species need maximum protection. Some of these landforms should come under protection as antiquities. It is a crime that proper environmental analyses and environmental impact statements regarding all issues has not been done despite massive destruction of irreplaceable unique lands.

How does the elimination of forests and hilled terrain affect wildlife?

Again, habitats will be destroyed which happen to be in an area where fracking is to be done. There really is so much more damaging about this practice than is beneficial. We have the means to generate renewable energies--it's not a question anymore when we should transition to such sources; our enormous population on this shrinking planet and its precious resources demands it NOW.

We've seen no studies or good examples that answer the question if a mining site can be reclaimed with stockpiled overburden and unmarketable fines for productive crop land. How productive would the land be afterwards and how long will it take to fully recover? Can nutrients, herbicides, and pesticides be added to improve production or would these leech through quickly to groundwater now that the soil composition has changed? How much does local soils and conditions influence such things? Obtain input from Tribal nations for the study on archeological and cultural sites.

To date, there is no set standard for reclamation. All the answers we have been given, are vague. We had a planning commission member tell us that, the land will be photographed, and it will be put back, tree for tree. (see assumed stupidity above). Habitat will be lost, arable acreage will be lost, and to date, there is no data that suggests when this reclaimed land will become productive again. The loss of the hills and forestation will never be recovered.

<http://mg.co.za/article/2012-08-09-fracking-issues-require-new-laws/>

Prime agricultural lands are being destroyed by frack sand mining. As other states struggle with lack of water, who is going to feed the nation?

Sand mines need to restore any land they use, not just an alternate site elsewhere. Restoration must be done in timely fashion and with oversight to make sure it's done right the first time.

Loggers in Wisconsin have strict regulation on replanting trees to preserve and prevent depletion of the forest. What sort of preservation efforts could frac sand miners do to help preserve Wisconsin natural resources? I think that for every acre they mine, they should have to purchase 1 acre of land to be made into a preservation. This would help prevent over mining, assure some land is preserved to help maintain good filtration for ground water, establish areas that native animals could thrive, and give back something of beauty that all Wisconsin citizens and visitors could enjoy.

Consider animal habitat, erosion, and groundwater effects.

Hill removal by sand mining will alter that ecosystem for all of our lifetimes plus the years to come. Common reclamation plans that include trees, shrubs and prairies have not been studied. Prairies sound good but need long term management, i.e. burning, to sustain. Hardwood forests are extremely difficult to establish and maintain. Pine plantations also require a market for the thinning of trees and overall managementg.

The Driftless Area, which includes parts of Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, but mostly Wisconsin, has a unique glacial history. It was surrounded by, but was never covered by glaciers. As a result, it has some of the most rugged, wild and beautiful landscape in the Midwest. The Great River Road runs through this area, along the Mississippi, and is considered one of the most beautiful drives in the country. The section that runs through Wisconsin and neighboring states is designated a 'National Scenic Byway'. Much of the industry demand for sand is focused on the Driftless Area. It's important for the DNR to recognize the uniqueness of this area, and how much would be lost if sand mining were to destroy its landscape. I am a naturalist, and am involved in a huge habitat restoration project in Buffalo County, Wisconsin. Here's a link to the web site about our project: [www.prairiehaven.com](http://www.prairiehaven.com) On our land, and in the surrounding area I've found and explored many native habitat types, and found numerous rare species. I worry that if sand mining is pursued, to the exclusion of other considerations, we may lose these rare species and habitats completely. Some mining companies promise to restore the land and plant prairie species. But after spending the last 15 years trying to restore prairies and savanna, I know that it's expensive and difficult to reconstruct new prairies, and impossible to restore ones that have been destroyed. These prairie habitats are found in the Driftless Area, and are threatened by sand mining: Dry Bluff Prairies -- locally known as 'Goat Prairies' are found on sandy south, southeast, and southwest facing slopes of bluffs. These are the distinctive land formations of the Driftless Area. Dry Prairies and Dry Mesic Prairies (mesic means slightly wetter) are ranked G3 -- a global ranking which means that they are rare, and vulnerable to extinction. Savannas -- much of the woodland on the hills of the Driftless Area hills is savanna. Some has been overgrown with brush and invading trees, but there's been a big effort by local agencies and landowners to restore this natural community. Oak Opening -- another name for savanna -- is ranked G1 -- globally imperiled because of its extreme rarity. It's important for the DNR to consider the future of the Driftless Area, and the beauty and importance of it's landscape and habitat. If it is destroyed by mining, it can never be restored.

All surface dwellers (vegetative and mammalian) will suffer both from the excess water use and the fine particle dust that will be infiltrating all aspects of the environment.

To say these mines are scarring the landscape is an understatement!

Uh, just look around NW WI and Western WI at all the major holes and see if you think there is any impact to land cover and habitat. I know DNR personnel aren't working on rocket science, but I can give you an informed observation. This needs to be analyzed. Jeez!

Change of the earth in such significant manners, what is this doing to animal life and the environment?
How strong are the reclamation deals after the digging stops?
Mines destroy all cover for birds and any other animals.
What happens when the mines go out of business? There seems to be a certain lack ensuring that there is money available if a mine goes out of business to cover the cost of recovering the land destroyed by the mine.
none
from what I have seen so far in area I have been living they haven't really affect forests yet, other that that land cover isn't a big deal other wise it was just a big empty feild
preserve our landscape and wildlife
How has the habitat been affected?
Concerned about how the used land will be recovered you simply cannot rebuild 1000 to1500 feet of hillside
Not much as been altered.
open pits, putting landscape back to close to original
Loss of topsoil in relation to mineral run offs during rain
What's going to happen to all this land and equipment when the companies are done mining. Is this going to be another Ladysmith copper mine event? I asked this question when the sand mines were first proposed and no one had an answer then.
I know some think it will be farm land but it never will make that.
Impacts of particulates that drift to cropland and pasture areas as well as woodland and wetland habitats.
The one in Menomonie,WI can barely be noticed unless one knows exactly where to look.
They restore the land cover when done mining
What happens to our land, soil, forests, animals and humans when this is in the air, on the ground, and throughout? What happens when animals and aquatic species ingest this? What happens to the ground cover when it has been raped clean? What happens when the mining causes earth quakes? What happens when there are land slides? How does affect the honey bees? Birds? Ground animals?
Provide into to the public so they get accurate info
I am concerned that surface soil and underlying frac sand, which act as the uppermost filters that clean rainfall runoff and snowmelt as they percolate down into our aquifers, afe removed by mining.
I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. How can wild animals' habitat be preserved when a FSM comes into the area?
It is being destroyed, our beautiful hills are being hauled away only to polute other areas in the country. We have a small sand mine down the road from us that has never been made to plant his over burden even though his reclamation clearly states that he is to do it. There is know way if enforcing it. Areas that were once covered in timber are now baren.
Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future
Land reclamation plans in place after mining.
It sure took pleasure away when you view the destruction of the land and ecosystems. I'd rather be in the country than in a sand pit with sand burning your eyes when the wind whips through the tree less landscapes.
All destroyed, it in impossible not to see this if you are anywhere in Trempealeau county
YES
How can they put back the hills and trees that they destroy.
One of the principal concerns I have is that once these businesses are allowed, what will these lands look like and how stable these environments will be after they leave. It seems like many aspects of this industry could be contributing to seismic activity.This industry has no apparent regulation and is costing a huge amount of money to monitor.
Be the advocate for our natural resources. Be bold & courageous. Honor your relationship with those whose health it will effect.
I have seen many sand mining operations but as yet no reclaimed areas. Hope this doesn't turn out to be as ugly as the Lavender Pit mine in Arizona
Reclamation will never allow the habitat to be the same as before.
When you are mining you are eliminating the land cover. Removing land cover can't help but lead to erosion, and also the removal of food source for foraging animals.
I am concerned that the sand mining operations will come in and change the landscape to such a degree that we will never get back the habitat and cover we once had. Will this lead to erosion?
Wild land and animal habit is being destroyed because of these mines and processing facilities
Farmers clear more land every year and never have to reclaime anything. A sand mine can only have so many acers open and must reclaime so much of it before they clear more land. The reclaimed areas are better than when they started.
Who will take care of the Land after they rape it?
How strict are the regulations regarding reclaiming the land to original form after the mining company is done? Is there a timeframe that they have to follow so that the reclamation process completed within a certain amount of days once the mining is started?

Hilltops flattened dust from trucks and trains I live in Altoona and every time I drive over the tracks more and more piles of sand have spilled on the ground. Increased noise from trains increased traffic from trucks and trains .
The sand mines have completely ruined the beauty of the area where I live. Nobody is going to come as tourists to an area to see a sand mine.
All I have to say is if I wanted to live in the flat open lands of Illinois. I'd move there.
are there any endangered species being affected
All. Please note I am not a professional, so I do not know what studies are available. I think they should all be considered.
Not only are the aesthetics important, but the wind erosion leading to particulates in the air concern me.
Not only is it poisonous to our air and water, it looks awful
Can the land cover be restored to exactly the way it was before the mine?
Yes
All a concern.
Less important than the above;
The site will leave a huge scar on the land for ever. Taking away most all wild life except the scavengers. Site will be a big void visible by land and air. Public record please.
Insuring land is put back as usable ground and able for proper development.
gone.....people sell their property and MOVE....they think money more important...many places in the states are having earthquakes from all the pounding
Corn and beans can never be grown on reclaimed land without massive amounts of herbicides which would cause groundwater pollution
How does the lack of habitat effect the ecosystem
It is too late to do anything about the extreme cutting of trees but local habitat has been chased out of their homes
Must be protected!The mining industry only has one thing in mind and that is to make \$ at all cost and when they are done they will pull their equipment and the Wisconsin residents will be left to clean up their mess!
Really? Just take a look around. It's horrible what the landscape looks like. They are stealing habitat from the animals. It is disgusting.
These are very important items. How much will be lost to sand mining.
Mines are an eyesore and seem to disrupt large land areas.
Loss of forest land and the impact on fauna and flora. Aesthetic concerns.
Full regulation on the number of acres that can be open at any given time. Regulation on number of years inoperable. Animals cannot thrive when mines are left open with no activity.
Air and water, of course. Try living near an area where trucks are hauling away a nearby hill.
Yes
The loss of habitat for birds and animals is of great concern. If we keep destroying habitat along the Mississippi flyway we will be contributing to the loss of species. For example: If the DNR is concerned about whitetail deer populations, yet allows the destruction of hundreds of acres of habitat each year, I can't imagine what you're thinking. The number of migrating birds that use these havens as stopovers during their migration is staggering. Ultimately returning dead soil to an altered terrain in a reclamation plan is a recipe for disaster. Permanently altering the landscape in these proportions at this risk is unacceptable to me.
We in the town of Colfax cherish our scenic beauty
Habitat disturbance due to mining operations, and transportation. Quality of restoration.
Land cover, in terms of erosion control as well as mitigation of adverse effects on surrounding habitat should be surveyed and controlled around sand mines. Mitigation of these issues will never be total for an active sand mine, however. In addition, the mines should be compelled to return the habitats to a state as close to their original condition as possible after mining operations are over. Prior to allowing the sand mines to operate, surveys of threatened and endangered species or special habitats should also be performed to ensure minimal disruption of those environments. This would apply to this item (10) as well as item (8)
Erosion and a long term plan for replanting and restoring the massive open pit that results from this type of mining.
It will take decades to recover the landscape. What used to be a beautiful pastoral 25 mile drive from my home in Chetek to my work in Bloomer has changed from farmland beauty to a continual landscape of mining and drying activities.
Our area is known for its wildlife, lakes, forests, etc. We live here, not because the cost of living is cheap (it's not), but we want to be surrounded by nature.
All land disturbed by mining should be leveled and reseeded to native habitat.
land restoration after mining
Removing the land cover is a double whammy. The forests provide the clean air; removing them removes our natural filter and the mining operation puts debris in the air as does the truck traffic. Wildlife can no longer exist.
long range effects
The sand mines leave horrible-looking sites; what were once rolling hills are now ugly holes filled with contaminated water. They are poisoning us.

Complete destruction of the landscape of large areas in in which both the sand mines operate and those in which they have traffic to service them.
The beauty of this area is being destroyed.
This is private property we are talking about, if a land owner wants to strip log his land he has every right to. If he wants to develop it for housing he has every right to. If he wants a gravel or sand mine he has every right to. There are already heavy regulations in place, we don't need more big power government stepping on the private citizen and that citizen's land he is paying the taxes on.
Around-the-clock noise from equipment operation and blasting can drive wildlife away from mining areas. This results in disrupted reproduction for the wildlife and loss of quality hunting, trapping, and nature study opportunities for us. In addition, increased silt or other pollution entering nearby surface waters can lead to impaired aquatic habitat and fish kills. Long-term damage to soil resources from strip mining may be masked when intensive, short-term land management gives a false impression that reclamation has been successful. Strip mining eliminates existing vegetation and alters the soil profile, or the natural soil layers. Mining disturbs and may even destroy the beneficial micro-organisms in the topsoil. Soil also may be damaged if reclamation operations mix the topsoil with subsoils, diluting matter in the surface soil. Strip mining also may degrade the productive capacity of adjacent land. Spoil placed on adjacent land that has not been properly prepared may erode and thereby cover topsoil or introduce toxic materials to the soil. Mining also may alter the natural topography of the area in ways that prevent a return to the previous land use, such as farming. Returning the soil from the mined area to full productivity is especially important in the Midwest, where some of the world's most prime farmland is now being mined for the coal that lies beneath it.
the mine site by me has ceased ops was told that the 40 acre 40-50 deep hole could stay that way indefinitely. because it meets state standards per the county soil and water dept supervisor
Miles of pristine land have been destroyed. As you well know, outdoors activities are very important for our economy.
reclamation of pits to existing cover types
Loss of thousands of acres of trees, mostly oak.
When done we will have more corn ground as the hill is gone
Will be better in 50 years
This one I think should get tied to the wetlands study. I think one of the biggest things with removing all of this habitat is the filtration of water that feeds down into the water system. Less trees and plants, less natural use and filtration, the quality of the wetlands should be able to give you a good read on the overall impact of removing so much habitat. On a secondary note, I would talk with different small business that depend on tourism for a main source of their income. All the removing of habitat will impact wildlife numbers (on land and in water most likely), are they seeing a reduction in business since the boom because of these changing numbers? Have people decided to go to other areas without mining? Other states? If yes, did they leave because of changing wildlife habits? Or because the country side is no longer as visually pleasing? Any other reasons? How nice your country side looks is like a natural marketing campaign for tourism. We have not been running a very good natural marketing campaign in west-central WI of late.
I have been very disturbed to see how sand mines destroy the integrity and beauty of the areas they over-take. I do not think the revenue generated by such operations is worth losing our precious natural resources and the simple beauty Wisconsin is.
Wow! It is SO ugly.
Removal of trees and habitat pushing animals into urban situations to find food
I live near Hixton and Taylor and Blair and our beautiful area has turned into giant armpits of sand operations. Clear cutting of trees and removal of all the topsoil is ruining the landscape. There should be some kind of oversight to protect other landowners from having to look at these unsightly businesses and protect our property values. Hunting will also be devastated near these mines.
I have heard of horrendous pull out of sand mines. They left the area and did not recreate a natural setting! They just paid the fine! One can never replace what Mother Nature created, but the attempt should be made to make it as natural as possible.
Routes by truck and rail have load spillage, even in covered transport. Wind blown sand particles and water runoff have been evident on agricultural fields. A poorly constructed dike in the Town of Preston, Trempealeau County, resulted in a rupture that destroyed a residence and outbuildings, covered the town road and filled in a marsh on the far side of the road. Timber land soils are very shallow and reclamation with those soils is a poorly planned solution.
I noticed the grass not growing because of leakage from the trucks hauling but do not know at this time what long term effect will be with water and plant life.
One only needs to look at the aerial views of sand plants. They say it all. How nice of them to begin mining by putting up huge 'dykes' around the plant so the land dwellers don't have to actually look at the operation/the waste water/the blowing sand and destruction of trees/ground cover and habitat.
who will restore the habitat once a mine is done? I don't trust them to do it, once they have no financial reason to stick around. surrounding land values are on the decline around mines, animal habitat is disrupted....

<p>Last summer I saw a lot of green sludge along my drive 53 south between Whitehall and Blair across from the sand mine in the gully by a home, I feared for the home owner and farmer so close to it. What was once a beautiful drive is now an eye sore and I just want get by it as fast as I can. So much for our beautiful state, it's now very ugly. I feel terrible for the wildlife and animals that have no say to how we wreck their habitat.</p>
<p>Where I live we already have sand mines and the blowing sand covers siding on homes. there have been rail cars that have overturned causing sand to spill and dump trucks that have found on the roads hauling sand with no covers, These all need to be addressed/ Habitats have changed due to the mining. Badger Mining, who is the oldest mines around our area, have been wonderful about reclaiming the land once mined. We are hoping that these other smaller mines will follow suit and do as good of a job.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife habitat impact</b> <b>Runoff impacts</b> <b>Reclamation likelihood and type of reclamation</b> <b>Long term effects for land cover and habitat areas.</b></p>
<p>Again, there are mines that do good work and mines that do not. This happens in EVERY industry. Please make note of the good and the bad.</p>
<p>Total destruction of the beautiful hills and woodlands we live in here in Trempealeau County. You cannot replace it and someone needs to prove to me it can be reclaimed for any reasonable use in even my grandchildren's lifetimes. I moved here because of the hills. No one seems to care that my life is effected in a negative way by someone wanting to destroy the land simply for money. The eventual use of the sand in the oil/gas process is a totally different--and even more destructive--story. reclamation is a big deal</p>
<p>Analyze the effect frac sand mining has on the fragmentation of game and non-game habitat. We can not continue to destroy this valuable wildlife at this pace.</p>
<p>Although your 2012 report has recommendations for land cover and habitats, industrial land mining has a terrible record of compliance. How can we be assured this will be enforced.</p>
<p>Sand mine operations should be required to restore land use to its original conditions and soon as feasible. Also, mining should be prohibited form areas of special scenic beauty.</p>
<p>Reclamation of lands once operations move out. I have heard that a Grantsburg-area plant will fill the largest mining holes with water and claim there is new lakes/wetlands to leave behind. Can they do so? What about the water qualify of these lakes and their impacts on natual habitats? Will they not be required to reforest or return to prairies lands (as was there before mining operations began)???</p>
<p><b>Impacts of creating so many open pit mines in close proximity on game populations</b> <b>Aesthetic impact of the same</b></p>
<p>Mines are any kind are fugly (fracking ugly) and forever alter the landscape. There must be data of previously mined areas in WI and elsewhere in the U.S. that can be used to shape any future policies in this state regarding this type of mining.</p>
<p>Ensure the reclamation of land cover and natural habitats by requiring that all funds necessary for total reclamation costs is in an account to be used when the mining us concluded. Both plans and money for the reclamation must be in place before any future mines can be opened. Mining companies can not have a loophole that allows them to dissolve or declare bankruptcy without reclaiming the land as proposed even if they fail to make the profit they anticipate. The county, towns, cities, villages, and residents SHOULD NOT be saddled with these costs in the event the mining company folds!</p>
<p>Mining areas should be returned to the state that they were in before mining took place. Keep Wisconsin clean and beautiful and a safe place to live and work.</p>
<p>vast stretches of oak forest and rare habitats are completely destroyed in the process of frac sand mining. claims are made that mining sites can be reclaimed. this is false and no mine has reclaimed any site to this date. the vast sand deposits that hold water in the aquifer no longer hold water which lowers all available water supplies. black river falls is experiencing significant losses at municipal and hochunk nation well sites.</p>
<p><b>What happens to the land after they are through mining it? Are they putting the top soil back in place or will it be a waste land?</b></p>
<p>Restoring the site to look like it did prior to the mines existance is vital to restoring the envoinment that once existed. Pictures and species should be documented prior to granting a permit to operate.</p>
<p>The DNR should look at how the loss of vegetation and increase in amount of exposed land from frac sand mining affects erosion. They should also investigate if runoff events are confined to the mine area or if there is a greater environmental impact.</p>
<p>Reclaim action of the land after sand mining needs serious attention. Putting Burms with trees planted on top surrounding the pit doesn't cut it . We do not need 20 plus fish ponds.</p>
<p><b>Reclamation</b></p>
<p>the fact of the land cover is first, why are they building the berms so high? so the public ca't see the destruction that the are doing? And why are they just plowing the food over that have sustained the natives of this area for thousands of years to just fill their pockets and not to feed the people? the animals are running out of the ranges that they once inhabited and thats one thing that needs to stop. the reclamation plans that a mine impliments aren't the best for the land, or the animals that are accustomed to the land that once their home. I once saw a mountain lion and two wolves run from a small wildfire across a field that is now a sand mine sight, my children or even grandchildren will never see that on that sacred ground. the sand they take is sacred, the mines should leave it alone.</p>

The area is reclaimed after the mining is done in an area, so I see no long term detrimental affects to the land cover or habitats. Again, this is basically a non-issue.

These hills are millions and millions of years old. Once they are removed, we will NEVER get them back. Where will the wildlife go?

How are natural wildlife movements and migrations affected? Effects on local endangered or threatened resources?How is soil and habitat successfully deemed reclaimed? What is successful reclamation?What are the effects of stockpiling of topsoil?What is the filtering ability of reclaimed soils? Can agricultural use be reasonable, and can the soil filter common chemicals used in todays agriculture?What erosion concerns are there, both as the topsoil is stockpiled, and after it's replaced? Does this erosion further affect filtering capabilities? land recovery after mining. ponds? landscaping?

Enough of the eyesore of this business!!! The once peaceful country life we had is now overrun with a constant parade of large trucks.

It is too bad the mine companies will rape the land, take down our hills, pollute the air and water and leave us with the landscape of the moon. For all the trees that have been cut, where have they planted new ones. Not 30 years from now. They should have to replant what the take down when they take it down. The roads are a mess and now Chippewa Co residents have to pay a wheel tax because there is no \$\$ to repair roads torn up by sand trucks.

See number 8, please.

owner rights

Restoration plans minimal or maybe lacking completely if mines change owners?

<p>The loss of habitat for animals, fauna. The proximity of mines with blasting, noise, dust, silica next to farm animals. The destruction of what used to often be ag land, the idea that sand mining is acceptable on ag land. There is nothing agriculture about mining. The proximity of mines to houses, barns needs to be addressed. The animals can be susceptible to silicosis, especially horses.</p>
<p>What are the alternatives?</p>
<p>Land owners rights should be paramount</p>
<p>Moving land (sand) from our area will affect agriculture and lumber businesses. Lack of the sand filter will affect water quality. So called reclamation of sand mines disturbs the ground for growing crops. It wouldn't be like it was before mining. It took thousands of years to produce the land to be rich enough for crops. It took Mother Nature all those years to make the soil fertile and productive. Sand mining will change all that. Sand mining will affect food production. Our future as a people will be dealing with a need for providing food production for an ever growing population. Removing our land to somewhere else will decrease our ability to meet the needs for food production as well as people habitat/animal habitat.</p>
<p>After the land is strip mined what future good use will it have? Farming? Recreational? What? It really is a travesty that our land is being destroyed by this practice.</p>
<p>We need to maintain and preserve for recreation and use that does not cause permanent destruction of land</p>
<p>I don't know.</p>
<p>Will increased frac sand mining decrease the amount of public recreation lands available?</p>
<p>What benefits or damage will be done to residents within 5 miles of the mines?</p>
<p>No comment. All land use is progressional from undeveloped to highly developed.</p>
<p>In our township we are going by our comprehensive plan People wanted growth by major highways and railroad.</p>
<p>any land use changes that affect the people and animals living in the area</p>
<p>Same repeated throughout</p>
<p>Conservation with a Land Ethic should be the guiding light for all of Wisconsin's activities. See Aldo Leopold's lifetime of work. Human impact on land use needs to consider the existing environments i.e. wildlife/biotas/soil quality/climate and respect the delicate balance needed to maintain it as naturally as possible.</p>
<p>What effect does an industrial sand mine have on property values of homes within 500', 1000ft, 2000ft, 3000ft?</p>
<p>Forest&gt;Mine&gt;Ag-land. Ag-land is probably of a low quality.</p>
<p>Local zoning approval needs to be maintained for those jurisdictions who choose to exercise that authority. The DNR should require verification from local jurisdictions that a proposed facility will be consistent with any adopted comprehensive plan. It would be beneficial if the DNR can provide technical and scientific expertise to local jurisdictions...assuming the Governor's budget doesn't eliminate both capacities within the agency...for issues identified during the local approval process.</p>
<p>Ensure end mine use meets or exceeds current local zoning.</p>
<p>yes and no. People should be able to do what they wish with their properties as long as they follow the regulations set forth.</p>
<p>Even if the mines are reclaimed, the landscape will never be the same. The beautiful bluffs and hills of western Wisconsin are one of the major reasons the area is special. Many of these mining companies are not even based in Wisconsin -- once they've finished mining, they will have no emotional stake in the destruction they've created. But the problem doesn't end with aesthetic damage only; wildlife habitats will be forever altered, for the worse, and aquifers will be irreparably, at least in the range of thousands of years, damaged and depleted.</p>
<p>I believe the landowner should be able to do whatever they want with their land. When our neighbor built a dairy facility and manages a milk hauling operation from their farm, they never asked the neighbors.</p>
<p>stop letting frac sand mining operations use our roads, water, and resources!</p>
<p>The world needs healthy, clean food to eat. What will be the impact on land with all this hill removal? When will it be that there will be a limit on removal? What is the point when enough is enough? What will the locations around WI look like when all the bluffs, hills, and ridges have been removed?</p>
<p>The land is going to be less valuable for recreation when it is changed from woodland to prairie. The areas that are not currently woodland are in agriculture which will likely not be able to be farmed after mining. There is some minor tourism in the area with people who like to bike the scenic hilly roads. When the hills are gone that won't happen. Trout fishermen may no longer be able to fish if the stream habitat is ruined.</p>
<p>sand frac has been getting very out of hand, making things very ugly to look at</p>
<p>Progress always causes change, we must always keep the future use in mind.</p>
<p>All</p>
<p>Land use changes often mean changes in drainage patterns, which affect the quality of surface water and ground water, especially if it involves forest removal (which is a lot of the land use change here).</p>
<p>see 10.</p>
<p>More runoff. Less area to infiltrate water. Greater pollution of our surface waters. Who wants to swim, boat, or fish in the river downstream of a sand mine's discharge? People who don't swim, boat, or fish in the river downstream of a sand mine don't buy gas, lunch, dinner, a hotel room, fishing license, etc.</p>
<p>USE EXISTING REGS.</p>
<p>Farming has become industrial, but it is not the heavy industry of industrial mining. At least not in this area. Sand mining pushes business, farms, and communities out, due to irreconcilable differences in all the above mentioned areas.</p>

Effect of farm land removalEffect on surface water flowEffect on groundwater glowEffect on scenic viewEffect on wildlife and habitat
How about the esthetic value of a natural setting vs mining? This upheaval of the change in environment causes havoc with human mental abilities to accept that change. Many problems with mental illness associated with drastic changes in surroundings. It is much like living in a war zone.
How much farm land has been lost and woodland habitat
We've gone from an area of farming and tourism to sand mines, trucks, blowing sand. This is effecting our economy, health and way of life. I have a store in a tourist town on the Mississippi and the street is covered in sand from the trucks and mines. The scenic countryside that draws tourism is tarnished by these mines.
How will recreational/tourist areas be affected? Who will want to walk/bike/hunt in areas with blowing silica sand/noise from blasting.
A few years ago communities throughout the state were instructed to examine their townships to plan the use of land to best meet the needs and wishes of the community. Those plans are largely being ignored as the puch for sand overwhelms small governments. Let's honor the wishes of individual communities to decide land luse.
The effects on the natural, scenic area in which I live. Concerns about how vast tunneling may disturb and degrade geological structures of the land.
Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the on land use. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.
destroying the beauty and the nature of our land.
Classifying sand mining in the same way as aggregates like gravel is simply wrong. It's a very different substance and requires different rules. Assuming that this is what you are looking at, how does the DNR expect to enforce new rules when the government is cutting DNR financing?
<a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a>
Tracking of land values and real estate transactions should be considered. I know of many people that if they haven't moved already are considering moving out of the area due to mining activity. I myself am considering moving out of the area. When there is no tax base, good luck getting the mining industry to clean up once they have moved out of the area. Tracking the number of mines and processing plants needs to be accurate. Seems a few were missed on your latest report. Limitations on the number of mines allowed to operate within the state needs to be considered.
Black River State Forest has an active site right outside its boundaries, disrupting the park experience in the western portion of that area.
After mine is completed will it be restored to what is was before? Mining reclamation
Recreation will be lost because of the mines. Tourism will decrease. Habitats will be destroyed.
concern, concern, concern
These areas should remain in agriculture, not become industrial.
I believe sand frac mining should be BANNED in Wisconsin. See the list where it has been banned worldwide: <a href="http://keptapwatersafe.org/global-bans-on-fracking/">http://keptapwatersafe.org/global-bans-on-fracking/</a>
In my opinion, being straight forard with the health of the destroyed areas should be disclosed to any new buyers. After health assessments of the areas should be monitored for many years after. None of what has been removed can be replaced.
Property values surrounding sand mines drop, as does quality of life for neighboring farms.
The use of a sands mining project would detract from people coming to the state to take in the scenic and various wildlife. Our beaches have always been valued by out of towners-and not the heavily populated ones-I am referring to the quiet ones that you can get lost in your own thoughts and the enormity of the surrounding nature. We would loose the money from them coming in, which would affect many industries that live off of the tourism. Just because it is not advertised as a tourist spot doesn't mean it's not one.
Please analyze the damage done to local communities as residential land is devalued by proximity of sand mines, in terms of noise, light, fugitive sand, and health problems. I've looked at real estate lately and am aware of a flight of homeowners out of sand mining areas and out of railroad pathways. Their homes are selling at greatly reduced prices and remaining on the market much longer than they would if no sand mining were happening nearby. Farmers are also finding it difficult to market their property if mining is happening nearby, as buyers rightfully worry about water availability for crops and livestock. The DNR should also look at highway and road damage by trucks operating under heavy sand loads.
Should good farm land be ruined for use of the sand mines.
Concerned about less land being available for agricultural use.
Change from rec land to industrial.
agricultural land loss and forest production loss
Quantify how many acres of farmland lost to sand mining since 2005. Quantify how many acres reclaimed since 2005 and how many reclaimed acres in farm production and what other uses reclaimed land (if there is any) is being put to.
Aesthetics
To residents

How can the land be used after mining? Will the property value of homes be compromised for the families who live by these mines?
Sand mining compromises zoning ordinances and creates haphazard land use patterns. These operations also give a community a blighted look, thus impacting property values.
How does destroying forests affect wildlife, neighbors, scenic beauty, agriculture, and tourism?
endangered plant and animal species downstream impacts in watersheds impacts on local aquifers cumulative impacts on biodiversity
They are destroying thousands of years of glacial reclamation.
Affects of mine operations after reclamation
Living forests need to cover the damaged areas.
Limits on how large a mine can be, how long it can be in operation, does it affect others using land in proximity.
Land should be used to sustain our population in Wisconsin by supporting organic, local, low-impact farming and by allowing some land to remain wild.
Permanently ruined lands
Our children's generation will have the unenviable task of telling their children about what we allowed to occur. What you're passing onto them isn't easily described as change, but more like wanton destruction of our lands for another's gain.
How do recreational uses of contiguous lands change due to habitat loss and water degradation? How does it affect hunting and fishing?
Converting crop ground and prairie fields to indentations in the ground
Who is responsible for the long-term safety of these highly disturbed landscapes? Will frac sand mining companies be required to take out a bond before beginning operations? I think a mandatory bond should be required by the facility owner before any work can be done on site so that tax payers are not left to clean up any issues from poorly managed and highly disturbed areas.
When you allow a mine to proceed that is a land use change. Give thought to individuals whose property values are affected. Should there be momentary compensation for the loss in value.
I can accept that land use changes come with cultural and societal changes. Again, minimize the changes as much as possible.
what happens when the mines close? What are the long term impacts? who pays for potential environmental cleanup?
Is it worth it to take away bluffs and original topography for the sake of the sand industry?
If neighboring properties lose property value due to the sand mine, the owners must be compensated accordingly.
Land use needs to be under local control with limited state oversight. Those who use land should be mainly involved rather than those not directly affected.
Yes
Impact on agriculture
erosion, loss of habitat for wildlife, loss of agricultural land use, loss of aesthetics of scenery, loss of forest products
Existing regulations are sufficient.
No issues.
Consider if certain agricultural practices (such as cranberry operations) should exist in the same watershed as any mining. Does purposeful alteration of soils of agricultural practices leave chemicals in the soil that sets up groundwater contamination by the kind of processing that mining operations expose minerals to.
Removal of bluffs is not acceptable.
Mining of gravel, sand and other materials has gone on in Wisconsin for many years. I think it's ridiculous to segregate out frac sand mining and believe public opposition lacks merit. The processes are very similar, and probably even identical in some cases, to what's been happening for many years.
Tight control will reassure the public. Yes, that means funding, however this should be from the industry, not taxpayers. The industry is the one making a fortune on this. And it should create bonding for returning the land to natural state, with a written, approved plan.
Damage to farms, gardens, forests and wildlife.
Public use should always be the first priority for WI land.
As mentioned before, whether and at what cost farmland can be returned to agricultural production after a sand mine is closed, as the sand mining companies claim.
How do you compensate for higher taxes during mining and the fall off when the mines close? Farming has provided a consistent tax base. How will reclaimed land be taxed that is unusable or not in use? What impact will usage have on surrounding land owners? Surrounding land owners have seen a depreciation of values in an already down real estate market which is a real blow to the largest lifetime purchase of hardworking Wisconsinites. Values that probably can never be recovered. Is it really in the interest of communities and the state for sand companies to be the majority land owners? Large scale sand company ownership of land will one day create a wasteland of abandoned mines and plants, how is the tax base affected again? Property owners see a dramatic tax increase to compensate?
What is the long term effect of taking productive farm, recreation, and forest land and converting it to a short term sand pit.

<p>I believe that these matters are best handled at the local level where government is closer to the people. I do not believe the state should pursue model ordinances or preempt local regulation. Each community is unique and best suited to determine what is important to them.</p>
<p>Farmland to wasteland, the reclamation of a strip mined site can take 30 years to become a productive farm again with out the heavy use of chemical fertilizers. Farmland needs to stay in farm land to continue to feed America.</p>
<p>Land use plans do not include mines and processing plants.</p>
<p>Ground disintegrates.No people or animals can live there anymore.Beauty of the great river road destroyed.Homes lost due to sand mine making them inhabitable.</p>
<p>In areas already affected, farm families are now arguing with each other. One gets rich quick, the other can barely pay the bills. Certainly we can find alternatives to our energy needs rather than cave in to Big Oil and boom/bust. And when one owner sells out, it is stepping on others to get yourself ahead , the surroundings are destroyed and affects everyone for years to come.</p>
<p>Many miles apart will help control the unsightly businesses, keep traffic down and health conditions less effected.</p>
<p>Please consider.</p>
<p>Comprehensive land use plans generally have the mines in woodland or agriculture areas. Either areas would be loss of these planned uses. What were they and what will they be?</p>
<p>Farmland preservation. Forestland preservation.</p>
<p>Please read and address all the issues brought up in the Powers economic study comissioned by the Wi Farmers Union and the Wi Towns Association, The Economic Benefits and Costs of Frac-Sand Mining in West Central Wisconsin. This study is preliminary and needs data to fill it in. I don't have a link to the study, but can e-mail you the PDF if you can't find it.</p>
<p>Local governments should be able to make their own land use decisions. Balloon-on-a-string annexation runs counter to the purposes of annexation and should not be allowed. There are a number of such annexations that can be studied in Trempealeau county and elsewhere.</p>
<p>I live in the Town of Auburn with 3 mines and around 50 homes within 1/2 mile. We had rolling forested hills. We are looking at a lot of land changes which can greatly impact water recharge, wildlife habitat, quality of life, farmland, and recreation.</p>
<p>all aspects</p>
<p>Changing the land use from ag, recreational, or residential to industrial impacts the whole community. We hear proponents for sand mines speak of individual property rights. Please consider the philosophical and practical question of when does one person's property rights (to have a sand mine on their property) end and neighboring property owners' rights begin to be assured of a community land use that existed when they purchased their residences or located their businesses in a rural area.</p>
<p>Should be reclaimed the tight way</p>
<p>A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining.</p>
<p>Negative impacts on adjacent quality of life due to noise and air pollution, water pollution, general disruption of daily life and activities</p>
<p>Disrupts natural areas and agricultural and residential land uses</p>
<p>Yes please</p>
<p>LAND USE CHANGES</p>
<p>Mines are not put in areas already destroyed like urban areas, contaminated sites, roads, dumps or industry. They always slice a swath through the few natural areas causing checkerboard damage that increases destruction of nature with Walmarts, parking lots and subdivisions.</p>
<p>Former farms...dig them up &amp; leave them to look like no one cares!</p>
<p>When land townships are rezoned from agricultural to industrial it could open a Pandoras Box. How do we control any company or factory from taking over our our agricultural lands. Any one could come in with any type of industry. How do mix agricultural with heavy industry?</p>
<p>farms and cranberry marshes are being replaced by sand mines.</p>
<p>Impacts on adjoining landowners and all landowners in the windshed. Include dust, light pollution, noise, etc.</p>
<p>Long term pollutants cannot recover healthy land</p>
<p>Does Industrial Sand Mining affect land evaluation and land use changes. How can the impact be minimized the impact.</p>
<p>Safe farming.</p>
<p>Going from agricultural, to an open mine, to a wasteland, is not a smart idea. To allow greed to destroy our Natural Resources , is a very dangerous move. Don't allow the bully to take away everything for dollars, and leaving nothing but devastation, for the survivors to live with.</p>
<p>Restore to original land use after mining ceases.</p>
<p>Assure land use changes are sustainable.</p>
<p>We used to be able to take drives through the woods around Tunnel City. That is all blocked off now.</p>
<p>Nothing is as important as our current uses of land for natural habitat, farming, and tourism</p>
<p>Will a rare ecosystem have to be removed to build a sand mine?</p>
<p>See above.</p>

some of this land has never been touched, you can never get that back no money or time can replace it!
With regards to reclamation, the DNR should determine whether or not a mine site can be reclaimed to productive crop land. Agriculture is the driving force and largest economic activity in many rural areas in western Wisconsin and the loss of productive farmland could be devastating for rural communities.
Contain any runoff by water. All water touching the sand needs to be filtered to bring that water back to its original levels of contaminants.
Can something be done about the mine companies using annexation to the adjacent cities and villages as a way of getting around mining ordinances and mining agreements.
People who invested in land and property should not lose their value due to decreased property value caused by frac sand mining operations nearby. Aesthetic values, health, and financial opportunities are negatively impacted and need to be made whole by the fly-by-night frac sand mining operations who have no right to come in and alter peoples lives and destroy everything they built up over generations.
Will areas previously used for hunting/wildlife habitat now be used for agriculture?
Agriculture and forestry is being displaced by mining operations. In most cases, these are productive lands with economic value. How quickly can productive cropland and forest land be reclaimed for their previous use? How productive will they be or will yields be decreased? What is the impact to overall local economy that is based on agriculture and forestry? Are we making it more difficult for the remaining farmers and loggers to stay in business?
Rural peace and quiet, dark night skies, safe roads that are uncluttered with trucking, rail traffic at any hour that disturbs sleep and the very reason we live on a farm. There is no stability and sustainability to sand mining, as recent slow downs and closures point out.
See Number 10.
Mining is mining. It is not a land use change. It is the destruction of the land. Our forests in Western Wisconsin are producing millions in revenue from forestry and wildlife.
We need the agricultural land and the water. The frac oil is a passing phase, far too expensive to the environment to be sustainable. Please don't destroy lives and livelihoods by tearing up the land.
Land use will change forever, let's get some serious analysis.
Short term financial gain vs. long term environmental damage.
Farmland should not be turned into commercial 24/7 business sites. We need the land in WI to grow our food.
Lost a chunk of hunting land but that's about it
What's going to happen to the land after mines are done?
I don't have any suggestions because I don't think sand mining is bad.
Need changes for more jobs
When a farmer allows his land to be mined for frac sand, he destroys the environmental and social fabric of his neighbors.
I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. Living next to a FSM is pretty hellish from what I hear. Surely the rights of people to live on the land that they purchased need to be addressed.
What was once farmland is now used for industrial mining. It is a temporary use. This farmland has been feeding the world for many generations. Will it ever be productive again?
Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future
No more homes being built, unusable land once mining is done. People stop taking care of these properties, why would they, there will be nothing left here once the mining is done.
YES
Most land was from farms no longer in business
as above.
Regulate what area can and cannot be used
Not much has changed. After land has been mined it is reclaimed to where it is now usable cropland.
Deny this
It will never be used again for agriculture.
when a sand mine isn't in use any longer will the land be put back to original use or used in another way
Declining property values from noise pollution and ugly view.
landscape should not be changed. There's too much to lose between ground water and soil erosion
The land should not be mined
Agricultural land should not be allowed to become a mine.
Depends on the location;
All public record
gone!
devastating. Large thunderstorms are going to cause more damage when the hills and ridges are gone. Causing increased insurance costs for those who still live in the area.
Soil fertility and air quality (because of vegetation loss)
They have purchased many acres, get them annexed into local towns, then get them rezoned from agriculture to mining
When I see hills being removed from my scenic view as I drive it makes me stressed.

Please look into this.
Farmland to mining.
Loss of cover for large tracts of land. The selling of our resources on a mega scale by large corporations with little concern for local rural population. Loss of land value in areas of sand mine developments.
If property is currently listed as agriculture, then mine wants to mine the property, the property gets changed to industrial once it starts being mined. If the plan is to mine, all acres should be re-zoned from the beginning, and nothing is put back into agriculture until mine is done, and all reclamation redone. This would help with the higher tax base from the start of the mine until the end of the mine. It would also get the reclamation done in a timely manner.
Zone sand mines out of existence. If not, may I proceed with the sale of my land to Russia as they want a new military base?
Restrict using sand for bedding
Just because you plant new trees or make the land into farm land doesn't mean the same inhabitants will return. There's no reclamation plan that deals with invasive species I disturbed soils nor do we need more farm land.
No to land use changes, there are enough sand mines in western WI already, boom and bust operation
Impact on land values close to mines and facilities
Land use changes in terms of zoning and other consideration should be taken into account by the DNR as they affect land conservation efforts and habitat maintenance.
The rape of our farmlands to satisfy corporate greed is disgusting.
Local input is important for any land use changes. We are the citizens living in the areas so could be directly affected.
Adequacy of the reclamation monies and plan established with each mine.
What remains when the mines are done? What effect does this have on the agriculture in this area. How does it effect wildlife, hunting revenue, tourism, etc
They shouldn't be allowed to leave unsightly craters.
Big money involved in elections to change areas. People have been paid money to have their land annexed so the mining companies can overcome local restrictions.
In terms of private land? This is the business of the property owner, not government.
The land will not be usable for farming for 30 years once used by the mines as the natural bacteria will be gone. Erosion increases dramatically when the protective plant cover is removed and the remaining soil is not stabilized. Studies show that water flows from selected mines carry sediment loads up to 1,000 times greater than flows from unmined areas. High sediment loads and erosion also increase the likelihood and severity of floods, fill lakes and ponds, degrade water supplies, increase water treatment costs, and adversely affect the breeding and feeding of certain fish. Long-term damage to the soil, water and wildlife. Eliminates existing vegetation and alters the soil profile, or the natural soil layers. Mining disturbs and may even destroy the beneficial micro-organisms in the topsoil. Soil also may be damaged if reclamation operations mix the topsoil with subsoils, diluting matter in the surface soil. May degrade the productive capacity of adjacent land. Spoil placed on adjacent land that has not been properly prepared may erode and thereby cover topsoil or introduce toxic materials to the soil.
reclamation done in timely manner
NOT STATE ISSUE
I have lived in the country for many years to enjoy the peace and quiet. I don't want to live in an industrial park setting. I was here first.
See no problem Maybe a slight pay out property value lost to the neighbors would be a great ideal
n/a
No comment.
Simply put, it destroys surrounding land, water supply, and so much more. A huge price to pay, especially since revenue generated is rarely put back into surrounding communities or to fix the damage done once they move on. It's also scary to see how often these mines are cited with poor pollution control charges. It does not seem to be a large priority for these companies. <a href="http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.html">http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.html</a> <a href="http://wisconsinwatch.org/2013/12/frac-sand-mining-company-faces-200000-in-water-air-penalties/">http://wisconsinwatch.org/2013/12/frac-sand-mining-company-faces-200000-in-water-air-penalties/</a>
No way this land will be usable in the future. When the industry goes bust, they will run away and we will be left with this mess.
The DNR should also have input on zoning changes made in order to allow these mines. We have voted to have zoning laws to protect our property rights and the DNR would help those of us trying to fight some of these mines by providing studies and data to show what damage a mine might cause to the area.
The people that live by the area should be highly considered as to what this mining will do to their life! Health issues, value of their property, noise pollution!
Ridge top removal is changing the hydrology and tree removal does and will change water filtration. A friend assessed property value was decreased by \$25,000 from a year earlier--he found that out when he just now completed a sale of the home. This is a very modest house and the \$25K is a huge percentage.
The county land committee have been very nasty when approached at county meeting in the past and only give you 15 minutes to have a discussion and the town chairman has not been any help at all with answering questions in this regards

<p><a href="http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2012/05/08/aerial-photos-show-scale-of-frac-sand-mines/">http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2012/05/08/aerial-photos-show-scale-of-frac-sand-mines/</a> a picture is worth a million words.</p>
<p>how does this affect the crop land around a mine?</p>
<p>No comment.</p>
<p>What will occur to affected areas once the mining has left the area.</p>
<p>Significant effect on the tourism issue in a county that has lived off that issue--hunting, biking, sight seeing--for longer than most of the mine owners have been alive. The forestry industry has been significant as well and there has been and will be a negative effect on that as well.</p>
<p>Analyze pre-mine property values versus projected post mine property values.</p>
<p>It is delusional to think that agriculture can be restored after a strip mining operation- it took thousands of years to produce the loess soils that demarcate this area. A skim of topsoil cannot restore the fertility. These mines will irrevocably alter the culture of farming in western Wisconsin. They will also result in a huge loss of recreational income.</p>
<p>Again, DNR should consider protection of special scenic beauty (to be designated through zoning).</p>
<p>What is the solution to ensuring the lands are returned to their previous states (or better) once operations cease? I believe several, though perhaps not all, of these operations are going to do little to follow through on proper rehabilitation of these lands. What about current run off issues?</p>
<p>Converting farm and timber land to open pit mines</p>
<p>Do not change land use just to ruin the land with a mining operation.</p>
<p>increasing areas land mass is being converted to infrastructure that can with stand the impacts of heavy equipment. roads need repair every eight weeks in some cases. rail lines and spurs affect previously pristine areas. habitat is vanishing with increasing fragmentation and industrialization of the landscape.</p>
<p>The state needs to get counties to regulate their zoning practices with public health and interests in mind. Come up with incentives to get the cooperation you need.</p>
<p>With regards to reclamation, the DNR should determine whether or not a mine site can be reclaimed to productive crop land. Agriculture is the driving force and largest economic activity in many rural areas in western Wisconsin and the loss of productive farmland could be devastating for rural communities.</p>
<p>Farm land along highway 124 Chippewa county is now gravel pit and sand mines. Sand mines are helping in the disappearance of small farms in Chippewa county.</p>
<p>the analysis should include the different species and plant all identified. we're losing so many species of animal each year, the monarch plant (Milkweed), is just one species of plant that needs to be saved as well as the mountain lion that we have in this area. just because we don't always see them doesn't mean that they don't exist. there are many plants that are food plants rich in nutrients and are superfoods, We could profit from saving and providing this instead of filling the pockets of a few select people with a mindset of a sociopath.</p>
<p>There is a short term change from either forestry or farming of 20 to 30 years, then it goes back to what it was. Nothing that needs to be considered here.</p>
<p>Effects on neighboring values and uses? Effects on neighboring existing uses and natural resources assets such as ASNRI areas?</p>
<p>no concern</p>
<p>Seems the sand mining is run by a powerful few, or those that want to get rich selling their land. Our property value have plummeted. Who wants to buy a place that is so close to an ugly, land abusing mess? If I sound angry, that's because I am. If I wanted to live and spend vacations in a city, I would have bought a home in the city. what right do these people have to destroy the beauty and tranquility for everyone else? We have owned our 80 acres since 1969.</p>
<p>I think we can say goodbye to tourists. Who wants to come look and listen to sand mines. This use to be a beautiful area. Not anymore.</p>
<p>This may be one area where sand mining will help. By taking down previously unusable hills to flatter land, they do open up more farmland. However - that does not change the fact that there are far more trains on just-built railroad spur lines and far more heavy truck traffic on previously sedate country roads.</p>
<p>owner rights</p>

<p>The difficulty presented by increased heavy truck traffic on roads not made to accommodate such. The presence of such in areas where Amish are settled with children walking to school is dangerous. Bridges are often old. Roads are too often covered with sand/dirt going in and out of mine sites. The weight of loads that is appropriate for the road in use.</p>
<p>Businesses involved in sand mining and transport should be required to pay for road damage that occurs from heavy dump truck travel.</p>
<p>Dump trucks are a well known hazard on our road, the only time it's safe to walk or bike is when they aren't hauling. One went right over top of an elderly couple in a little Datsun truck when they met on our one bad curve. People that live here know you could encounter one there and they're often left of center, not that it's marked. How will unsafe conditions be remedied? It's been like this since we moved here in the 70's.</p>
<p>influx of workers to process frac sand. Can our infrastructure support the necessary incoming workers. How do we maintain the quality of life and safety in Wisconsin with a quick influx of people?</p>
<p>The trucks hauling sand are heavy and cause faster degradation of roadways. Companies need to be required to fix such roads.</p>
<p>Modifications that promote smooth and safe transportation and traffic should be emphasized rather than limitations</p>
<p>More truck traffic on our rural roads are a hazard. They increase the damage to the roads just by being heavier than most truck..even though they are supposed to be minding weight limits. Dangerous for bicyclists!!! Even though the trucks are supposed to be covered there is some leakage..and some try to get away without a cover at all!!</p>
<p>The operations running 24/7 with truck traffic, rail traffic is not good. The noise from the train horns adversely affect people's quality of life. Delays by Amtrak's Empire Builder has reduced their ridership. RR Crossing delays in Chippewa Falls averaging 5 hrs. is unacceptable to the residents lives and time schedules. Truck traffic on roads become annoying to residents not to mention the destruction of the roads and continual cost and inconvenience of repairing them.</p>
<p>I don't know.</p>
<p>Increased truck traffic carrying frac sand at high speeds. Quickly destroying the roads they travel on.</p>
<p>destruction of roads due to heavy trucking traffic</p>
<p>All costs to maintain roads used by the mining companies to transport the sand must be the responsibility of the mining company. The taxpayers should not have to pay for the railway lines' or roads' maintenance needed as a result of the increased traffic.</p>
<p>Meet all existing laws, rules and regulations, and not set a set of standards separate from other transportation activities.</p>
<p>Dot has approved all traffic routes.</p>
<p>Cities favorable to annexation believe it will be a net economic benefit for them. But when one factors in the increased traffic, road wear and tear and possible safety failures mining brings with it, is mining really as economically beneficial as they think?</p>
<p>Impact and Cost to Roads</p>
<p>Safety and road wear by trucks, vehicles, etc. in areas with sand mine operations and how that will affect the residents, noise levels &amp; health issues with increased air pollution from vehicles and/or sand in the air from blowing off trucks</p>
<p>Large trucks are clogging roads that weren't designed for this kind of traffic. Roads are being torn apart by these trucks and local governments can't afford to upgrade or even, in some cases, fix the roads. Traffic is becoming less safe due to the volume of the large trucks on the roads. Trains are using tracks that have been poorly maintained. Just consider the derailment that happened in Chetek some time ago.</p>
<p>Increased heavy loads on the quality of public roads.</p>
<p>Large and numerous vehicles needed for mining operations will damage roadways, forests, rural areas, and increase emissions. During peak tourist season, there will be increased and delayed traffic which could create negative effects.</p>
<p>Should routing and scheduling of trucks from sand mines take into consideration school bus pick up and drop off times and routes?</p>
<p>Traffic and road use should be covered by existing laws and local rules</p>
<p>Designated haul routes.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the increase in the amount of traffic due to transporting sand.</p>
<p>No worries.</p>
<p>Should be a consideration of local approval...see #11.</p>
<p>Ensure that a bond is required for repairing, replacing, etc. of roads after mining ceases. Ensure entrances and exit areas from mines are well marked and, if necessary, stop signs and/or traffic lights are used.</p>
<p>The DOT monitors this so why duplicate.</p>
<p>Maintenance and repair of local roads due to increase traffic size and type.</p>
<p>I've lived around active mining operations for most of my life. One never adjusts to the noise, nuisance, and safety hazards of sharing roads and living spaces with large trucks and mining machinery. Many of our roads are not designed for such large and heavy equipment. The need for road repairs will likely increase because such equipment is detrimental to the integrity of asphalt -- especially in harsh and drastically changing seasonal climates such as Wisconsin's. It is less safe to share highways with mining trucks carrying heavy payloads.</p>
<p>Need to maintain proper speed limits</p>
<p>Trucks are too fast and too heavy, wear out the roads; loads not properly covered; dangerous for bicycles and cars</p>

<p>How many trains are we going to continue to allow carrying sand out of WI? 500 cars one night went through a residential area in Chippewa Falls this past winter. One after the other.....who can tolerate the noise, the particulates being left as these trains go by (Pierce), the heavy industrial impact as these trains roll throughout WI day and night...24/7/365? No one has been trained in Chippewa Falls about rail safety. There has been death and accidents and derailments in Chippewa Co. How much of this can the human tolerate?</p>
<p>Traffic on the rural roads has increased greatly. Sometimes the trucks come so close that it is hard to make a turn. Roads are being repaired more often causing me to burn more fuel having to drive a longer route to avoid roads under construction. I have stopped going to a local farm market because I would have to travel on a road with sand truck traffic. I am concerned about the drivers growing impatient with driving behind sand trucks and passing when it really isn't safe.</p>
<p>many large trucks going by uncovered and dripping not only oily wheels but dusty</p>
<p>Safety is always an issue and traffic always gets heavier.</p>
<p>All</p>
<p>Besides the general potential health problems of lots of sand in the air, the large machines and trucks, with increased traffic on small county roads, are likely to interfere with both traffic patterns and road conditions. This is a small county with limited funds. The increased pressure on the infrastructure by sand mining operations is likely to result in reduced safety for locals.</p>
<p>Traffic Seems to be overly a concern, mining origin Trucks pay taxes, Just like Martin. a straw man barrier.</p>
<p>Trucks, trucks, trucks. Jamming up traffic, crumbling foundations of old buildings in town from the vibrations, operating near school bus routes and crosswalks, disturbing the peace 24/7.</p>
<p>EXISTING DOT SHOULD BE USED !</p>
<p>Heavy truck traffic is noisy, destructive to roads, and dangerous for other forms of transportation, such as biking and motorcycling. The sand trucks in this area do not slow down for people, and create a level of stress that has never been present for community members using the roads. And the most dangerous aspect is the school buses and the children, who share the roads with the big trucks during the school year.</p>
<p>Roadways need to be studied to determine the early wear due to the excessive travel by the heavy vehicles used to transport the sand. In particular I am aware of ever-growing ruts being worn in the driving lanes of Chippewa County S and Hwy 124 due to the 24 hours per day, 6 days.per week constant travel of the sand trucks. The roadways are breaking down much quicker than they should, and while Chippewa County is requiring extra wheel-tax on personal automobiles, no such extra is assessed on these corporate heavy use trucks that are wearing out our roads!</p>
<p>recent transport of this material has had an impact on local road surfaces</p>
<p>Highway safetyHighway restorationHighway routesTraffic volume near schoolsNight traffic</p>
<p>Safety concerns with the number of trucks now traveling on the highways/rural roads. Congestion at intersections where people have problems getting to work. Disregard for people working near this traffic; trucks not slowing down and police not responding to these concerns.Children getting on and off buses with high truck traffic. The poor road conditions when torn up by heavy traffic. Highways and RR that block traffic to hospitals. Firefighters stalled due to RR cars.</p>
<p>more regulation on the number of trucks that dominate rural roads, Hwy 35 and bridges. Most are in a hurry to keep their timelines</p>
<p>Increased truck traffic with sand blowing off the trucks. I drive 44 miles to work and for 35 of those I am on the road with all the trucks going from the mines by our house to the processing plant.Also the train traffic has increased so much that it is effecting Amtack and UPS among others that get held up all the time.</p>
<p>Traffic on highways with the dump trucks - how much silica sand dust is blowing, damaging vehicles on the roadways. How much do the covers contain the silica sand within the beds of the trucks? How will this affect people getting in/out of their driveways on rural highways. How much traffic is backed up while waiting for trains to cross. What danger will this put on school children waiting for school buses or while riding on school buses. Who will monitor the weight loads of these trucks. How much weight loads can roads handle before repairs need to be done? Who will be responsible for these repairs - mining companies or local residents?</p>
<p>The towns along the Mississippi River are designated scenic areas. Truck transport of sand interferes with tourism in the area.</p>
<p>DANGEROUS at best, DEADLY qt worst.</p>
<p>My tax dollars support the roads and bridges in my area, and the heavy truck traffic hauling sand will wear down the roads at an increasing rate, calling for more maintenance and improvements. I don't want to support private industry with my tax dollars in this way.</p>
<p>Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the on transportation, etc. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>truck traffic is terrible</p>
<p>How much truck traffic can a particular region handle should be a consideration before a mine is approved. Local residents should not have to deal with excessive truck traffic to support a mine. This would affect the quality of life for them. In addition, people might not want to buy homes in areas of high truck or train traffic.</p>

<p>Our area includes a National scenic hwy. and some of the most beautiful land in the state. It supports a large tourism industry which many people make their livings by. The truck traffic produces noise, smells and spilled sand on the roads. It may be responsible for traffic accidents, especially with motorcycles on the loose sand. I want to see a study of this kind of effect so we can see the full impact of this type of activity. The increase in train traffic is two fold with the sand going one way and the oil coming another. Accidents keep happening so it's like a game of Russian roulette and we don't know where the next one will land.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a></p>
<p>Traffic counts and weight restriction violations need to be examined over an extended period. Truck emissions and air quality changes due to increased truck.rail traffic. Accident rates involving rail/trucks should be tracked. Truck emissions inspections considered. Breathing becomes difficult at times while following some of these diesel trucks. Company violations should be tracked and violations rectified prior to issuing new permits.</p>
<p>Rampant sand mining increases truck traffic and makes roads unsafe for commuters and recreational drivers. Increased silica in the air is particularly dangerous for</p>
<p>Hauling sand has caused damage to roads. Use of trail to transport sand had created heavy use which had impacted locally by blocking traffic, elevated noise levels</p>
<p>Roads and railways will show heavier traffic due to frac sand operations. Do frac sand companies pay for the extra wear and tear they cause? Risk increases as traffic increases.</p>
<p>if they are not allowed (operations) these are not so much a concern</p>
<p>Sand mines create dangerous traffic loads on roads that are not made for high volume traffic. Heavy trucks ruin roads and are a safety hazard.</p>
<p>Besides all the noise &amp; traffic concerns &amp; wear on the roads from trucks hauling frac sand, there is a 63 percent increase in state freight rail revenue between 2002 and 2012 was caused in part by the rapid growth in frac sand mining in western and northwestern Wisconsin. from <a href="http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/07/as-rail-moves-frac-sand-across-wisconsin-landscape-new-conflicts-emerge/">http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/07/as-rail-moves-frac-sand-across-wisconsin-landscape-new-conflicts-emerge/</a></p>
<p>Noise, pollution, lights 24 hours, road wear; all impact the quality of life around mines.</p>
<p>silica air pollution along transportation routes, road maintenance</p>
<p>Adding mines means adding in extra traffic, needing to expand roads, and exposing the environment and the surrounding towns to unnecessary health risks due to run off, traffic pollution &amp; the extra EMF's needed to support such an operation.</p>
<p>Again, look into those heavy trucks on roads, difficulty stopping trucks in residential areas with children crossing streets, and the noise and fugitive dust effect on residential homes, tourist businesses, and agricultural traffic. I earlier addressed the need to study long term problems with silicosis and scleroderma. Gravel pits in eastern WI are very familiar with the very real issue of silica sand lodging in the airways and causing silicosis over time; I worked in healthcare there and this disease is very prevalent. The mining companies won't still be in operation when the cost of treating the people effected hits. Where will that money come from?</p>
<p>The cost for the state and local governments for the sand mines using the roads and the damage to the roads created by the heavy loads of sand.</p>
<p>Issues related to the destruction of our roads with constant heavy truck traffic...causing taxpayers to pay for repair. Also the noise causes emotional distress for those who live in the county to get away from noise and traffic. Also the air pollution from all the truck exhaust, etc.</p>
<p>Damage to public roads.</p>
<p>cost share for road damage due to heavy trucking</p>
<p>Collect reports of emergency vehicle delays at railroad crossings due to frac sand trains. Impacts of dust coming off train cars. Impacts to local roadways from heavy truck traffic. Truck traffic impacts on property values and quality of life. Report all auto, Amish buggy, bicycle, and pedestrian accidents involving frac sand trucks.</p>
<p>To residents</p>
<p>road quality and expected traffic must be considered and planned for, should build up roads prior to mining ops start (since mining will not want delays/detours)</p>
<p>Endless dump trucks with sands driving back and forth all day long. These should be taxed extra for their use of roads, given the excessive use</p>
<p>Is it safe?</p>
<p>Heavy traffic involving trucks hauling off the sand result in both noise pollution and the breaking down of roads that the localities are left with repairing, thus causing unwarranted costs to local taxpayers.</p>
<p>Trucks, trucks, trucks.... They think they own the roads. Have had them pull out on me on highway 8. Also they drop sand on the roads which is a safety issue.... When will the motorcycles start loosing control this year because of the sand on the road?</p>
<p>How do mines that intend on trucking sand affect congestion on local roads and how many trucks a day can local roads handle. How fast to roads deteriorate under truck traffic and cost to local taxpayers.</p>
<p>truck traffic impacts on roads</p>
<p>Encourages dirty fracks industry.</p>
<p>How transportation of mine supplies, equipment, and materials affect lifespans of roads.</p>
<p>Bike paths.</p>

Light noise and air pollution. Regulation of hours of trucking, speed and load limits. Using main roads of towns to have traffic and dust 24/7 is unfair and polluting and detrimental to making a living, esp if that town is dependent on tourism.
Who is going to pay for roads damaged by intense and continual traffic by commercial vehicles? You need to write in rules detailing how companies will pay for their damages.
We need more bike paths, high-speed rail between our larger cities and fewer cars on the road.
Overuse of our roads and rails
How has road traffic of sand hauling mines affected local roads
Sand mines and their need to move product, the need for utilities such as electricity and natural gas, their need for infrastructure - all of this is real, and we're just now seeing how long the planning has been for this. Those currently using rails, roads and utilities we take a back seat as the price for these will only rise.
Increased traffic on rural roads--how does this affect rural resident safety? What is the economic impact of increased truck traffics on rural roads?
Who's responsible for fixing roads if the increased truck traffic tears them up?
Destruction of public roads by heavy frac sand mining equipment.
Very, very important.
Heavy truck impacts on roads and the costs associated
The trains run all hours of the night making incredibly loud noises and frequently top traffic and school buses for periods between 15-40 minutes.
Specific to the one near Glenwood City. The amount of truck traffic that is supposed to increase when the mine starts is concerning related to how much that road is used by local drivers and young drivers going to the school.
As before, I don't like hauling vehicles . I prefer train and conveyor.
The rail cars carrying this sand have increased the rail traffic ruining the rail tracks-crossings have tracks that are in bad repair ruining our vehicles The added traffic on our roads only ruins our roads.
What happens in a traffic accident when sand spills everywhere or other substances used in a sand mine facility gets into the environment?
Look at cumulative affects of trucking, noise, light etc have on wildlife as well as humans.
Any road upgrades maintenance etc. should be born entirely by the sand mine business, not the taxpayer
After 30 years in law enforcement I can tell you, commercial truck drivers are far superior drivers and not a traffic or safety hazard. I worry about the young, and elderly drivers who account for far more traffic incidents.
More funding needed in infrastructure. A major role of government is to provide infrastructure and safety for its citizens.
I drive on roads used by the sand mining trucks every day (e.g. Hwy 19 near Waukesha). The roads are in very poor condition - jarring bumps, hubcap-eating potholes, and asphalt that looks like it's been chewed on. These heavy trucks damage our infrastructure without giving enough back in taxes/fees to keep the infrastructure in good repair.
Yes. Traffic, pedestrian and biker safety Road maintenance.
Wear and tear on roads as well as noise pollution
Huge trucks traveling on our local roads in large numbers and frequently - wear and tear on roads is evident
Traffic impact studies should be required, giving the operators the opportunity to present potential solutions.
Increased traffic on US Hwy 10 4 miles west of Plum City. No direct issues with this traffic as this is what roadways were built for. The movement of people and goods and services.
Does the current practice of trucking make sense to the population? When one county approves a set number of trucks per day, how does that impact what a neighboring county approved and is that something that is considered in the approval? Example, a village on a highway in Buffalo county see trucks approved by Buffalo county, but Trempealeau and Jackson counties approves the same truck route for a multiplied effect for residents in Buffalo county seeing three counties of trucks passing thier home. Does one county consider the approvals of another county?
Mining companies should be responsible for damage to roads caused by transporting materials.
In my opinion, there is no question that traffic and safety should be high on the list of priorities.
Very concerned
once again, the industry shall pay for the damage to roads. And it should be by bonding because of the danger of industry abandonment, bankruptcies, etc.
Large heavy trucks going over roads that were not built for them and are maintained by tax revenue.
Company should cover cost of any upgrades required by their venture.
Whether accidents have increased near mines because of increased traffic.Whether the roads used by sand mining trucks have suffered damage due to increased traffic (and thus require state funding to repair).
Transportation is already seeing the affects of sand. I travel daily for work and roadways are now covered with sand especially in intersections and on ramps to highways where sand is spilled during hauling. The sand creates a slippery experience for drivers that is unsafe. Railroads are experiencing higher derailment rates, are tracks safe for the increased usage/weights? State has no input on rail leaving us vulnerable to regulation or lack of from federal government. Increased truck traffic has a much higher impact on road construction rates falling again on taxpayers.
Percent of road taxes spent on upgrades and repairs to roads due to sand mine traffic by county. Dollars per mile of state road funding that makes it to rural areas experiencing heavy truck traffic compared to urban areas.

<p>This has significantly improved in the last few years. A reduction in commodity pricing has resulted in a transition to rail transportation versus truck. This is the preferred method of transportation, although it too comes with certain trade-offs. One area that I am concerned with is related to agriculture and the difficulty we are having in getting a few rail cars of product added to a unit train. We must maintain a place for the agricultural industry within our rail system.</p>
<p>Truck traffic, noise, and the deterioration of the road system. How will the county or state pay for new roads that a private company destroys in their pursuit of money when the county and state don't have any money?</p>
<p>Keep the huge trucks off our already busy roads.</p>
<p>Big dump trucks coming and going 24/7. Roads ruined due heavy machinery on road. Big dump trucks and machinery causing people safety concerns. Steep hills and curvy roads not easy to drive on with just a car. Major pollution happening with diesel engines!</p>
<p>Permits for mining have not slowed even with drops in oil prices, and operators will effect our day-to-day living through their activities not just for 10 years, but 30 to 50 years as indicated by some large investment levels at current sites. Study on changes to day-to-day living, such as wait times at railroad crossings, accident frequencies related to trucking and transport of silica should be included.</p>
<p>Same as above, less traffic is far far apart.</p>
<p>The trucks are ripping up our roads, causing accidents, etc. Because of the nature of the bluffland, it is an up and down terrain. Sand trucks can cause a lot of damage if their brakes fail, which has happened. Also, many of the trucks used to haul sand are owned by private individuals--how are they monitored.</p>
<p>Repair &amp; maintenance of the roads they use.</p>
<p>Having a loud careless truckers driving by every 2 minutes day and night is not going to effect property values. All these mine owners do is think about themself.</p>
<p>Heavy equipment destroys the roads and also is a safety factor in rural areas that provide recreation uses for walking and bike riding along the roads. This would no longer be safe.</p>
<p>Truck traffic must be spaced out so that people can safely use local roads. I'm very concerned about rail traffic and the safety of the countless unmarked railroad crossings in the state. People are already dying at unmarked crossings. That's only going to get worse as sand travels out of state and oil passes through it. The state should consider taxing sand being sent out of state and applying the funds to regulatory and mitigation programs.</p>
<p>Cost impacts to roadways and traffic impacts to local communities both from a inconvenience and safety perspective (i.e. increased accidents or near misses).</p>
<p>Many of the roads the sand trucks already use are in dire need of repair. More trucks makes the roads worse.</p>
<p>What rules and regulations would maximize safety for those living around a mine with heavy truck traffic?</p>
<p>Many of the roads frequented by sand trucks were not built to handle that type of traffic.</p>
<p>I think the DNR should study the truck traffic and what communities should do to manage the huge increase in truck traffic. My children and I can no longer bike on our roads. The trucks are going by every few seconds.</p>
<p>all aspects</p>
<p>Traffic safety is a huge issue. We moved to the rural area where children could ride their bicycles and we could safely walk the roads. That is no longer possible with the constant truck traffic. Why does industry have the right to usurp our rural roadways from our long established use?</p>
<p>The county has laws for this</p>
<p>A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining.</p>
<p>Heavy road use, addition of rail lines, FILLING wetlands to add rail spur (as is currently happening by Hi-Crush in Blair)</p>
<p>Many trucks driving on roads that were not designed for such large vehicles; long freight trains shipping sand</p>
<p>Yes please</p>
<p>SAFETY</p>
<p>Mines ruin the roads and add more weight and traffic than the roads were designed for. The mine closes and the locals get stuck with the bill.</p>
<p>Try moving on Hwy S in Chppewa Falls if you need to get to an appointment &amp; they are switching ... People turn around to go another way because the trains keep the road closed!</p>
<p>Transporting sand can be very dangerous as the loads in the trucks are heavy. Our roads in Cleveland township are small and used by farmers and local families. We also have school bus lines on some of the same roads expected to be used for trucking. What type of lighting would these sand companies use and who monitors the noise levels in the plants?</p>
<p>Trucks and trains are multiplying..endangering children in the area who used to be able to play safely in the areas where sandmines show up overnight! The roads used to be smooth and easy to travel and quiet...now one could lose ones car in the trenches once called roads.</p>
<p>all changes to traffic density on roads at mine sites and at shipping sites.</p>
<p>The transportation of millions of gallons of water can have negative impacts on the environment, and on the useable water supply. <a href="http://www.dangersoffracking.com/">http://www.dangersoffracking.com/</a></p>
<p>Does Industrial Sand Mining affect transportation, traffic and safety. How can the impact be minimized the impact.</p>

<p>These roads in this area, were not built for this heavy truck traffic. And who ends up paying the price to repair or replace these roads, once they are destroyed? The tax payers that live in the effected area. I have noticed these heavy dump trucks that pass through town, and how fast they are going. The day will soon come, when we will hear of a devastating accident, involving one or more, of these heavy trucks.</p>
<p>Encourage rail transportation of mined sand where ever possible. plan in advancefor increased truck traffic. and provide a means for the mining company to repayand cost involved with road repairs due to such traffic.</p>
<p>Assure transportation is safe and sustainable.</p>
<p>The big sand trucks are ruining our roads. In other areas we worry about the safety of children in neighborhoods that used to be quiet.</p>
<p>zero deaths</p>
<p>Highway and rail congestion from increased traffic- risks involved if chemicals/products are spilled in vehicle or freight accidents.</p>
<p>See above.</p>
<p>the trains leak a lot of sand, my friends trees died when they were regularly exposed to the sand that blew off the trains.They were sizable pines. Plus I have walked these tracks and they are poorly maintained!!!</p>
<p>Rural roads will wear down much faster as heavy trucks make numerous trips each day to haul sand from mine sites. Local governments need more information regarding the impact this wear will have on the budgets of local towns that will need to repair and replace town roads more frequently. The DNR should consider collaborating with the Department of Transportation to provide this information to towns so they can prepare and negotiate with mining companies to address town road issues.</p>
<p>All sand for transport need to be contained to prevent polluting roads and streams. Trucks need to be clean of all sand on the outside of the containment. This means tires too need to be cleaned of any mined sand to prevent inappropriate contamination of roadways and waterways.</p>
<p>Research needs to be done on the safety of the rail systems used by the mines. Much of our rail system is in need of repair, as witnessed by the number of sand car derailments that have occurred. There is also a very real shortage of railroad cars available to transport the sand. A big question is how can one logistically accommodate all the mines that all want to transport sand by rail, and not expect delays -- and will the mines pre-empt all others who need to transport their goods by rail because they will outbid everyone for use of the trains and track.Many mines say they have no intention of trucking their sand, yet they seem to have in their mining agreements that trucking can be used in an emergency. They don't say where they will truck the sand which means that no one knows what their routes will be. Research should also be done on the issue of trains blocking the roads and RR crossings -- seems everywhere the mines are using rail transport, you will hear continuous complaints about trains blocking the crossing for much longer periods than the 10 minutes that is in the regulations.</p>
<p>Destruction of local roads from excessive use by frac sand trucks needs to be paid for upfront.</p>
<p>No comments</p>
<p>Calculate costs for road maintenance, improvements, etc. Identify complaints and problems with railroads blocking tracks for excessive amounts of time.</p>
<p>The amounts that are promised for road improvement, will just about pave 12 driveways. The damage that will be done with constant heavy truck traffic, the increase in air pollution from diesel emissions, are irretrievable.</p>
<p>So far not an issue although our roads are taking a beating.</p>
<p>Sand mine companies must be liable for excessive damage to roads from trucking. They also need to create under- or overpasses to prevent long sand trains from obstructing traffic. The companies must be fully responsible for any derailments or spills in any terrain.</p>
<p>What is the increase in cost to maintain roads in a county that frac sand mining is allowed? How much of that cost burden is covered by frac sand operator and how much is covered by tax payers?</p>
<p>More mines mean more truck and more rail cars, which no doubt means more accidents, noise and interuptions.</p>
<p>Higher traffic volume on town and county roads pose damage to the roadways by excessive weight vehicles, the slow-moving trucks provide safety concerns.</p>
<p>Let's just talk about the trains. The company now wants to expand the tracks to 5 rows of tracks!!!!!!!. This is being proposed when the sand use apparently is decreasing. hmmm. Also, the banging of the trains is about a mile and a half away, and our 2 dogs are scared to go outside when the trains are banging away.</p>
<p>Well, I really thought we'd have a serious accident in the area by now, but thanks to some great drivers it hasn't happened. However, the roads are always torn up and trucks moving constantly it's just a matter of time.</p>
<p>Safety of pedestrians and motorists on frac sand haul routes. Rail infrastructure inadequate and derailments are frequent.</p>
<p>Who will take care of the roads?</p>
<p>All roads in WI are in major need of repairs. The very small rural roads where the mines are being built are not big enough or in good enough shape to handle main traffic. Its very dangerous here now.</p>
<p>Traffic safety is a great concern off all towns where mining does occur or may occur</p>
<p>Where I live, there is a huge increase in sand trucks on county and state roads that not only creates a tremendous amount of wear and damage but create traffic hazards. Speed limits by trucks are violated constantly, refuse to follow basic traffic rules like stop signs.....</p>

Damage it does to our roads. Taxpayers should not have to pay for this. Owners of mining company should pay for the upgrades, repairs and any damages caused by their heavy trucks.
Road noise and damage to roads and the rail system ensuring our emergence medical services can get to where they need too
Crack down on truckers hauling sand with the cell phone use policy. Use unconventional methods to catch them if nessisary. They all know local DOT vehicles and warn each other.
Traffic is a little higher with the sand trucks but the drivers are very careful and do a great job keeping the roads safe
Road wear on areas frequented by sand mine truck transport.
What are all the railroad tracks going to be used for-what's going to happen to them? Are they going to be removed and turned into atv/snowmobile trails (again)?
Trucking needs to be more heavy monitored and policed. The owner operators that are just in it to make a buck ruin it for all the ones that are being respectful about the highway.
There is to much truck traffic. The train derailments that have been happening are the bad ones. It is a matter of time before there is chemical or fuel spill with one of the train wrecks. Then our ground water will have trouble.
If anything, the roads may need to be monitored for upkeep on the surface such as tar or pavement.The semi traffic from the Wal-Mart Distribution Center has a higher truck volume than the sand mine so both companies should share costs in upkeep
More trucking but drivers are safe
You have heard plenty about this already
I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. We all use the roads, not just FSM trucks. Transportation of frac sand by road should be limited statewide with the option of local communities further limiting it by local decisions.
We have had sand trucks roll over, run off the road and reports of many near misses. The stop signs on our local roads are invisible to many of the drivers. Our roads are falling apart. North of our church, a sand company put in a conveyor system and put a cement box replacing the blacktop telling our town board that it would be much better than the blacktop. It is falling apart and unsafe. That company has now sold out to a different company. When farmers have to drive over these areas with their machinery, they are worried about breaking parts, they also have to almost come to a stop to drive over it so they do not break their equipment.
Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future
Affects on roads from truck traffic in comparison to agricultural equipment. Rail road crossings and derailments.
Heavy truck traffic, ruined roads, much more traffic than any of these roads were designed for.
YES
Truck has increased but no problemsPlus look at all the jobs our young folks are enjoying
Rail traffic has trippled since these sandmines came in semi traffic also has gone up extremely
The constant hauling of the sand is very hard on our roads. The trucks are not covered during transport.The noise from the trains, the traffic stopping for trains etc is a major inconvenience . It seems the trains are going by all the time. We used to hear 1-2 trains per day. We must have a coupler hour now.
The big trucks on County Highway M on Augusta (for HiCrush) are going to end up killing a farmer on a tractor or an Amish family.
If you have a lot of heavy trucks driving the roads, it will lead to more problems with roads. There will obviously be more traffic, and the possibility of accidents.
Regulate the amount of truck traffic
Show me a farmer that will pay to fix a road like the mines have to.
deny this
The roads are already showing wear and tear badly.
n/a
Large heavy trucks on back roads not designed for heavy traffic are destroying our roads and making it more dangerous to drive them.
Trucks and trains we need to increase traffic, increased traffic lead to increased issues, we do not have the infrastructure to support the industry, yet it continues
Train derailments blocking roads for hours limiting access to residence. Train passage blocking people on their way to work makes them tardy.Trucks on the road cause traffic to be less safe and roads are badly degraded.
More mines equal more trucks and trains. Our infrastructure cannot handle it
The trucking industry needs to pay more for the wear and tear they inflict on our roads. The argument that they pay a lot now based on their fuel taxes is lame. I drive a lot of miles in a small vehicle and pay a lot of fuel tax but do not tear up the roads like the trucking industry. Also there is increased safety ricks associated with increased semi and rail traffic.
Deteriorate the roads and sand blowing all over.
I moved here from So. California for the piece and quiet. If a sand mine goes in that all goes away along with the chance to sell and move to another place. Trucks traffic, noise, proposed trains to transport sand. It just turns my whole world upside down without the chance to move out. It's just wrong.
Significant;
All public record

destroyed....
Destruction of transportation infrastructure is easily found and create billions of dollars in needed repairs which are not being addressed in a timely fashion.
What are all the dump trucks doing to the roads? What are the environmental and financial aspects of train derailment? What is the number of crashes as a result of sand company traffic?
Many mines transport by trucks which leave sand dust and traffic holdups
Truck traffic on HWY 40 is noticeable. Driving between Colfax and Bloomer you have to watch for on coming trucks.
Always waiting on these trucks and they appear to be overloaded.
Please look into this.
Frequent heavy rail (train) and truck traffic seems to be creating ware and tear and a need for frequent repairs. In addition noise from train and vibrations from heavy trains at all hours of day and night create noise pollution. I live about 1 mile from tracks and am awakened several times a night. This must also be impacting wildlife near tracks.
Truck traffic changes dramatically. I see this in the roads I travel. The impact of changing local rural back road to truck routes. Wear on roads and the impact on local government to maintain the roads.
Conveyors over road ways should be monitored for spill overs onto road way. Trucks should not be allowed in school zones. Highways should be reviewed for their ability to handle the traffic when multiple mines are within a small area using the same road ways.
Responsibility for the damage to roadways from the high volume of mining/hauling
People that are directly affected by extra traffic but don't benefit
Enforce transporting frac sand laws.
The entire transportation system of mined sand has created a degradation of our commonly used transportation infrastructure and poses a hazard to areas not even directly connected to the mine. It needs to be tightly controlled and regulated and the safety of everyone along the routes, both highway and railway, should be a higher priority than that of the company.
Definitely will affect our local transportation safety
Impact on roads, traffic patterns, and safety during transportation of sand.
Evaluation of the potential effects of increased usage of routes might be included, but this is more of a concern for the highway department rather than the DNR unless there is a focus on an analysis of potential contaminants and their effect on surrounding habitats.
Impact of traffic on property values and wildlife movement.
I drive 25 miles from Chetek to Bloomer 5 days a week. And then 25 miles back home again. I am forever being forced to drive on the shoulder of the road because I am meeting a sand truck that is over the center line. I have pulled over many times to let a tailgating sand truck go by. And this is because I am driving the speed limit. The roads look like we are in a war zone because of their deterioration.
Much heavier traffic due to mining.
The effects of heavy truck traffic on our roadways, the time residents sit at railroad crossings waiting for sand trains to clear, speed regulations for these trucks,
Roads are ruined from the heavy trucks/large volume. They should have to pay road-use tax.
The traffic thru towns, near hospitals and schools.
Absolutely important, and out state hwy's are greatly underused. There are already regulations in place and agreements between companies and townships/county to cover expenses.
Big trucks and more train cause concerns for safety. Not to mention the damage to the roads... we the taxpayers will have to PAY to fix the roads they wreck.
protection of local traffic, need for roads capable of carrying constant HEAVY loads
A Fall Creek man was just killed by the sand train. We will have more truck and train fatalities.
As long as the roads are maintained and replaced to better conditions when done Trucks need to be checked DOT inspected.
Kepp trucks running safe
I know there is great frustration over the regular delays on the road system during peak travel times because of trains blocking roads. I would be curious to the average time Cty Hwy S specifically is blocked per train crossing and how much of one day is the road blocked because of trains. This is in reference to the main crossing on the north side of Chippewa Falls at the processing plant. Cty Hwy S is a main road to get all rural residents over to Hwy 53 and it seems to constantly be blocked due to trains.
Trucks and traffic volume impacts our roadways. We already have a larger battle with maintaining good roadways with the drastic changes in weather. Adding these heavy trucks only makes matters worse. I have friends that live near sand mines and they are frustrated daily with longer commute times to work, noise, dust etc. from these large trucks. Trains are also an issue as they gum up roadways and cause larger issues such as a rise in derailment. <a href="http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/07/as-rail-moves-frac-sand-across-wisconsin-landscape-new-conflicts-emerge/">http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/07/as-rail-moves-frac-sand-across-wisconsin-landscape-new-conflicts-emerge/</a> <a href="http://www.wisconsingrassroots.net/sand_mining_blog">http://www.wisconsingrassroots.net/sand_mining_blog</a>
Five to 12 trucks per minute near the mine. Some walking/biking routes are unsafe.
3 broken windshields

<p>The use of heavy trucks and new heavy use of rail lines affects human traffic and wild life movement and should be considered by the DNR and these mines should have standards they need to operate under.</p>
<p>The mining company should have to pay for any expenses that arise from their trucks, whether it is to build new roads, put in stop lights, etc. Safety for anyone living by or just traveling past should be safe.</p>
<p>RR tracks, while many have been improved, are still inadequate to handle the traffic in many areas. Sand trucks are so constant that traffic can become congested through Black River Falls and on USH 12 between Merrilan and Fairchild.</p>
<p>Train in the evenings, rattling, noise from trucks and trains</p>
<p>Trucks do not drive my house, but I encounter many of them on my way to and from work. Train traffic has increased but I am a mile away from the tracks so other than more rumbling and increased train horns it doesn't affect me.</p>
<p>many heavy trucks, hauling, cause danger to others on the road, who will pay for the road when it needs replacing? noise?</p>
<p>I believe that the mines themselves and the public that the areas affect need to be educated as to the types of vehicles (trains, semi's, dump truck, etc) that will be taking certain routes, and the safety concerns surrounding the increased traffic. I also think that being overly cautious on marking heavy truck areas and rail road crossings is a must! I also believe that good communication between the companies, community and railways needs to be kept open to aid with any issues that may arise (like trains blocking intersections for extended periods of time making people late)</p>
<p>Roadway impact and who is paying the cost</p>
<p>How will areas be affected by the mining - even those areas not directly next to the mined areas.</p>
<p>Large trucks will large loads on town and county roads that are destroyed in short order by the heavy increase in road usage. There needs to be a sure fire way to make sure those companies pay for the damage and destruction of roads that would last many more years without the added stress of the sand trucks. Increases in large truck traffic during school bus times and commuter times are a concern regardless of how careful the drivers are. Those trucks can haul the loads but stopping is an entirely different issue.</p>
<p>Traffic has an effect on communities but that is change that we have to deal with</p>
<p>Analyze the costs of damaged county and state roads associated with the transportation of frac sand.</p>
<p>Where will the monies come to restore our damaged roadways? How will the number of sand trucks be regulated to reduce road hazards and noise?</p>
<p>Sand mining should be restricted to areas with suitable infrastructure, considering availability of rail lines and state highways. No roads less than state highways should be allowed for transport of sand. Also, sand mine operators should be required to provide bonding to ensure that any damage to roads be repaired as needed.</p>
<p># and frequency of large/heavy load vehicles on rural roads Air quality as impacted by large/heavy load vehicles Rail and highway safety at intersections</p>
<p>Damage and congestion caused by loaded trucks running on smaller roadways Accidents attributable to the sand companies fleet</p>
<p>We need data/study on the rail lines being used by these companies. There are small towns in this state with only one or two main roads that are blocked by trains with hundreds of cars. This causes problems for emergency vehicles getting through, as well as potentials for increased person-train collisions due to rails being used frequently that had not been used previously as often.</p>
<p>Roads should not be damaged because of heavy truck use. Mining companies should pay for the maintenance and repair of the roads they use.</p>
<p>frac sand trucks leak dust. i have seen dust streaming from under the over of trucks right into the face of people driving behind them. truck drivers are aggressive and many people have stopped using certain roads. many people will not walk, ride bike etc. nor allow their children to use roads that are frequented by frac sand trucks.</p>
<p>Higher cost of road repair from truck traffic</p>
<p>Many county roads are not built to handle the weight and size of the vehicles used. My township road is even narrower and has no shoulders. It also is very curvy. We are not ready to accomandate the sand mine traffic safely. It costs taxpayers to keep up the road. The mine should bear some part of this cost. Base it on the program in place that semi's pay for road use tax.</p>
<p>Rural roads will wear down much faster as heavy trucks make numerous trips each day to haul sand from mine sites. Local governments need more information regarding the impact this wear will have on the budgets of local towns that will need to repair and replace town roads more frequently. The DNR should consider collaborating with the Department of Transportation to provide this information to towns so they can prepare and negotiate with mining companies to address town road issues.</p>
<p>More and more family homes are for sale along these gravel and sand routes . Trucks slow traffic on these routes causing unsafe passing situations. Roads have have groves from the heavy trucks . Rain sits in the grooves causing driving hazards.</p>

I've seen the destruction of roads that need to be rebuilt many times due to the transport of sand from the sites to wash plants, the trucks swerving to not hit mailboxes because the trucks are loaded and taking the road over the side roads and many of my relatives avoid the roads because of the way the trucks are driven. the truck drivers frequent the local food and bars and shake off their jackets and are subjecting others to the sand dust. Many young relatives are NOT allowed to ride their bicycles on the road where the trucks operate because of the way the trucks are radically driven. I can't ride horse near these sand mines because the trucks downshift and are loud and scare the horses, and the truck drivers are or seem to not care about the health of the animals or the people on the horses.

The industry makes agreements with the local governments about transportation costs and damage. This is NOT anything the DNR needs to be sticking their nose into. There is nothing pertaining to the DNR to consider here.

Loss of habitat and increased wildlife encounters by expanding road and rail services? Increased truck traffic resulting in greater noise and air quality concerns?

no concern

These massive trucks go ALL DAY long! It's a parade of them at all times. I used to bike the road they use, and now do not feel safe anywhere near where the trucks travel. They use and abuse the roads and the residents pick up the tax tab.

The roads are torn up.

traffic on 64 bad and majority do NOT COVER loads who do you report to also the railroad crossing at 64 and ss is horrid

See number 11. The increased traffic in areas heavily populated by wildlife can also pose a safety risk to both parties. While a dump truck hitting a deer will do little damage to the truck, should the driver swerve to miss the deer they could go off the road and potentially spill all that sand in addition to the damage the truck may cause to private property.<http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/07/as-rail-moves-frac-sand-across-wisconsin-landscape-new-conflicts-emerge/>

<p>Enlist the help of the health department as there are research studies documenting the ill effects of constant noise and lights on human beings. These mines are often very close to homes. Of course, the silica content of air on the mine site and surrounding area if a critically needed study. Every mine must have monitors to at least 2.5 PM on each mine section that is worked. The effects of living in contact with constant elevated dust is necessary (asthma).</p>
<p>There could be unhealthy exposure of workers to silica resulting in increased risk for silicosis, although adequate filtration of air breathed by employees would minimize this risk.</p>
<p>It's proven fact that exposure to the dust causes silicosis. Yet there seems to be little concern about the exposure those near the sand mines must be experiencing. If your house and car are covered in dust, there is simply no way you aren't inhaling it too.</p>
<p>Flammable drinking water. General health impact of fracing operations.</p>
<p>Between the air and water quality issues, we need to consider the stress of living next to 24-hr operations mines need to have down time at night.</p>
<p>Factual data on health effects and not psuedoscience claims</p>
<p>Air quality...NoiseWater quality questionsLight pollutionAnxieties about safety of our community..Explosions in the mining operations..affecting our homes, aquifers, air, unsettling noise..like a war zone!!!Sand in water of the homes nearby...people adding extra filters to remove sand from their water. What does that doe to the aquifer?Chemicals that are used in processing the sand...does that get into our aquifer(s)?</p>
<p>Fugitive dust unacceptable long term causes lung disease. Flocculants used for washing of sand can contaminate ground water is not monitored on an on going basis. Contamination of ground water and surface water can cause harm by introduction of toxic chemicals.</p>
<p>Air and water quality</p>
<p>Continue to monitor.</p>
<p>particulate air pollution</p>
<p>Ensure the DNR has sufficient staff to monitor the air and water quality in the vicinity of the mines.</p>
<p>This should be addressed by Dept of Health and Human Services. DNR rules should be written within the guidance of DHSS and not developed separately from good epidemiological research.</p>
<p>I understand DNR has not found any air quality problems so far.</p>
<p>Impact on air quality, threats to silicosis</p>
<p>how sand &amp; air pollution can affect humans, wellness, overall wellbeing; loudness issues, breathing/respiratory issues, particulate matter inhalation, general operations pollution and how that will affect residents</p>
<p>Silica dust hasn't been properly studied yet but initial data shows reason for great concern.</p>
<p>Silicosis and side effects of any pollution to air or groundwater are the biggest fears and do not seem to be preventable with any mining operation.</p>
<p>What is the effect of industrial sand mining on health care facilities? Does it create a greater burden? More need for specialists? Can these needs be met in rural areas?</p>
<p>Air, ground water, and surface water monitoring should be required.</p>
<p>Silicosis. Water contamination.</p>
<p>Should be a consideration of local approval...see #11.</p>
<p>ensure operations at mines follow good neighbor policies - such as hours of operations, etc.</p>
<p>I know severa l people who work or live near sand mines and there have not been any health effects related to the mines.</p>
<p>The acute and long-term effects of airborne particles originate from sand mines.The inhalation of silica sand can cause silicosis, an incurable disease. There are no state standards for airborne silica dust and therefore are not considered when permits are issued.</p>
<p>Exposure to silica sands has been linked to higher rates of silicosis, which can lead to cancer; chemicals used in industrial sand mining will inevitably end up in water supplies (there have already been spills in Wisconsin from mine holding ponds)</p>
<p>most critical--the dust, and protection of the water</p>
<p>Air Quality</p>
<p>Carcinogenic dust, high noise levels, bullying and threats from the mining officials, destruction of homes and landscapes and wells as a result of digging and blasting are not healthy. Of great concern are threats of heavy metals in the drining water, the impacts of flocculents used to wash the sand, the reduction of surface water due to heavy consumption of water use, the increased digging of high cap wells, and the changes in climate are of great concern with the fossil fuel industry assuming power over masses of the people.</p>
<p>Concerned about the long term health impact of sand and other things that are released to our air and water.</p>
<p>as mentioned earlier, dust in the air and lots of sand dust on the ground</p>
<p>Must be considered.</p>
<p>All</p>
<p>See answer about air conditions and aquatic habitat.</p>
<p>See 12. Also consider air pollution health effect.</p>
<p>MHSA HAS RULES ALREADY IN PLACE !</p>

<p>Silicosis. This is a lung disease caused by silica sand. Cancer is also a possibility due to exposure to silica sand, a known carcinogenic.</p>
<p>Incidence of cancer (newly diagnosed) or other lung/breathing related health issues (asthma, etc) that residents have been diagnosed with since the opening of the sand plants. Look also at the worsening of breathing ailments, such as asthma, since the plants began operation. This again should be studied within 5 miles, broken down to 1 mile or less from plant, 2 miles or less, etc.</p>
<p>Is this an area of concern that will show up in the future, ala Coal</p>
<p>Effects of dust on people Effects of blasting on people Effects of processing noise on neighbors Effects of rail noise on neighbors Air pollution/water pollution/mental health.</p>
<p>This one is so important --- these are the treasures that so many of us are passionate about -- what is Wisconsin if we lose these --- what is our ethical responsibility to protect wildlife and our own habitat for the exchange of money for a few individuals and the inevitable pollution from fracking when we could be implementing green technology in the home setting and business.</p>
<p>There is ample research that this dust is a carcinogen. I am concerned about our drinking water too with the facculants, etc.</p>
<p>Affects of the silica sand on breathing; chemicals getting into the drinking water; sleep affected from constant noise and lights. Dust and silica sand levels in air causing problems long term. No one knows how this can affect someone 10, 20, 30 years from now. What studies have been done on the workers who have worked in the mines - their long term health ailments. The stress and how it affects their health between neighbors who are for or against sand frac mining.</p>
<p>People who live close to mines suffer from a reduction in quality of life and property values.</p>
<p>We do not know the long term effects of sand mining on the populous. I oppose using our children as guinea pigs. Look at the iron range in Minnesota and Wisconsin for the evidence of ignorance on people.</p>
<p>How does sand lingering in the air impact local communities and visitors to the area. I am concerned about silica sand being breathed by humans, other mammals and birds.</p>
<p>Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the on human health. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>destroying the air and water.</p>
<p>Quality of life should be included in the calculation of human health. If noise pollution from a mine is excessive, it could also have an effect on one's health.</p>
<p>It should not be necessary to raise concerns about human health but it appears to be clear that we do not have all the necessary information to accurately determine the risks. Why are sand mines being allowed to operate without our knowing that the process is safe?</p>
<p><a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a></p>
<p>Workers at mines need to have baseline health examines, so health issues that arise later in life can be treated as a work related and paid for by the corporations rather than picked up by the citizenry of Wisconsin. Air monitoring stations should have automatic shut down capability if air quality is compromised.</p>
<p>Many of the chemicals used in sand separation are largely unstudied in terms of long term impacts on human health.</p>
<p>How does this impact our health, air quality and water quality are two direct ways this affects the local community. Blasting can be felt several miles away. How does this impact where our homes are water and water systems?</p>
<p>Poor air and water quality. Degraded public and environmental health.</p>
<p>well, duh!</p>
<p>Sand causes silicosis!</p>
<p>In Auburn, Wisconsin, citizens have found layers of silica dust on their belongings. They have also been particularly concerned about the health of children who attend a school located only a quarter of a mile away from a frac-sand loading station. Studies show that humans who are exposed to silica dust can be at risk for negative health impacts even if the dust is not visible to the eye. If the dust is visible, the health risks are almost definite. AND very importantly: The symptoms of silicosis may not manifest themselves for fifteen to twenty years after silica dust exposure. The negative public health effects of frac sand mining in Wisconsin will not be fully understood for decades.</p>
<p>from <a href="http://www.psr.org/chapters/wisconsin/assets/pdfs/frac-sand-mining-health.pdf">http://www.psr.org/chapters/wisconsin/assets/pdfs/frac-sand-mining-health.pdf</a></p>
<p>It is widely acknowledged that the mining of sand creates dangerous particulates.</p>
<p>Silica can cause a kind of lung cancer and fine sand blows miles.</p>
<p>protection from silica particles, undue stress from noise</p>
<p>noise, lungs</p>
<p>Seeing, breathing, and ingesting the pollutants from such a mine via air, water, spills contaminating the land (And don't deny that spills happen because they ALWAYS happen) is a straight up threat to the health of all those near and connected to the proposed areas.</p>

Study silicosis, its causes, treatments, and prognosis; in addition, investigate the mine operators' already stated position that it cannot afford to provide workers with protective equipment. The DNR has said more research is needed but continues to allow the mines to operate -- this is poor and dangerous science. Why? Wouldn't a ban pending research be prudent? Doctors take an oath to do no harm and I think the DNR could take a cue from that.
The long range effects of the health of those living close by especially with more than one sand mine in a concentrated area.
Issues related to air and water contamination.
silicosis effect noise pollution
Collect all reports of health impacts from frac sand mining. Prevalence of unsafe practices by sand mines.
To residents
First & foremost, must be done in a safe manner to limit the long-term effects
Dust in air Must know ALL the chemicals being pumped into the ground. ALL.
Will there be carcinogenic particles in the air? Will the water be safe to drink?
Sand silica is known to have health impacts to areas well beyond the location of sand mining sites.
How does air and water quality affect everyone's health? What cancer or other risks are presented?
silica dust stress water quality
Silicosis, spiritual sickness.
Chemicals in surface and groundwater. Air contaminants.
Creation of berry groves for humans to UPick.
Decisions regarding effects of FSM on air, land and water and consequently human health need to be scientifically based and not politically driven. Please provide samples of water to drink from nearby FSM wells and private affected water sources to those politicians present at your hearings.
Residents who live near a frac sand site need to be actively monitored for signs of lung diseases.
Health care should be easily accessible to all citizens regardless of age, income or disabilities.
Silicosis
!!! how has airborne sand affected such
Humans, animals, environmental health - they all have a heartbeat and all are adversely effected by what will be considered the physical and spiritual raping of this region.. No other way of describing what you're allowing to occur.
Both long-term and short-term health effects. What are the short-term health impacts of living next to a sand mine. How far away do you have to live without any health effects? What does it do to pregnant women and their unborn children? How about adolescents? People with compromised immune systems? Epigenetic health effects--how does silica affect our genetic disposition for certain diseases like kidney disease? Cancer? Lung disease? Elderly health? Babies?
Effect of sand dust on lungs
This can be affected by the air we breath, the water we use.
Silicosis and other silica related health issues
I don't think there is much impact to human health.
air quality, water quality
Dust and water contamination can be a concern
Analysis of cumulative affects of the disruption that large industrial sand mines and there transportation hubs , load outs etc. have on human well being and community cohesiveness.
A compensation fund must be set up ahead of time to compensate anyone in the area who suffers adversely, either mentally or physically, from the operation of the mine.
Health programs should be made available to research & prevent general issues facing the population, such as obesity, diabetes, heart health, and cancer. Programs should come from local specialists in the area to address questions and preventative measures.
Overall quality of life impacts
Respiratory problems
silicosis will not show up for a number of years but eventually it develops with enough exposure, industrial noise is damaging to well-being of humans and animals
Existing OSHA and MSHA regulations already cover this.
No issues.
Human health as impacted by air analysis and groundwater analysis, see previous sections.
Long term health impacts of exposure to fugitive dust, flocullents such as poly acrylimide must be understood.
As always, human health should be highly considered. However, the arguments I have heard on the side of opposing frac sand mining is weak scientifically and lacks even logical basis in some instances. The DNR should only consider valid arguments and not personal bias or axe grinding.
Very concerned
Until the scientific testing is done to citizen satisfaction, frac sand mining & processing should be curtailed if even stopped. Stopping would spur action for testing, whereas allowing things to continue as they are will only encourage the industry to go as fast as they can before the regulations start rolling in.
Micro dust particles degrading air quality and water quality degradation from frac sand mining water use and disposal.

If it has to be taken into consideration, then the venture should not be approved.
Air and water quality? Noise pollution?
Whether sand mine employees or neighbors are being subjected to silica dust, and if so, at what levels. Whether sand mine employees or neighbors are suffering symptoms consistent with silicosis.
Again not enough information to define the full impact on human health. But also being overlooked is the social, economic and mental health of residents and landowners in areas of development. Creation of a few jobs in sand may have a higher impact on development of long term higher paying positions.
Effects of dust, noise, water contamination, near sites. Rates of asthma in these areas compared to national averages.
As mentioned above, one area that Wisconsin could improve is by establishing air standards for nonmetallic mining activities.
Silica dust, how far does it travel from the mine site? How much does a person ¼ of a mile away down wind breathe in a day and how long will it take to get cancer and die?
The 2011 American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for crystalline silica as quartz and cristobalite is 0.025 mg/m3 for an 8-hour time-weighted average-minute period with an 'R' notation. The 'R' means that the sampling must be for 'respirable particles' or those that can be inhaled deep into the lung. Respirable particle sampling must be done with a special sampling tool called a cyclone that limits the air sampling to dusts that are a specific size (less than 4 microns). The Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) concentration (the level that can cause immediate death) is 50 mg/m3. The 2015 TLVs® and BEIs® with 7th Edition Documentation, CD-ROM, has updated information. Since the values given are for 8 hour periods, ambient air quality standards should be less than 1/3 of this since people are exposed to ambient air for 24 hour periods 7 days a week. Children, elderly, and others already dealing with impaired health (either from earlier exposure to respirable silica or other ailments need even lower thresholds to live. Silica sand is simply put dangerous to our health.
Breathing troubles, hearing troubles, internal stomach pain caused from stress, pregnant woman can lose baby due to environmental issues from pollution and people's overall health affected from environment.
Study of outpatient cases in areas already affected by mining operations that relate to exposure of PM2.5 silica particles relative to areas not yet affected. Examples of outpatient cases may be complaints of breathing, skin and eye irritation, digestion, upset stomach.
Same as above, less chance of illness and poor air quality. Altho, may not make any difference for sand in peoples water supply. Something that just simply should not be allowed.
Again, the issue of silica sand.
Please consider.
Mines should be required to do everything possible to reduce sand blow-off, including covering all loads & covering sand piles when not in use.
Silica dust, noise (monitoring and mitigation measures), groundwater and well protection remedies that don't require something approaching a criminal burden of proof for neighbors to get some help, limited hours so that people can be in their yards and drive on uncongested roads for reasonable parts of every day are all matters that can have an adverse effect on human health and need to be addressed.
Physical, emotional, and psychological impacts resulting from the direct impacts of water and air quality, and from increased noise, traffic and aesthetics issues to workers, neighbors and community members.
Pollution from sand mines.
What levels of fugitive silica dust are safe if exposed 24/7? OSHA and MSHA studies relate only to workers exposed to higher doses in shorter time-spans, and the data is damning. There is no good data for households exposed constantly at low levels.
The effects of 24-hour a day noise and light pollution also need to be studied.
Human health is a major concern because of the dust, noise, light, and stress that these mines have inflicted on residents. The DNR needs to find ways to protect our health and the health of our future generations.
all aspects
Further study needs to be made on several levels: impact on health of sand mine workers, road/train crews cleaning spills, and the distance that significant spikes of P.M. and silica travel in the total range of wind gusts.
should not be a problem
A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining.
silicosis, stress, noise pollution, light pollution, air quality impacts
Effects on air we breathe and water we drink
Yes please
<b>HUMAN HEALTH</b>
Mines accidents kill and maim and cause diseases like silicosis, black lung and who knows what else.
Raise children by a sand pit where blasting occurs & crystalline sand particles fly thru the air! Live in an area up by New Auburn where the school superintendent lies about finding sand in the school filters. Enforce these rules!!
I don't have to expound on the dangers of silica dust we all know what it does to our lungs. There are also mental health issues. No one should have to worry about their family breathing silica dust, or drinking contaminated water. We should not have our precious land destroyed to profit a few.

As a nurse, I am very aware of what the health results of sand mining are. Also I managed the office of an Otolaryngologist for over ten years and have questions as to the increase of cancers and seizures and other health problems of people who live near the mines; down stream from the mines; or people working at the mines. The wildlife leaves the area.
All impacts to potential health issues--including air quality, asbestos, need for air handling filters, etc.
See particulates to asthma increase described above
Chemicals leaking into groundwater used for drinking can create health risks. <a href="http://www.dangersoffracking.com/">http://www.dangersoffracking.com/</a>
Does Industrial Sand Mining pose any human health hazard. How can the impact be minimized the impact.
Clean air and water.
A price cannot be placed on Human Health. No matter how much money is saved on oil/gas, or how much money a few people will make. There are no guarantees about the long term effects of open pit silica sand mines. Experts? are paid to give their 2 cents worth, by the side that needs the expert, to say what they want.
More research should be required on the impact of chemicals used in frac sand mining and their impact on wildlife and human health.
Retain high quality air and water standards. Keep blowing dust to a minimum level as low as possible. Especially prevent silica from becoming a health hazard.
Assure human health is not compromised either long or short term.
So far we have not had health problems. However we have read in other communities in Wisconsin, the people are getting asthma and people with compromised lungs are having to move.
YES, we're more important than any mining product that comes out of the ground....
Relationship between airborne silica and lung cancer, particulate matter pollution, haze, etc.
See above.
who knows the outcome haven't we learned anything yet would you expose your grand children to these health hazards?
This sand is so fine it can get in pores of the skin and cause contamination of a persons body. Therefore it needs to be treated as a hazardous product with all the protection one would use for a contagious disease like Ebola. Sand on the outside of a suit should not ever touch the skin of the wearer. This includes a filtration system for breathing that prevents the worker from breathing any sand.
Air quality, water quality, traffic safety disturbed sleep, anxiety over blasting, concerns for animal health, light and noise pollution - you will hear these complaints again and again.
Damage to human health needs to be repaid by the frac sand mining. Each human is worth \$9 million dollars and shorten lifespans from silicosis should use this starting point.
Since there are no air quality standards for these mines, who is monitoring the long term effects on human health?
This should be topic #1 in the analysis. Nurses all over the country are coming out in protest of fracking. If healthcare providers see the dangers, it should be a red flag for the DNR to investigate THOROUGHLY.
Perform an objective sociological assessment of those living closest to processing facilities with rail transload that operate 24 hours a day. Obtain their input on how their lifestyle, sleep patterns, etc., have changed. UW-Extension in Buffalo County has conducted some interesting analysis and research showing the general health of mining communities versus non-mining communities.
Silicosis, emphysema, high blood pressure, asthma, toxins in our wells, air borne silica dust, spills in our water ways. And on the positive side.....
The crystalline silica issue
Sand mine companies must be liable for any deaths or illness related to their air and water pollution.
Fine silica particles is the obvious one, but what about the stress of it all. Communities are divided, and people are angry over the enormous change in their lives. There are numerous scientific papers which report the negative affects of stress on human health.
Concerned physicians have expressed reservations about the flying fine-particle sand and damage to lungs.
You really need to put human health on this survey?? At the state level, you're not sure this is serious enough to include in an analysis? SCARY!
Near mines
What are the long term exposure effects?
If the mine employees have to wear respirators all the time, even in meetings and doing office work, then its not safe for any of us to be walking around without respirators on.
I believe that this gets back yo water and air quality
Air & water quality
What's the long term affects to people's health?
Sand in the air.Is currently causing health concerns at our residence
All the water wells around the mine have been polluted and no one will do anything about it.
Assessment of the effects of living near or downwind of a mine on lung health. asthma, and allergies of residents, particularly children.
Asthma inhaler prescription increase in areas with sand mines.
I am not affected because I live far enough away.

Sand mining is safe
See my comments on air and water pollution.
I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. No one seems willing or able to set a reasonable standard for not only particles of sand that are airborne, but also how people can deal with the noise and jarring of the blasts.
We know that silica dust can have long term effects on our health. I have two, soon to be three young grandchildren that love to come and play outside at my home. When I see the colored snow, the sand blowing off the pyramid like piles, I do worry about the air that we are breathing. I do not trust the sand companies to have our safety as their first priority nor do I think the DNR has the staff or the directive from the top to have our health as a priority. The increased air pollution from the diesel trucks coming in and out is a factor. When we go to bed at night, we are listening to steady hum in our bedroom. When the mine runs 24 hours we can no longer have our windows open. We have light pollution. Lights like a football field can be seen for miles in this once quiet farming country.
Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future
Affects of silica sand on humans
Google silica dust health effects, the info is out there, no one seems to think any of the negative effects matter as long as some one make a dollar. The stress on locals cannot be measured, but is great.
YES
No problems
With sandmines you have dust from sand in the air causing sillacosis.
Remains to be seen. I worry about our water and the sand in the air.
Inhalation of particulate risks. My daughter now has severe asthma.
My son already has low lung capacity. I can't help but wonder how sand mining will affect him.
Ground water issue and air borne sand particles
do we need to die for oil
Cover what chemicals are used in the wash process and how they affect humans through ingestion and or contact. Explore how much exposure to silica dust immediate neighbors to the mines will be exposed to and how that level compares to the legal exposure rate .
n/a
Lung problems.
I am worried about groundwater contamination and care pollution. Sand mining tends to lead to cancer is compounds being released into our air and water
Noise disruption is bad for people's nerves when it is three to four times nightly as the trains pass. Train horn blowing in towns lowers property values.
Again, I am against the sand minds because of all the cancer compounds
Again too close to where people live.
Very significant;
All public record
I like to breath....and my family does also...have enough dirty air...
dust,noise,train accidents,truck accidents,groundwater and surface water pollution all add to a shorter lifespan.
Respiratory and cancer
I would like more studies done on respiratory affects from dust long term and short term
Air and Water need to be monitored for the community members that live close to mining operations.
If any aspect is found to be unhealthy for nearby residents, shut them down. There is no reason people should have to look at this destruction, much less be poisoned in our own yards/homes.
Please determine the health effects of polluted air and water.
Particulates in air; noise pollution; vibrations causing lung issues and stress.
Airborne sands are a big concern to me
Warnings should be placed to all neighbors within a certain number of miles of each mine. Using outside boundaries as the edge, not what is planned or currently open. There should also be warnings on radios, televisions for high dust particals just as pollen or humidity. The air borne particles of a mine can be just as bad for persons with health issues.
Monitor increase of cancer resulting from increase of radon, resulting from sand mining
This should be the primary concern and trump all others. The effects not just on physical health - breathing, but on mental health - the stress of wondering if you'll be able to sell your home, if your children are safe outside playing, 24/7 construction, High intensity lighting all hours of the night, blasting, the constant cleaning, the fear of illness - a take a toll. And, they are the most insidious, hard to detect, lifelong alterations to the psyche that are not apparent on the surface. There is a reason people don't live next to major industrial complexes such as refineries, yet we've allowed those same types of industrial complexes to spring up in our our pastoral farm fields marring our rural beauty and intruding on our agrarian way or life without the slightest consideration for the long term health of our residents. This should be the highest priority as it is affected by all the others - water quality, air quality, land quality.
Who knows the long-term effects? Are we guinea pigs already?

<p><b>Impacts of silica on health. Noise and light pollution near mines and processing facilities.</b></p> <p>The issue of airborne silicates and the risk of silicosis has been mentioned. In addition, groundwater-bourne contaminants and their concentrations should be evaluated before, during, and (for some period) after the sand mining operations.</p>
<p>The less publicized aspects of human health that will be affected by this. The effect of the constant traffic, noise and vibration on sleep.</p>
<p>I am very concerned for children's health in our area. The dust clouds that I have seen in the past few years are a danger to everyone's health.</p>
<p>Our trees help filter air up here. Mining could destroy that.</p>
<p>Air quality at all mine sites should be monitored in every direction for fine particles of silica.</p>
<p>Regulations to monitor air quality at all times to remove those health risks.</p>
<p>We are poisoning our air and water, causing all sorts of illness.</p>
<p>Silicosis which is a deadly disease and does not become apparent for years. Inadequate air quality monitoring.</p>
<p>Is this not important with EVERY industry? Why is the sand industry being singled out? No more so here than it would be with countless gravel operations or a factory or hospital belching out particulate matter.</p>
<p>Silica dust causes silicosis, a serious and incurable lung condition that causes scarring in the lungs, difficulty breathing, and in some cases, death. Silicosis causes severe cough and weakness. It hinders the body's ability to fight infections, leaving the person vulnerable to other illnesses that can cause chest pains and respiratory failure. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration lists susceptibilities to bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, lung cancer, and tuberculosis as potential effects and risk factors of silicosis. The symptoms of silicosis may not manifest themselves for fifteen to twenty years after silica dust exposure. The negative public health effects of frac sand mining in Wisconsin will not be fully understood for decades. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 75 people have died of silicosis in Wisconsin between 1996 and 2005. Most of these victims were mining and manufacturing workers, but this demographic could change as more citizens are exposed to higher levels of silica dust outside the workplace. The federal office of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set limits to work site dust exposure since 1971 and OSHA is currently updating their permissible exposure limits (PELs) to allow less silica dust exposure at US work sites. Wisconsin citizens petitioned the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2011 to adopt and enforce an air quality standard of 3 micrograms of silica per cubic meter of air, the standard adopted by California. The DNR denied the petition, even though the DNR itself had conducted a study that documented the health risks of silica dust and concluded that it meets the definition of a carcinogenic hazardous air pollutant. One of the only ways to prevent silicosis is to avoid sources of silica dust. This will be nearly impossible for families whose homes and communities are increasingly surrounded by frac-sand mines and mine transportation routes that emit silica dust.</p>
<p>blowing sand exhaust from equipment. I have rain barrels and in fall I drain them when I do this I get brown muck from the bottom described on item 7</p>
<p>health issues relating to particulates</p>
<p>Silicosis. Mental health of the people who have to deal with this.</p>
<p>If done correctly should be no health problem</p>
<p>I'm still healthy</p>
<p>See results from water and air studies, you will be able to see an answer to this.</p>
<p>Frac sand mines and processing facilities emit several pollutants that can cause serious health problems  <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/am/am407.pdf">http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/am/am407.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/23.%20March%20Final%20Silica%20Sand%20report.pdf">http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/23.%20March%20Final%20Silica%20Sand%20report.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.epa.gov/airquality/particulatematter/">http://www.epa.gov/airquality/particulatematter/</a>  <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/">http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/</a>  <a href="https://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/hydraulic_frac_hazard_alert.html">https://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/hydraulic_frac_hazard_alert.html</a></p>
<p>air quality monitors in towns next to plants, dryers and operations.</p>
<p>Dust and noise should be under DNR supervision.</p>
<p>Human health is a major concern! I cannot believe that breathing in the dust particles is not harmful for anyone! Especially for those that might have lung issues such as asthma or allergies. What are they suppose to do if a mine moves in next door? Air quality is a major issue.</p>
<p>Lung health is a major issue among those already impaired and the youngest of our population. Increased asthma and eventually lung cancer rates will increase.</p>
<p>Not known at this time</p>
<p>There is no way human health isn't impacted by a 24/7 grinding and discharging of dirt. For people not living next door to it, it is easy to see/hear no evil. Those subjected to it right next door- through no fault of their own - are the real victims.</p>
<p>contaminated water, air, loss of property values....</p>
<p>No concern noted.</p>
<p>Silicosis</p>
<p>Foreign mining companies get to come in and, in some cases, write their own laws for regulation.</p>
<p>I am most interested in the long term health risks and what the costs would be to those in the areas. What economic costs will be involved for those who develop serious health issues? Who will cover these costs? Are the health risks worth doing the mining activity?</p>

Water issues, dust issues, noise, light pollution are all issues that will effect the health of people in the area were mines and processing plants exist.
If it effects the community that should be considered when they apply
Measure ambient air quality readings of fugitive silica dust in a five mile radius of existing frac sand mines.
Part of the reason people live in this area is for the hunting, farming, recreation, scenic beauty and peace this region offers. There is no tangible way to compensate the non-mine owners/operators for the loss of this unique environment and culture that will be the inevitable result of the current run-away frac sand operations. The mental stress, loss of land value, and change of culture, combined with the very real health hazards of silica, dust, water contamination, acrylamide (yes, lets introduce a neurotoxin to the mix....), will impact the health of the entire region for generations.
Air and water impacts to publicEffects to workers
Airborne silica
air quality, noise, cancerous materials in air settling on skin/getting in eyes should all be studied.
This should be considered at all times. Do not take away the health of Wisconsin to allow mining companies to profit.
many people are suffering from impaired breathing ability near the frac sand mines. when I enter areas with frac sand mining I experience congestion after only a couple of hours. many mines are located near schools with children breathing dust when they play and exercise which leads to a higher dust load in their lungs.
Human health should be first ahead of money.
air and water contamination
I commented on this previously.
The DNR should include an analysis of potential health impacts of PM 10 and PM 2.5 and whether or not those size particles pose a significant public health risk. The DNR should consider working with the Department of Health Services to provide this information to local residents.
Needs to be a significant study done on silica and human health before any mining can be considered . County residents need more information and a active role in all decisions made on sand mining in their community.
the silica that is from the mines floats on my homeland, in my face and in the very woods, I used to play in as a child, now the religious grounds grounds are desecrated by the Gerke Mine thru the forest. now, the tribal people are nervous about having ceremony where I've participated all my life, and that once was a most beautiful place in the world, to me.the water taste different, my brother's wife won't even drink the water there, anymore. this place is my church, and it's being desecrated, by money hungry ghost.
I feel there is no scientific evidence of any ill affect on human health posed by these operations.
This needs to be acknowledged as a human carcinogen. It's a fact and can't be disputed.Standards for employee exposure may require special clothing and respiratory protection and suggest exposure limits. Are there risks and exposures for those who live near and are potentially exposed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? What are the effects on those neighbors who may suffer from auto-immune disease or other respiratory illnesses.The combined effects of all components of Industrial Sand Mining on the entire Human Environment.
no concern
I am only guessing that this entire operation is detrimental to human health - and animal health as well
This is the most serious issue. I have been coughing for 2 years after breathing sand in. I worry about my grandchildren.
check this
The long-term effects of silica sand in the open air has not been proven fully, however, there is enough documented risk in breathing silica sand to make me want to keep my kids far away.

<p>The open, barren land, piles of sand, blowing sand appearing in a scenic rural setting has a psychological effect on people. It is stressing. It destroys tourism. It does not help seeing plumes of blasting fumes flying into the air nor does it help to have Texans demanding why you are on a county road. The relaxed rural environment is made into a one of stress, uncertainty, and even fear.</p>
<p>It seems these pits are simply abandoned when they're done with them, or used as dumps/storage.</p>
<p>What happens to the land afterwards? Who cleans up the mess? Who is responsible for earthquake damage and pollution?</p>
<p>Mines need to shut down at night to minimize light pollution.</p>
<p>Considered as part of design and reclamation process</p>
<p>Removing and processing the sand turns the landscape into a visual disaster. It reminds me of when I was in Viet Nam and flew over the Plain of Reeds near Cambodia after a saturation bombing with 500 # bombs. It turned the area into a moon scape! The landscape was ravaged ...that is happening here!!! Who will want to visit this area then...much less live here. It reminds me of the ravaging of the countryside of the West Virginia Coal Mines, The Kennecott Copper Mine of western States and even the Iron Mines near Virginia, Minnesota. We don't need those changes so that a few can make big dollars and affect many of us who have to and want to live here in this beautiful unglaciated area of Western Wisconsin. We need to stop this wholesale ravaging of our country for the mighty dollar and gasoline.</p>
<p>Rolling hills of western Wisconsin are beautiful as are bike riding trails. It is totally unacceptable that some of these mines are adjacent to hiking and biking trails. Do we want to look like FLAT Indiana? What will this do to our tourism industry?</p>
<p>Destruction of bluffs unique to our state</p>
<p>I don't know. It's ugly.</p>
<p>Nature and bluffs are already being totally destroyed by frac sand operations.</p>
<p>loss of tourism due to sand mining.</p>
<p>Remediation and replacement of topsoil must be the financial and operational responsibility of the mining companies.</p>
<p>Site would be esthetically pleasing. I know that this is a value judgment, but present reclamation rules appear adequate in my opinion.</p>
<p>Most mines are out of sight.</p>
<p>Great promises have been made to us about reclamation. How diligent have mining companies been historically related to their responsibility to reclaim land in a timely manner.</p>
<p>Destruction of Driftless Region topography</p>
<p>Loss of aesthetic value, property value, quality of living in areas near/affected by sand mine operations</p>
<p>Loss of Wisconsin's signature wooded rolling hills.</p>
<p>Reclamation of Frac sand mines has not been proven.</p>
<p>Scarred landscapes are not only unsightly but they affect the wildlife and biodiversity of a much larger areas.</p>
<p>What does the visual changes brought by industrial mining do to home values in the vicinity?</p>
<p>Visual changes should be covered by local zoning</p>
<p>Aesthetic of the land is ruined.</p>
<p>Should be a consideration of local approval...see #11.</p>
<p>No comment.</p>
<p>No problems here, I have seen several mines and they don't appear to be ugly or ruining the scenery as all those opposed say they are.</p>
<p>Western Wisconsin is one of the most beautiful places in the U.S. Industrial sand mining directly affects and destroys the beautiful rolling hills and bluffs.</p>
<p>The mining destroys the views of the landscape, degrades the value of properties and the views for everyone with scars on the land. The mining also destroys our natural heritage of glacial features.</p>
<p>Go to the mines and visit them yourselves. Be reminded that what you see on the ground is not what you see from the air. It is much more severe from the air. Do both; purchase drones; observe frequently as you do this study so you don't forget the impact. Show colleagues the pictures you take of the devastation observed on the ground as well as in the air; show the governor. Ask him and legislatures to observe the devastation already taking place; add on the unpermitted or permitted mines that have not officially begun operations. Look at the visual view you anticipate in the next 5 or 10 or 20 or 50 years with regulation or without it. Report it out to the public! We live here and we see it and we experience all the experiences of sand on cars, on the streets, on the railroad tracts, on our clothing, on our decks and we hear and see the railroad cars as they advance around our beloved lands. However you look at it, it is NOT PRETTY!</p>
<p>The mines are ugly in the process of mining. When the hills are gone it will change the beauty of the area forever. I grew up in SE WI where everything was flat. One of the reasons that I moved here was the beautiful hills and the recreation opportunities that they give.</p>
<p>ground changes, trees missing, visually ugly</p>
<p>Will be fixed with reclamation plan.</p>
<p>All</p>
<p>I worry less about visual changes, unless these mines are simply allowed to develop wherever they can buy the land. Unregulated development tends to lessen scenic beauty and spread the problems associated with such mining operations. If it's going to happen, it should be limited to certain areas.</p>

<p>Not a Big Deal!!! No one has paid our family or given any \$ compensation for our hill, good looking crop practices, or any thing else visual. To me this is messing with my choices, and taking with out compensation.</p>
<p>The pastoral countryside is being changed to an industrial landscape. People don't want to farm next to industrial mines or processing sites. They don't want to live next to them. Or bike. Or fish. Or recreate. Or stay at a B&amp;B. The industrialization of the countryside is having massive economic impacts on our small town, local economies.</p>
<p><b>SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN RECLAMATION PLAN !</b></p>
<p>The agrarian landscape would be drastically changed if all the sand mines that are being proposed start mining. It will be a strip of sand mines all along highway #64, east and west of highway #53. And endless lines of dump trucks on the road, and the loss of residential and farm lands, as well as wetlands and forests. We have the most beautiful view of forest and hills. This will soon be replaced with a 900+ acre sand mind and wet plant.</p>
<p>Scenic view changesAppropriate restoration</p>
<p>This has been described previously. But, REALLY, this is a no brainer. Try sitting and staring at a sand mine for a few minutes and then think of living by one.</p>
<p>The countryside has gone from beautiful hills to industrial wasteland. This is terrible especially in places where there are several mines like New Auburn.</p>
<p>No more of the beauty of the natural bluffs or country side. The uprooting of trees, the removal of top soil. How long if ever will the land look as it does now.</p>
<p>Forty years ago I moved here for the beauty of this land. What's happening to the land breaks my heart.</p>
<p>As a local business owner and private citizen, I am concerned about how sand mining degrades and spoils the natural beauty of the Mississippi River Valley Region.</p>
<p>Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the on visual changes. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>bad</p>
<p>Wisconsin is known for its beauty. It would be a crime of epic proportions if the land were flattened and mined without consideration of the landscape. Future generations and quality of life should be taken into consideration. It's not only about money. What happens when all the sand is gone? What will the state have to offer then? Who will want to move here in 10 years? 20 years?</p>
<p>This is a short term industry at best. To destroy our most valuable resources over a short term gain is very short sighted.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a></p>
<p>Wisconsin was a place of beauty and it is fast becoming an open wound where trucks and clouds of dust hang in the air. One of my favorite things to do was to take a drive around the state and enjoy the beauty of Wisconsin. I rarely do that anymore. No matter which direction I travel, I'm finding these eye sores on the landscape. I don't spend my vacations in Wisconsin any longer. I now travel out of state.</p>
<p>People don't want to live in a state that is marred with ugly mining scars on the landscape.</p>
<p>Mine operators should be required to restore the land to what it was before.</p>
<p>A great amount of dust in the air causes several problems, including visual ones.</p>
<p>We live in the beautiful Knapp hills ; also, many persons come to visit Wisconsin and its scenic beauty</p>
<p>The mining scars are forever.</p>
<p>Undoubtedly, there is a negative impact on property values. In Pepin County, the Great River Road National Scenic Byway overlooks Lake Pepin, a wide spot in the Mississippi River, and passes through picturesque communities on its way south.'The quality of life and everyone's property value depends on protecting the beauty down here,' county Supervisor Bill Mavity said. 'That's what makes this place go.' from <a href="http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/03/frac-sand-mines-credited-for-rising-dropping-property-values/">http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/03/frac-sand-mines-credited-for-rising-dropping-property-values/</a></p>
<p>The rural character of the land is damaged, becoming much more industrial in nature. This in turn is reflected in property values.</p>
<p>Mines are ugly eye sores and obnoxious, I would much rather see windmills or solar catchers added to those sites than some God awful Sand Mine with all its equipment littering the landscape.</p>
<p>We will lose much of the beauty of the area for residents and tourists. As people stayed away from Yellowstone after the devastating fires, people will stay away from the mess and noise and known health problems for spending their vacation hours and dollars. We could also be struck with drought and soil loss issues if mining continues to drain our water tables.</p>
<p>Light and buildings not covered by berms. How does that effect property value and the people that now have to live there.</p>
<p>I do not want to see our beautiful natural habitats in Wisconsin destroyed, turning it into a wasteland.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>
<p>loss of senic areas</p>
<p>Loss of topography, loss of scenery, loss of natural ecosystems.</p>
<p>Aesthetics</p>
<p>To residents</p>
<p>Must restore to original visual quality, money set aside before starting mining ops.</p>
<p>These companies should be required to repair damaged land...not just leave it</p>
<p>Will the landscape be altered to the point of no reclamation?</p>
<p>A sand mine ruins the continuity of the area and brings blight.</p>

How does changes to the landscape affect neighbors enjoyment of life and property values? What setbacks should be required as not to affect neighbors.
Dead zones
None.
Berms are often insufficient. What an eyesore when traveling through and around FS areas. This does not make me want to stop, stay or visit.
Require corporations to restore land to a natural condition when they leave. You have to put in assurances they will not just strip mine our countryside and leaver when they want to. We have an enormous legacy of that happening in Wisconsin, so please write in a process requiring corporations to return the landscape to a vegetated state resembling what they destroyed.
We should have no more new frac sands mines. They are an eye-sore and wreak havoc on the environment.
Ugly permanent ruin
From Madison, or from our homes.. There's a slight difference here..
Tourism.
The mines should have a brim surrounding the active mine which would help with air pollution, noise pollution.
The permanent alteration of the landscape and the visual scarring and impacts while mining is underway..
We used to be able to see the night sky now light pollution inhibits this.
The removal of the hills where the mine will be and after it is no longer used. Recommlation of the land does not include replacing the origial landscape
I actually think the processing facilities are pretty. Mining is a destructive action, and of course, isn't pretty.
Ruining the the landscapes
People live in rural Wisconsin because of the beauty of the hills and valleys ...the peace and quiet. The devastation is real in their lives. Even the applications and hearings wear people out and pit families and friends against each other. The DNR protects some import at areas of the state but has signed off on protecting the areas the sand companies want to destroy.
The mine operators have an obligation to convert the big hole in the ground to an attractive and useful resource upon completion of the operation.
The mining pits are unsightly. They probably decrease property values nearby.
During and after operation. Trusting or enforcement of reclamation plans.
The wooded hills will be gone - western WI will look flatand treeless like North Dakota or the Florida interior.
Should be addressed in a reclamation plan.
No issues. Bigger buildings employing people.
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
Removal of dust is not acceptable
Nobody likes non-esthetic surroundings however, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and personal opinion and bias should be minimally considered.
You would think to avoid complaints, the industry would avoid public views, but the loading sites are in plain view, sand strewn all over. They do seem to hide their mining work, which worries those of us suspecting bad behavior.
Open pits.
Company must return land to its previous condition,
Whether sand mining is negatively impacting tourism.
Has anyone studied the impact of a Hwy 53 corridor that is an industrial sand corridor with the amount of tourism in northern WI? Will tourists decide to take other routes, find new destinations due to the loss of scenery?
Effects on tourism industry of changing scenic rural areas into barren industrial sites
Same as landscape comments above. We are significantly impacting our rural character with these operations. I recognize times change, but requiring visual buffers seems logical.
The visual changes are obvious a mine takes farmland or wooded acres and turns them into a large open barren hole that will never be the same, it will not be productive farmland again. The species that live there are gone and may never come back, we don't know the damage mining does to habitats and if there are endangered species they will be lost.
The bluffs of Buffalo County can not be erased or gouged out to extract sand.
Trees all gone, vegetation gone.No new growth anywhere.No people or animals living in area due to death from contamination.Scenic beauty gone from pollution and destruction from sand mine.
One of our greatest assets in southwest WI is the scenic landscape. Non-metallic mining operations on this scale and duration threaten our economics, outdoor enjoyment and well-being. Evidence of visual changes (aerial images, before/after) on existing sites should be included and discussed carefully before continuing to accept license permits.
A No Brainer. such beatiful hills and open fields, now filled with towering buildings, new roads leading in and out and all around. Piles of sand and other equipment.
In Maiden Rock, Wisconsin, there is a huge sand mine that is a hideous addition to the quaint town. There signage is atrocious and they have an off-loading facility in plain view of Highway 35, blocking the Mississippi River. Plus, the sense that they are digging into the bluffs and hauling it away is literally undermining the picturesque landscape.
Please consider.
A berm never looks as good as the natural rural landscape.
Environmental and economic to communities and counties with mining in or adjacent.

Mines are eyesores.
Determine lost property value from damage to view-sheds.
The driftless area is one of the most beautiful parts of the Midwest. Intensive sand mining will destroy the delicate and beautiful topography.
There are obvious visual changes that impact residents and tourism. I have never seen a pretty sand mine? How will this affect tourism or future development for these areas?
all aspects
I did not move to this rural area 32 years ago to live next to an industrial zone, having to look at a huge scar in the hills and a huge processing plant. This will be changed from an aesthetically lovely area to an ugly eye sore.
Alright if reclaimed the right way
A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining.
loss of scenic values of Wisconsin's landscape, loss of tourism & hospitality economy due to landscape changes
Scarring the landscape in a permanent way
Yes please.I HATE wind turbines.
VISIAL CHANGES
Entire hillsides, beautiful vistas, bird nesting sites, trees etc. are all permanently destroyed for a one time sale of relatively low value sand.
Have you driven Hwy 53 north of Bloomer?? Have you seen the mess created by those terrible plants by New Auburn with flying sand in the Air?? Do whatever it takes to FIX this!
We enjoy the beauty of the hills and enjoy the wildlife in our area. The farm we own is a generational farm. My great grandparents were some of the first settlers in the area. We cherish the land and the wonderful neighbors that we have. They say that the mines will bring in jobs and improve our lives. We are all happy now and do not want to scar this beautiful part of Wisconsin for the profit of outside big business. The people who want to work here are working and the people who don't want to work will not work any way.
Once beautiful Wisconsin was known as God's country...not anymore...we have been overwhelmed with ugly sandmines; blowing dust; and water that is not really safe to drink. Sand mines are not pretty...sand hills belong by a beach, not in the midst of family homes and farms.
all changes to typical Wisconsin landscapes.
Tourism is/ will suffer
Does Industrial Sand Mining cause any visual changes to the landscape. How can the impact be minimized the impact.
Natural Beauty, it took many,many years to form the area. With hills, valleys, collies, streams, creeks and so much more. It will all be gone, forever! I don't care, what they claim they will do, to make it look good when they are done. Because, when they are done, gone, how are you, or should I say, we going to hold them to the promises?
Require natural plant screening or setback mining from near roads, schools andprivate homes.
Assure the visual landscape is not destroy.
The lights and noise all night long are offensive. Also the quiet scenic landscape is gone.
No one want to look at devastation.....especially in nature....protect it.
Disturbance in natural scenery of the rural parts of the state.
See above.
The one in Tomah is ugly it feels like a place of war
I was appalled when I fist saw the mining construction near Maiden Rock where we go to our yearly retreat. It blocked the view of the beautiful meandering stream. We saw sand in the road leading up to the gated mine. It was not safe, nor beautiful. Our B&B has to test their water for contaminants ever since the mine opened. We have not been back because we feel it is not healthy.
The historic Driftless Area of Wisconsin is at ground zero of the mining industry. Doesn't any one care about this beautiful landscape and it historical significance, its many trout streams, hunting and fishing opportunities, recreation and camping, etc. Seems to me there is much more potential in these areas for jobs and the local economy. The land and planning departments need to be given back some real power to deal with land conservation, instead of being required to comply with state regulations, which everyone who has had to deal with mining issues has learned that this amounts to a rubber stamp process.
Aesthetics are extremely important to peace, calm, and lack of anxiety as well as tourism industry.
Previously interesting to view wooded, hilly landscapes appear to be disappearing to be replaced by flat, featureless landscape. Can this be addressed in some way.
Provide an empirical analysis of the visual and auditory impacts of mining operations on quality of life, nearby tourism business, and nearby livestock operations.
Some of the most beautiful land in the state of Wisconsin will be irretrievably lost. Trempealeau County is the best example of what is happening. As I said, loss of our night skies alone is enough to rethink this enterprise.
Ugly!
A screen of trees or a tall fence might minimize the destructive sight.
I personally don't like it. I like it the way it is. This area is not mean't to be one huge industrial park. There are also numerous studies demonstrating how our environment affects our mental and physical well being.
We've seen pictures of the land devastation occasioned by these mines.

<p>The night sky is so bright that the amount of starlight is decreased significantly. I am considering contacting someone in the city about this. The families that live next to the plant cannot see the stars!!!!The plant looks like a carnival ride at night. This is so ridiculous, and I hate it.</p>
<p>Anybody who can say they would rather see holes in the ground and sand operations on wetlands is numb. ANALYZE THIS!</p>
<p>UGLY!</p>
<p>Our hills are a huge source of tourism and revenue. This is being greatly effected and we will not be able to get it back.</p>
<p>Restoration plans must aesthetic considerations</p>
<p>We've gone from living in one of the most beautiful areas of the state to giant piles of sand and equipment. When the mines leave, only a fool thinks the land will be returned to a more natural state.</p>
<p>sad</p>
<p>An enormous pile of sand is now there. State and local permits forbid this, however lack of enforcement gives no relief to the bordering residents</p>
<p>Not much of a change</p>
<p>Will all that equipment and towers be left behind or used for something else?</p>
<p>none</p>
<p>Progress means changes</p>
<p>Environmental degradation detracts from the tourism that is so important in the Driftless area</p>
<p>I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. This is especially important in areas where tourism is a major economic factor (e.g the Lower WI Riverway), but also for those who live near the FSM and must observe the land being torn apart daily. Beautiful farmland now a huge hole in the ground. Rolling hills being reduced to nothing. A scar on our once pristine area.</p>
<p>Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future</p>
<p>What mines will look like when the sand is gone and the mines shutdown.</p>
<p>Forever ruined landscapes for the benifit of a couple.</p>
<p>YES</p>
<p>It will cause permanent damage to our beutiful countryside</p>
<p>We live in a very beautiful area, and having these mines will definitely change this. It already has in places where there are currently mines.</p>
<p>Pristine land being destroyed for the sake of sand</p>
<p>What alot of people dont realize is not all sand is taken. A majority is rejected and put back to reclaim the area and it must be reclaimed a certain way so it can be used again. The hills will always be ther they just look a little differant.</p>
<p>this is a silly option. they will destroy the ecosystem.</p>
<p>Looks AWFUL!!!!</p>
<p>n/a</p>
<p>Ugliness and noise lower property values.</p>
<p>Property values generally lowered because of these installations.</p>
<p>Wants to live next to a desert?</p>
<p>Put all land back to it's original starting point.</p>
<p>I don't think they need as much sand laying all over and in trains if nobody is using it</p>
<p>It's pitiful. I thought the DNR cared about the land. Guess not.</p>
<p>Not significant;</p>
<p>All public record</p>
<p>Ugly!</p>
<p>Dust storms and the disappearance of wildlife.</p>
<p>Sick of sand plants and mining swallowing up farms and beautiful landscapes</p>
<p>What was once a beautiful countryside becomes a ugly eyesore</p>
<p>Please consider the damage to the land that once was covered with trees.</p>
<p>The impact in the short view and the long view is changing the character of the landscape.</p>
<p>Full grown trees provide shade, color, etc. Once these trees are cut, they are never replaced with a full grown tree. It takes years to get the land scape back to the beauty it was. When a mine is open you see nothing but sand. No one wants to go from looking at beautiful trees to piles of sand.</p>
<p>I haven,t noticed any visual changes.</p>
<p>Eyesores to the beauty of the area!</p>
<p>Make sure all corporations, individual are held responsible for cleaning up abandon mines.</p>
<p>Once the terrain is altered at this scale, there's no going back. If I wanted to live in Illinois or Iowa I'd move. The aesthetics of this particular area are why I'm here. During the mining phase the actual visuals are hard to hide.</p>
<p>Again, I prefer the scenic landscapes and rural beauty</p>
<p>Visual changes are inevitable. The hills that will be destroy cannot be replaced. However, efforts should be made by the mining operation to return the area to a state resembling the original state insofar as that is possible. In terms of visually isolating the operation, light levels should be reviewed and monitored, sight-line effects should be evaluated where proactical.</p>
<p>As I mentioned before, the sight of the mines and drying plants where pastures used to be is sickening.</p>

I've seen Hibbing MN.....enough said on that. NOT what I'd want my northwoods to look like.
Mining should be limited to flat areas to minimize erosion and reduce visual changes. Hills and bluffs should not be mined.
Ruining the landscape of our beautiful area (Hixton, WI).
Mining operations are tearing down the ridges in this area leaving hideous scars in the landscape. This definitely should be considered.
As I said before, they shouldn't be allowed to leave unsightly craters.
Destruction of hills
You're kidding me. This is private land we are talking about. Big power government has no place here. In essence the bluffs would be reclaimed to a state they were likely found in before the glaciers dumped their last load. We are talking about prairie grass, forests, and lands put into ag production. What the state should do is provide a program with incentive to reclaim these lands (as an option) to a desired outcome. Such as native prairie grasses.
You CANNOT replace hills and valleys once removed. Our wonderful beautiful state will never be the same. Why live in an area that is going to be ugly with a huge PILE of sand sitting in it, ready to cause SILICOSIS.
more could be done to make the sites less of eyesore leave more trees to help block the noise and prevent the sand from migrating
a little late for concern
Beautiful oak ridges reduced to big ugly sand scars.
Will correct it self as time goes on Hills removed forest and crop land when done
Don't like it Don't look
See comments from Habitat Removal answer.
Sand mining drastically changes the way an environment looks. Generally, once, lush regions are reduced to an empty sand pit. It takes many years and lots of money to restore these areas. They are not only an eye-sore, degrading desirability to live in the area, but destroy natural environments further degrading the visual appeal in lack of wildlife. <a href="http://hesperian.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/en_cgeh_2012/en_cgeh_2012_21.pdf">http://hesperian.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/en_cgeh_2012/en_cgeh_2012_21.pdf</a>
Can see the newest plant at night from my house. We call it Mordor.
This is a must, we have a beautiful state that is enjoyed by residents and tourists and this beauty is being destroyed for short term monetary gain.
I am very concerned about this. Wisconsin is blessed with beautiful country. The thought of a sand mine coming in and taking away that beauty is a crime. I have driven by some mines and they do not fit in with the neighboring area. They stick out like a sore thumb.
Aesthetically, ridge top removal is particularly ugly. Light pollution for 24/7 operation is awful.
Haze, smell and more train traffic and train noise.
<a href="http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2012/05/08/aerial-photos-show-scale-of-frac-sand-mines/">http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2012/05/08/aerial-photos-show-scale-of-frac-sand-mines/</a>
Aesthetics will mean that property values in the areas will decrease. The normal rolling hills in the areas will have a whole new look which may decrease tourism to the area, as that is one of the things people come to see whether it be on sleds or car or motorcycles.
See health risks.
Total destruction of the beauty of the hills we moved here to be in. Blowing sand, general dust, sand in the areas all take away from the beauty of the land.
Our natural beauty should be considered. I know it is not our land to decide but ...
Analyze stakeholder perception of the visual aspect of frac sand mine. Analyze the impact of the frac sand mining industry on the tourism industry of western Wisconsin (include Trout Fishermen and Hunters).
There are currently no regulations to make sand mines non-visible from the road. Hence, the huge scars are visible on a daily basis and add to the division of the community. Its more than ironic to see the huge sand mine next to an Amish farm in the Taylor community.
DNR should consider the impact of night lighting and required necessary shielding. Visually, sand mines are an eyesore on the landscaped, especially in rural agricultural areas. Every effort should be made to restrict mining from environmentally sensitive and scenic areas.
Mitigation strategies by the sand companies to be good visual neighbors
To the landscape or eye damage of citizens? This is a crappy phrasing.
Again, replace the beauty of the land where mining has occurred.
I noticed dust blowing from piles of sand at mining sites. I have been near mines at night where the light is refracting off of the dust particles creating hazy conditions. the viewshed is lost in many areas due to the loss of aesthetics from industrial frac sand complexes. many high tourism areas are impacted with losses due to declines in tourism.
They should keep a buffer area of trees around these mines, they are destroying the beauty of this great state.
I also have commented on this already.
Many people choose to live in rural areas because of the scenery and visual beauty. Frac sand mining may have a negative impact on local economies if fewer people choose to move to rural areas with frac sand mines. This would diminish the local tax base and subsequently weaken the ability of local governments to provide services. The DNR should review existing literature on economic impacts of frac sand mining to determine how things like visual changes affect local economies.
how will this affect tourist dollars and quality of life

<p>Sand mining alters the landscape forever. Large empty pits up and down a roadway are not visually appealing to those driving by or living next to. Not sure they a good for animals either.</p>
<p>I loved to walk these woods, how many people can say they've seen mountain lion , or wolves, in one area.. or watch two bucks battle for rights to be a king in their own world. to walk up and be within ten feet of a buck, lying on the ground, I've done these things on my homeland, now, I have seen the beauty of the land be bulldozed into berms so they can't be watched, how they will destroy the very places I used to play on.. as a young man. four mines in only a couple years, and to feel the dust in my face, or watch the lights thru the trees, at night time. seeing the swirls of dust blowing off the tops of the piles by the lights, is erie.</p>
<p>No different than my neighbor painting his house pink if he wanted to. It is not an issue that affects the natural environment or one that the DNR should concern itself with.</p>
<p>dislike visual changes</p>
<p>UGLY UGLY UGLY. I want to see trees and grass, not trucks and piles of sand and equipment.</p>
<p>Horrific</p>
<p>See section on hilltop mining. Otherwise this is purely a cosmetic thing that diminishes the actual issue. It hurts no one to have to look at the unsightly sand transfer plants or the work in progress during mining.</p>

<p>At some mines the noise goes on day and night. It can be impossible to sleep. The trains coupling and uncoupling are huge noise makers. Noise that is constant and elevated is proven to be stressful. Vibrations from blasts travel much further and are more disturbing than the Department of Safety wishes to acknowledge. These tremors will scare people 1.75 miles away (in Augusta). Horses spook and children cry. Roofers about 1 mile away quit work thinking there is an earthquake. This extent of vibration affects people, wells, what else?</p>
<p>This would be significant for those living around mining operations. Dump trucks are very loud.</p>
<p>Wisconsin is a primarily serene environment. How will we maintain that and fracing at the same time?</p>
<p>reasonable standards should be reviewed and followed</p>
<p>Explosions affecting damage to homes,aquifers...not good. The sounds of explosions are bad enough. Explosions shaking home and business, farm buildings will affect their very foundations.Do we have to get used to the explosion sounds..surely not!!Rural life does not want that. Animals and man doesn't want or need thatVibrations break down the soil so that sand can be removed ..but it affects aquifers too. Sand in water...Fills up or damages the aquifer. Perhaps vibrations from explosions could affect earth quakes in this region!!Then there are vibrations from increased truck traffic!!</p>
<p>Blasting, trains all cause vibration and is truly unacceptable to people living close to these mines.</p>
<p>Effect on people, animals, road and building structures</p>
<p>I don't know.</p>
<p>noise and vibration with in one mile of the perimeter of sand mines</p>
<p>Ask: Would the mining company's owner live withing a half-mile of the mine?</p>
<p>Meet all existing rules.</p>
<p>Trempealeau Countys descible level is crazy at 45 dcb.</p>
<p>How it affects humans and animals, and general quality of life</p>
<p>Vehicular noise, blasting, hauling, and vibration disrupt all walks of life; intensive studies regarding noise and vibration in relation to the faults in area.</p>
<p>What is a reasonable number of hours per day people in nearby homes/businesses should be without the noise and vibration caused by industrial mining to remain healthy?</p>
<p>local regulation</p>
<p>No worries.</p>
<p>Should be a consideration of local approval...see #11.</p>
<p>find ways that would reduce the noise and vibrations thru studies.</p>
<p>There isn't that much noise and I nave not felt any vibrations when anywhere near a mine.</p>
<p>Blasting effects on nearby resident homes. We have had complaints of cracked drywall and even cracked basement walls. The blast that potentially caused these issues were monitored and within allowable tolerances.</p>
<p>Noise pollution and vibration from mining equipment and heavy trucks has been long-documented around mining sites, not just in Wisconsin, but anywhere that surface mining takes place. People who conduct business and live close to these mines either have to try to adjust or move. This is not fair, especially when many mining companies have little or no stake in Wisconsin, other than monetary gain from mining our resources and leaving as soon as they have taken all they can take.</p>
<p>Need to notify neighbors before blasting. The quarry that adjoins our farm never notifies anyone. We notice the blasting when the glasses in cabinets shakes against each other. Or when pictures shake off the wall.</p>
<p>Both noise and vibration from trucks and mining operations subject innocent citizens to terrible inconveniences and conditions just for the selfishness of the corporations which think only of profit.</p>
<p>Decibel levels should be set; no company should go beyond an acceptable level. It is not only the noise of the fans at the plant, it is the clanking of the railroad cars, the blowing of the whistles of the trains as they move through multiple crossings in the middle of the night or in early morning hours .....or all day long. People who live about 150 feet from the rail feel the vibrations of rail cars day in and day out. People feel the impacts of blasting; it is particularly concerning when no notices come from the companies;animals are frightened;elderly people have heightened awareness that something is wrong and they have no control. A full study of the impacts of noise and vibrations on human and animal health should be funded and results implemented.</p>
<p>The noise from trucks and blating will change my enjoyment of my land. I love to hike and snowshoe in my woods. I enjoy the silence and being able to hear the birds and frogs.</p>
<p>trucks hauling, roads getting ruined, children coughing?</p>
<p>Limited .</p>
<p>Comparison to that of wind turbine noise.</p>
<p>Don't know enough about this to answer.</p>
<p>Blasting is a problem!!, Geologists need to help us here, Maybe buy out residences farm steds, or no blast if ripping can be done ( even if not as economical)</p>
<p>See 12.</p>
<p>SHOULD BE KEPT AT A MINIMUM !</p>
<p>The noise and vibration from all the mining trucks and machines running 24/7 will replace the farm machinery sounds, and the sounds of nature. This will make living in the area very unpleasant and stressful, much like living in the Twin Cities nextto an industrial area adjacent to a freeway---we've done that, and believe me, it is very aggravating and disturbing.</p>

<p>The awful racket coming not only from the plants all day and night, but also the train horns blasting during the overnight sleeping hours, as well as the constant vibration felt through the ground. Study the potential for earthquakes and sinkholes in Wisconsin due to the mining. Study how the noise and vibration has effected the farm animals (dairy in particular) within a 5 mile radius, with results broken out to 1-mile distances.</p>
<p>Blasting concern Rail traffic concern Truck traffic noise</p>
<p>Controls on blasting/hours of operation/controls of equipment.</p>
<p>There are neighbors that have the explosions shake their windows all day long.</p>
<p>What decibels will the mine put on at given times of the day; what decibels will be allowable? How far out will the allowable decibels be recorded - 1 mile, 2 miles, 5 miles?</p>
<p>Unacceptable for those living nearby. Some can move away, but a good friend is surrounded by this menace and doesn't have the resources to move herself, her daughter and her 94-year-old mother away from it. It's tragic.</p>
<p>Concerns about impacts of underground blasting on neighbors and businesses nearby tunneling sites.</p>
<p>Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the on noise and vibration. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>bad</p>
<p>This should be considered before a mine is approved. Noise and vibration could negatively impact quality of life for nearby residents. It could also impact house values.</p>
<p>I live several miles from the opening to a large sand mine in Bay City. I am told that they are mining in the direction of my home and I've begun to notice the sound of large explosions. It's a helpless feeling to know that this might get worse before it ends.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointtimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a></p>
<p>Noise levels not only around the mining/processing plant but at intersections where the trucks are constantly traveling need to be monitored. Especially around the schools and daycare facilities. I don't know how you would track the amount of vibration damage is caused by heavy truck traffic. I don't think there is a wall in my house that hasn't cracked due to vibration from road traffic.</p>
<p>Wildlife disruption; long-term mental health impacts from excessive noise and stress.</p>
<p>Blasting can be heard for miles, felt for miles. It is hard to believe that there isn't some level of change as a result of mining</p>
<p>Noise and vibration upsets local residents, especially at night. Noise and vibration also disrupts ecology of the area, affecting mating habits and other crucial ecological necessities.</p>
<p>yes, especially to those poor people who are having their homesteads (where they have lived for years) affected</p>
<p>Neighborhoods and towns can be hurt by the continual truck noise and vibration can damage buildings.</p>
<p>Constant noise, light, train and truck traffic, vibrations from blasting, dust and water pollution turn quiet rural communities into industrial areas. from <a href="http://midwestadvocates.org/truecostofsand">http://midwestadvocates.org/truecostofsand</a></p>
<p>Again, a disruption that extends far beyond the mines. Many mines operate 24 hours a day, with lights and noise and truck traffic.</p>
<p>proximity of sites to residential areas</p>
<p>No one wants to wake up to the sound of trucks and heavy equipment running and the sound carries for miles. Thus adding Noise Pollution to the Visual &amp; Ecological pollution.</p>
<p>I would not want to live near a mine because of the noise and vibration. Who will pay for structural damage to homes and well case/linings? It is so wrong to punish homeowners so outside mining companies can profit -- look into where houses are for sale in relation to mines and where residential real estate development has ground to a halt because buyers don't want to build near mining.</p>
<p>People who live close or next to the sand mines should have an option to leave if a sand mine comes and creates noise and vibration even if it meets state regulations. It is not fair for those who already live there and a mine comes in and adds many nuisances to their life. Hearings were held, but our concerns were ignored and comments like get used to it were made to us.</p>
<p>Noise and vibration can cause unbearable living conditions for those who love nearby.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>
<p>effects on local populations</p>
<p>Blasting, truck hauling, machinery, trains.</p>
<p>To residents</p>
<p>Minimize and restrict to M-F 8-4pm or less</p>
<p>How will the sound and vibration affect migrating birds, tectonic plates, and other wildlife and people?</p>
<p>Daily operations are noisy and the use of heavy trucks cause a haze in the area. Neighbors complain of constant vibration impacting their daily lives.</p>
<p>How far does noise from mines carry and what are appropriate setbacks as to not affect neighbors. Whether from trucks or blasting how does a mine impact neighbors lifestyle or homes, can homes be damaged by blasting and truck traffic. Old homes can crack walls, and foundations can be damaged, how far away does a mine need to be to minimize that.</p>
<p>Earthquakes, big problem.</p>
<p>impact on breeding birds</p>
<p>Terrible non-harmonizing vibrations.</p>

None.
I cannot imagine the blasting and vibration that area residents are subjected to. Are current regulations stringent enough and how often are monitored?
We don't understand why corporations aren't charged a fee per household (within an X radius of a frac sand mine)for stress and impacts from blowing dust, noises from explosions, vibrations from explosions and heave truck traffic)?
No more frac sands mines.
Every aspect of sand mining involves adverse effects to our environment and way of life. You say if it's not this, it's something else. I say if not this, it's one less thing destroying our region for another's want.
What is the noise level in decibels of sand mines at various regions?
Not pleasant if you live near a mine. Equipment is loud and blasting causes vibration.
How does continuous low level vibration impact a person's health??
My house is shaking from the trains and cracks are forming in our dry wall. The sound of squealing form the plant itself is so loud no one sleep in our south west bedroom any more. We do not live in a old decrepit home.
Blasting effects on homes and the constant noise of the beeping when equipment is backing up is detrimental to going outside for any length of time.
no comment
Noise and blasting from these operations going 24/7 can only have a negative impact on peoples health
The noise associated with all phases of mining is an intrusion on people's lives...especially people used to quiet country life.
No mining at night or weekends if the noise, lights, etc. affect anyone adversely in the area.
Non issue.
My parents were house-shopping years ago and one of their criteria was that it had to be far away from any sand mining operation. The noise & vibrations (and earthquakes caused by fracking) are a public nuisance.
yes
noise pollution
industrial operation of mining and trucks and trains hauling sand is noisy; blasting of rock is noisy and shakes the walls of houses nearby
It's an industrial plant. You are going to have noise and vibration, but no more so than you have with railroads and no one is talking about banning those!
None.
Visiting these does not seem to be an issue to me, but I don't live near one... Same goes for light at night.
Mines must be held accountable for damage they cause to neighboring structures, including homes, businesses, wells, etc. The arrogance that mining companies such as Wisconsin Industrial Sand Co. shows to it's neighbors is appalling.
I agree that this should be a concern to those living near mine and processing sites. I believe the operating companies should acquire the properties at market value that are geographically close if there is concern from those neighbors.
Very concerned
Times should be restricted, at least so people can sleep. Bonding should be required for damage to homes from blasting
Large trucks, mining operations, and possible explosives use.
Land owners near sight have full say as to what is appropriate for their family.
Whether the blasting affects wildlife habits and viability near sand mines.
The countryside is no longer a quiete place to live with blasting, train traffic, truck traffic. Light pollution has also affected country living. All in the name of progress correct?
The frequency of blasting can be an issue.
Limit the hours of operation so that people can at least have a normal life on the weekends and evenings
The constant banging, roaring and general noise does not fit our land use plan.
Dynamite would ruin peoples ears and homes would be destroyed by the huge vibrations from the dynamite.Cement foundations on homes would be damaged, windows would break. People and animals would be forced to leave there homes and habitats because they would no longer be able to live in them from getting destroyed from the sand mines.
Study of noise/vibration with existing operations and their effects on wildlife, such as breeding behaviors/outcomes, measure displacements of species (mammals, birds, others).
These washing plants and drying plants ARE Noisy! Not to mention the truck traffic. Such beautiful backroads, so scenic, now being taken over by big trucks and equip. ruining our roads and our peace.
I can't speak to this as I don't live close enough--but I have heard plenty of complaints from those that do. And the trucks on the road cause enough noise and vibrations daily.
I live about 2 miles from the sand mine in Burnett county near the St Croix River & I can hear the heavy machinery regularly. Since the area is heavily used for fishing, hiking, camping & other recreational uses, they should be forced to reduce their noise pollution.
Noise must be limited. Generally these rural areas are preculful and quiet.
Blasting is a real problem when sand mining sites are located too close to residences. Foundations and walls (and wells) are being damaged. That's very scary for people, and requires them to spend money they do not have to correct problems they did not cause and that will occur over and over again.
See human health above.

I have read about instances where the noise and vibration are constant from sand mines.
Study the effects of increased stress and lack of sleep from noise and vibrations. Study the effects on houses, wells, and other property from blasting shock-waves and vibrations.
See above, #13.
The noise and vibration has been very irritating particularly the night time operations. I cannot have my windows open at night because the beeping and banging from the mining is so loud. At what noise level (decibel) should these companies be held too? There are other MSHA options rather than traditional back-up beepers such as white noise and directional lights. Are these options better for mines located near residential areas to limit to noise?
all aspects
Our area is filled with owls, various woodpeckers, sand hill cranes, et al. The bird sounds are glorious. An industrial zone next to our property will forever change the background noise. When does it become an industry's right to forever change and wreck the background sounds that many of us moved to the rural area to enjoy.
The DNR has rules for this
A complete and thorough strategic analysis of industrial frac sand mining.
impact on property values, UNKNOWN impacts to wildlife use of adjacent habitat
Operations at the mining, processing, and loading sites and trucks and trains
Yes please
NOISE
People living near mines will be bothered including those who work shifts or farm and sleep odd hours.
Who needs it??
We do not like the idea of Dynamite being used to extract the silica sand. The noise and the vibrations have an effect on the cattle. The animals are our livelihood and when they are disturbed it affects their production.
Horrible noise comes all day and all night from the trains....multiplied since the mines and the oil coming thru our town. The dishes vibrate in our cupboards at night. Driving along our highways ne often has to stop for fast moving trucks..dust a blowing.
Absolutely study all noise associated with extracting, transportation, or shipping facilities.
People living near frac sand mining/fracking locations may have issues with the noise.
Does Industrial Sand Mining cause undo noise and vibration to affect neighboring homes and business. How can the impact be minimized the impact.
It is noisier around this area, now that these heavy trucks are rumbling around, and the increased train traffic near by (on another spur line that has been added for the sand mining). The long term effects of the increased vibration, to the older foundations of the buildings around here, are yet to be assessed.
Keep to a minimum using BEST standards. NO MINING late at night and on weekendsif possible.
Assure neither occur.
Noise and vibration during the first few months of the mining was terrible. However, now they have developed buffers out of dirt that make that less noticeable.
The Quiet Places are too fast disappearing.... where do we go for peace and quiet when we need it....this is fundamental to our lives
Noise pollution- how many decibels is bad for hearing? how far away can it be heard?
See above.
the noise is disturbing much louder than i expected it to be. POORLY MAINTAINED TRACK
We go to Maiden Rock to relax. Instead we are confronted on quiet country roads with huge trucks. Many trucks. These trucks are huge and loud and cause wear and tear on the roads. They cause traffic jams and noise for long periods on the narrow roads and quiet towns. While enjoying these towns one must stop conversing whenever a truck goes through because of the noise. The noise and vibration disrupts all of the native birds that use the Mississippi as their migration flyway.
Light pollution, back up beepers, train cars being hooked up with a loud banging noise, and the cracking foundations in homes from blasting at the mine site, which we are hearing about from the people in the immediate vicinity of the mine.
Noise and vibration are unacceptable when people purchased lands to get away from industrial ugliness and unpleasantness. All who suffer noise and vibration and increased dust
The people living near these operating mines should be allowed to participate in DNR public hearings to address their concerns/comments. These hearings should be part of your analysis.
See #14 above.
I can only pray for those near a processing facility. Their lives on those homes and farms are over.
Trains the big issue although those living next to mines are dealing with the dynamiting.
Hours of operation must be closely monitored.
In a city an individual noise is less noticable as it blends with noises. Country noises stamd out. I know there are noises in the country but is it necessary to adds more noise. Shaking of houses from blasting is not pleasant.
This also has been reported on by residents of nearby homes.
My van has more shakes and rattles than ever due to the constant pot holes and ruts in the local roads. I can also proudly proclaim for the first time ever the trains keep me awake at night. Just what I dreamed of when moving into the countryside of NW Wisconsin. Another great area to analyze.
Railroad noises and whistles.

<p>Around the clock mining is disruptive to nearby landowners. Why can't mines operate during normal work hours? I hear plenty of blasting from my place.</p>
<p>The noise should have to stop on nights, weekends and holidays. We did not choose to buy a farm next to a mine, the farms were here first. There must be rigid standards protecting nearby properties and persons Are there limits on this? When they operate the backup alarms are continuous Loud blasts and loud trucks Ambient noise levels pre- and post-sand mine set up in a location.</p>
<p>Who is responsible for the damage to our roads from all the heavy trucks? Will these damages be fixed or left like they are now? I don't have an opinion. I live with in walking distance of a mine and can't here it run Environmental degradation detracts from the tourism that is so important in the Driftless area I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. This is a concern that definitely needs to be addressed for those who live near FSM as well as those of us who travel in those areas. As previously stated, we have a steady hum in our house along with backup beepers, clanging tailgates, etc. Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future Amount of noise during hours of operation. Great for anyone living near these mines My home is a mile from the new sandmine that's in current construction. From what I've been told it will be extremely noisy Blasting! God awful blasting! It's obvious that you can't have the kind of activity that takes place at a mine without a lot of noise and also vibration. I know I would not want to live next to one.</p>
<p>Vibration is a huge problem. I personally know of a homeowner who has placed a meter on their land that measures the amount of vibration that their house and outbuildings are subject to. The results of the mining operations is that the foundation is cracking and the house will soon be shifted off the foundation that is left. What recourse does this homeowner have? Excessive amount of truck and train noise Less than the rr tracks Ive lived next to my entire life. Do you think local wildlife will enjoy being around this?</p>
<p>NOT JUST HE AWFUL NOISE FROM THE SAND MINES ---- BUT THEN YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE TRAIN GOING THROUGH AT ALL HOURS!! n/a Can hear the noise from the sand plant for miles; disturbs sleep. Noise pollution is just as bad, if not worse, as the pollution to our ground water and air that sand Mines bring Intensely disruptive daily and nightly. As if the poisons were not bad enough, the constant blasting and banging sound like a mega factory I live near the trains and all they do is clang all night long. The noise is unbearable you can't even hear a bird. This goes without saying Not a significant factor; All public record Ugly! Collapsed wells and cracked foundation walls. How much noise are they making and how does it effect different groups of people The noise from a spur which is already established is unbelievable so can't imagine what it will be like with 900 more cars, a wet plant, dry plant, and conveyors working I moved in to the country for peace and quiet. Now we have to see sand hills and listen to big equipment all day and night. Please determine how much noise and vibration pollution will occur. As stated above. This interrupts my sleep and causes stress and other health issues. Noise from the sand mining operation is a major concern of mine is a major concern of mine.</p>
<p>Hours of operation should be fully regulated. Factories are required to maintain noise levels, mines should be required as well. What noise? And, who doesn't enjoy vibrations? People that are directly but don't benefit Restrictt mining mining and manufacturing in populated areas. See 13. This affects people who live anywhere near a mine and along any transportation routes. Even those people in cities with train routes note drastically increased train traffic noise, so they aren't exempt from the noise &amp; vibration. Blasting, truck traffic, railroad traffic all would increase Impact on long term effects of vibration. Noise pollution for other property owners and land uses.</p>

Noise and vibration effects, particularly in terms of blasting should be evaluated not only in terms of the impact upon surrounding habitat and conditions of human livability, but also in terms of local geology and hydrology.
Health impacts on humans and wildlife.
The trains are always derailing in our area. Very soon someone is going to be killed because of the old rail system.
Vibration could affect our ground, possibly causing sinkholes or other issues. Noise? No one comes up from the cities to enjoy noise up here. They get plenty of that living in the cities.
Mining should be limited to daylight hours only. No high powered lighting should be used. No mining, trucking or loading should be done after dark.
How does this effect the well being of the residents in the area.
Heavy truck traffic besides the actual operation's noise/vibration, is disturbing to any close neighbors.
Dynamiting. We currently now have a dynamite storage area in Jackson county
Yes, prosperity can bring this. What would Eau Claire give to have an employer like Uniroyal back? Again, I am surrounded by this industry in my little home. I can no longer go for a quiet walk on my road during operating hours, but that road wasn't built to be a walking path or bike path for me. This is NOT an issue at all.
damage and annoyance resulting from blasting, my brother and sister in law live a few miles from a mine, they blast and it shakes the house.
noise is very annoying I am hearing impaired and I can hear the eq fro both the mine site and wet plant.last year we had shelves collapse breaking cookie jars that came from my wifes grand mother and mother. been up for years on told could not have from the ops
timing (hours of operation)
There are no time limits for sand operations near us. It's 24/7. When is a person supposed to sleep with all of the equipment operating?
This will be a problem restrict time of work
no changes
I don't live close enough to a plant/mine/railroad to be impacted by noise and vibration.
Traffic and train noises are very disruptive of once quiet communities. <a href="http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/07/as-rail-moves-frac-sand-across-wisconsin-landscape-new-conflicts-emerge/">http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/07/as-rail-moves-frac-sand-across-wisconsin-landscape-new-conflicts-emerge/</a> <a href="http://www.wisconsingrassroots.net/sand_mining_bloglight">http://www.wisconsingrassroots.net/sand_mining_bloglight</a> pollution also a concern: <a href="http://www.fracdallas.org/docs/sand5.html">http://www.fracdallas.org/docs/sand5.html</a>
Blasting and trucking vibration has already destroyed homes near mines near me. Mines must be held responsible and compensate owners for this kind of damage and should not be allowed to affect the quality of life of other landowners.
No one living by a mine should have to heard the noise of blasting and the vibration of heavy equipment and trucks. The wild life will also be affected by this.
Constant.
All the time from the train and trucks. trains running into the cars and the derailments.
Do not live close enough to notice.
24/7 operations.
Again, I am interested in the long term affects for those affected.
The processing plants are noisy and trucks and equipment at the mines ate all an issue. Blasting can be felt a long way from the mines and potential effect on foundations and wells are a general concern to home owners.
Very annoying!!!! Need to input the no vibrating or jake braking ordinance in city limits.
Conduct surveys of local residents in frac sand mining areas regarding the imoacts of frac sand noise and vibration on their daily lives.
Noise and vibration is not only a stressful addition to daily life, but has very real affects on the health of both humans and livestock as well as the potential to cause structural damage to structures near blasting areas. Regulations must be enforced that will make sand companies liable for structural damage and limit hours of operations to a standard work day.
Mitigation strategies by the sand companies to be good neighbors
Data on how this affects neighborhood quality, ability to sell houses, disruptions of daily activities (sleeping, children playing outside, pets who hear different wavelengths than humans and are traumatized by such noises, etc.)
Studies should be done so that mining operations do not affect the peace and quiet of Wisconsin. The people living near the mining operation should not have their peace and quiet destroyed by the mining operation. Their health should not be affected either.
industrial frac sand operations create noise in otherwise quiet, rural landscapes.
24 hour operation should not be allowed. People need their rest to remain healthy and the mines are to noisy. Limit hours of operation and decimals of noise in the permit.
The DNR should determine at what distance noise and vibration have a significant impact on homes and other structures but also on quality of life. This information will help local governments make decisions regarding reasonable setbacks from properties for proposed frac sand mines.
Constant noise and vibration for home owners along sand truck routes. Need to monitor number of trucks . How much do these full trucks weigh . Check for weight restrictions.

the mines at night is a constant. the sound of trucks downshifting, engine braking is always around, same as the slamming of the tailgates, and the heavy equipment, that's one noise that I'll never get used to, the wash sights have their own sound as the conveyors that move the sand, not to forget to mention the railcars that move the sand, running into each other in the middle of the night. then to hear the railway trains moving in the night is filled with vibration, as well as the blasting at the mines feels like we're being invaded..very unsettling..

There is noise and vibration with everything we do, I do not see this as a major issue.

no concern

Big trucks = a constant noise that has ruined the peace and quiet we pay for to live in the country. Vibration - YES. Just look at the roads.

I just hear trucks, but not next door to the mines.

Noise and vibration are a concern at all steps of the mining process. From the actual mine where you have heavy equipment working long hours in a previously peaceful area, to the increased truck and train traffic, to the noise involved in the transfer plants - sand mining is noisy and disruptive to far more than the people who sold the rights to the land. When I moved into my home I obviously knew there were train tracks nearby and quickly grew used to the noise. However, in the last few years there have been far more overnight (very prolonged) train whistles that wake my family than in years past. I have lived in the same general location next to the same set of tracks for most of my life.

<p>Tourism goes down. Ag land decreases. No one has documented the jobs lost nor the long term effects of thousands of acres of lost ag land. No one has documented the loss of carbon holding that tearing out trees and soil makes. No one has given any value to what is. It has to be studied because the miners only want to spout job numbers, which are very deceiving. These are temporary jobs. Mines up and leave, too.</p>
<p>Any sort of mining in WI is fraught with peril due to the abundant water we have close to the surface.</p>
<p>I make my living mostly off tourists. This is an ugly business.</p>
<p>Is the cost really worth the benefit? Will Wisconsin be better off or are we sacrificing our future for short term gains?</p>
<p>Wisconsin has a long and proud tradition of tourism. People don't come to our state to see mines, dirty water, and dusty/hazy skies. They come to see pristine wilderness, fish clean waters, hike beautiful hills. Mines ruin the long-term economy.</p>
<p>Very important issue, the industry has far reaching national and international ramifications. Environmental benefits, national security importance and board based economic benefits from lower gas prices to job creation and investment.</p>
<p>A few Sand mines are OK if regulated and are in proper locations. Multiple Sand Mines like in Trempealeau County Wisconsin is a sacrilege. They have to be stopped and regulated properly. Some one must monitor these mines. The mine people say they will employ many people ..what is many? Where will they come from? How long will the jobs last? What types of jobs will be offered? Promises, promises and bribery seems to be the method by which the Sand mines are promoting themselves. They stand to make big dollars at the expense of environment and some unwary people. Will it really last? At what expense? We stand to lose what Mother Nature gave to us over many Thousands if not millions of years. We stand to lose all this for money!!! Is it worth it? I don't see any of these Sand Mining people coming to live in our area where their Sand Mines are!! They all live out of our area!! They are not flocking to our area to live!! They are here to take what they can and live elsewhere. They will not be here to live with the ravaged countryside and pollution problems from sand mining. Maybe if they would come to actually live here to be a part of the community they would have more credence. As I look at it now they are here to make money and leave. Reminds me of the 'carpet baggers' after the Civil War. No, the people who stand to make money are a relative few. Those who will be hurt will be many ..along with the environment.</p>
<p>Strip mining and mining historically has no great impact on our state's economy. It is a boom and bust industry representing less than 1% of our workforce employed in this industry. Regionally it destroys tourist industry in the western part of the state which is a viable and important industry.</p>
<p>Tourism, actually local jobs??? Or just traveling workers??</p>
<p>Reduce the number of mines.</p>
<p>These operations will destroy the tourism industry in Wisconsin. Nobody is going to travel to Wisconsin to see ugly frac sand operations. The companies will leave as soon as they have stolen the states resources.</p>
<p>Monitor economy, unknown as to how?</p>
<p>What's the life expectancy of a frac-sand mine? How many permanent jobs would be created, and would the majority of the workers be local citizens? How much would the taxpayers be liable for when it comes to maintaining the roads and doing remediation after the mine has shut? Will the mining company be allowed to declare bankruptcy and get out of paying for road maintenance, remediation, and any necessary pollution clean-up?</p>
<p>Not to be considered. The company doing the investment should make that determination, not a public entity.</p>
<p>Tremp.Co. sales tax is up 25% ,up \$500,000 more.</p>
<p>how will the sand mine companies reimburse local/regional communities for road damage, water pollution issues, loss of quality of life in an area, etc.</p>
<p>Nobody is talking about the effects to tourism. Entire wooded hills are being leveled. What is this going to do to tourism when one of the major reasons tourism is so big is getting back to nature, driving through rolling wooded hills and hiking through the woods?</p>
<p>The change in economy is short term with very few befitting.</p>
<p>Though I understand the need for supporting local, regional, and state economy, I do not believe it should be accomplished at the cost of environmental health/well-being. Industry, Agriculture, and Recreation are what Wisconsin is touted for, but we need to find better practices and methods to balance these three aspects so that they can be employed and enjoyed for future generations i.e not destructive/overtly exploitative. I would like to see more alternatives to the traditional industrial practices in Wisconsin as the world around us is evolving and us lifelong residents want to see the state survive and retain its aesthetic beauty.</p>
<p>How many actual new jobs does a mine bring to the community where the mine locates?</p>
<p>the positive impact of mining on local, regional and state economies should be a factor considered by DNR</p>
<p>What happens when the next mineral is found to be better than Virgin White Sand ? A wholesale abandonment of all these mines - that's what happens.</p>
<p>Should be a consideration of local approval...see #11.</p>
<p>No comment.</p>
<p>Yes, the areas that have the sand mines running have had economic growth and increased incomes at local businesses.</p>
<p>Sand mining does have a positive effect on the local economy.</p>

<p>In the short term, some communities will benefit economically from mining income. However, once the sand is gone, these communities will be much worse off than they were during pre-mining times. The value of the landscape will be diminished, property values will decrease, and environmental quality will have suffered. One only has to look at other mined regions (e.g., Appalachia) to see how quality of life and the economy suffer once surface mining companies take all they can from the land then pull up stakes and leave an area.</p>
<p>Economies are hurt as well as helped by mining. For example, many bicyclists will no longer bike in the driftless area (like Trempealeau County) and spend money there because they do not want to see hills destroyed and be subject to noisy trucks and blowing dust.</p>
<p>Go solar, go wind; put money into research! No one has researched the impact of frac sand mining on any aspect of this industry. The precautionary principal that was studied at the Wingspread Conference IN WISCONSIN, has not been used! Read it, follow it; while it may be late, the state of WI needs to go back to correcting the injustices done to the public in the past 7 years. The people must be heard! The injustices much be corrected! Wisconsin could employ lots of people looking at wind/solar/other alternative industry for energy! We can build a NEW Wisconsin via use of people's minds, viable research, innovations, use of good science, putting people to work in the installation phases, developing new ideas and new technologies for future use. We are going backward into the industrial age and that is NOT where anyone wants to be. Let's look forward, not backward, and train our youth for new occupations that will involve the use of clean energy which will, in turn, create a more healthy environment for everyone including those who feel they need to have more and more money!</p>
<p>The region has been promoting beauty and outdoor recreation and the economy depends on them. Farming is another large part of the economy that will be impacted by a forever changed land. When the mining is done we will be left with nothing to support the residents of the area. It can't be farmed and the beauty is gone.</p>
<p>our economy is terrible for the middle class who are trying to make ends meet</p>
<p>Not an issue.</p>
<p>All</p>
<p>Negative effects on the water, roads, and air are likely to negatively affect our county economy. The few jobs such mining operations would involve would not outweigh the boost to the economy from tourism--our county's major income comes from tourism and agriculture. Sand on the waters, sand on the fields, are not likely to help.</p>
<p>Mining always ends, (boom or bust)(the mineral body runs out) in an area , look at how to accommodate the area when that happens, A good long range plan.</p>
<p>We should minimally have a severance tax on mined sand, like most other states do where extractive industries proliferate.</p>
<p><b>MINING WILL HELP ECONOMY !</b></p>
<p>Local economy has not benefited greatly from sand mining. The region and state are at risk to lose tourist business, due to the industrial encroachment. Businesses that might have been interested in the area will look elsewhere, as there are very little compatible businesses with sand mining, other than gas stations. The people employed by the sand mine companies are often from out of state, and do not settle in the area, but return to their home states when not hauling. How can any of this be interpreted as good for the local, regional or state economy?</p>
<p>Effect of permit review on CountyCost of permit review on CountyWhat doesn't get done when permits are reviewed.Cost of highway repair on state, county and local roadsEffect on property values. Guaranteed value only makes property available at the assessed valuation for more mining expansion.</p>
<p>What jobs? Jobs for a few that will last a few years at the expense of our environment? Everyone should grow up with the aspiration of being a trucker. This is where most of the jobs lie. Look at New Auburn and the crap they are putting up with on the RR and heavy traffic front. This is not exactly a booming community with the advent of transloading facilities. Take a look at the number of homes that are being sold in these areas. The taxes from these homes far out weigh the taxes paid my these companies. The clean up costs of pollution don't begin to off set the taxes paid by these companies</p>
<p>This one is so important --- these are the treasures that so many of us are passionate about -- what is Wisconsin if we loose these --- what is our ethical responsibility to protect wildlife and our own habitat for the exchange of money for a few individuals and the inevitable pollution from fracking when we could be implementing green technology in the home setting and business.</p>
<p>This is a boom and bust and we will have to pick up the pieces after this demand for our sand is gone. Our economy is based on tourism and we are losing that. Also people that were interested in moving here change their mind and look elsewhere. The effect on our local economies isn't taken into count when they bring in a mine. Only the jobs of the mine are looked at not the loss of jobs, etc. For instance a local cafe closed as people aren't coming to the area due to the ugly, dirty, dangerous mine.</p>
<p>How many actual jobs and pay will be created for local residents? How many people travel with the mine creating no jobs at all? What tax revenue do these mines create? What tax break is given to them by government? What do and what have mines promised to counties/locals if mine is allowed in area, i.e. repairs to school, government buildings? Where does money go from mine infractions? State budgets? local budgets that was affected by mine infractions?</p>
<p>It's temporary. Yes, some are getting jobs, but many are just shifting jobs. Some other companies can't fill positions because of the shortage of workers. In the long run we're no better off.</p>
<p>I have grave concerns about our area, which is rich in tourism, will be effected by the commercial sand mining industry, perhaps diminishing the tourist visits to the area.</p>

<p>Third-party researchers (actual scientists) should investigate the effect of sand mining on the on the economy. This investigation should be extensive and ongoing. The DNR and the mining industry should pay for this research and the extensive publication of it. No lawyers or marketers should be involved in the process.</p>
<p>crawford</p>
<p>There are other ways to support the state economy than through mining. Once the mine and land is gone, what would be left to support the economy then? Who will want to live here? As such, consideration must also be given to the future economy, not just the immediate economy. What other options could there be besides this? Surely, this state has more to offer than mines. What about tourism? Perhaps more focus should be placed on how to attract tourism from Illinois, which would preserve the landscape, air and water rather than pollute it for short-term gain.</p>
<p>The creation of jobs seems to be at a minimum. The experts come in from outside the area and don't take up permanent residence. Only a small percentage of the jobs go to local people. I'm sure there's plenty of money in the form of taxes but shouldn't that money be given directly back to the people who must endure this inconvenience? Is it enough to repair the holes they leave in our environment and our economy once the world moves on from the destructive forces of oil?</p>
<p><a href="http://www.sandpointimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf">http://www.sandpointimes.com/pdf/frac-sand-impact-tourism-property-values.pdf</a></p>
<p>Track local, regional, and state government costs associated with frac sand mining. Too often those costs are considered the act of doing business. If a study, inspection, survey, etc. is required, it needs to be attributed to the cost of mining not the cost of doing business. The real cost of what these mines are costing the state needs to be considered. Cost of additional staff, inspectors, analyzing surveys, etc. should be attributed to mining. These costs are being put to the taxpayers and not to the corporations making the profits. These costs should be charged back to the mining industry. No new mines should be permitted until these costs are recovered. Tracking the household income of the local, region and state levels will become evident when those people with the higher incomes leave the area due to health/environmental concerns. Will the number of organic farms dwindle due to the neighboring mines? Consider loss of tourism dollars due to the landscape changes, air and water quality issues.</p>
<p>Slowing the sand mining down could help policymakers make better decisions regarding long-term economical impact. Making a quick buck is not always sustainable, especially in this case. <a href="http://www.mprnews.org/story/2013/02/18/environment/frac-sand-mining-concerns">http://www.mprnews.org/story/2013/02/18/environment/frac-sand-mining-concerns</a></p>
<p>Cost analysis of almost costs compared to local benefit</p>
<p>Although some local residents may gain some jobs, out of state companies reap the profits. Wisconsin loses on tourism dollars, natural resources, public and environmental health, and wear and tear on infrastructure.</p>
<p>the purported increase in jobs really don't affect very many local persons; many of the workers are imported from other states.</p>
<p>The property values of homes near mines are cut in half. The tourist industry in Buffalo county will be ruined by mining and truck traffic.</p>
<p>The economic impact of frac-sand production in west central Wisconsin is likely to be quite small. The jobs associated with it will make up only a fraction of one percent of total employment. Over the last twenty years, the Wisconsin economy has created about the same number of jobs every single month on average. Within the frac-sand region that number of jobs has been created about every two months. That level of job creation will have little impact region-wide. Using four quite different counties that are already significantly involved in frac-sand production, Trempealeau, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa, we explore the sources of their economic vitality over the last several decades. We document that land-based export activities such as mining, agriculture, forest products and other manufacturing have not been a source of economic vitality. The primary sources of job growth have been in the service sectors such as medical and other professional services. from <a href="http://www.iatp.org/documents/the-economic-benefits-and-costs-of-frac-sand-mining-in-west-central-wisconsin">http://www.iatp.org/documents/the-economic-benefits-and-costs-of-frac-sand-mining-in-west-central-wisconsin</a></p>
<p>The impact on the economy is second to safety of the population!</p>
<p>A brief boost to some land owners incomes, but long range drop in property value. The transport of sand by road and rail has an impact all along the route. Then we are left with a landscape that has been devastated and the money is gone.</p>
<p>economic benefits of energy conservation, renewable energy, etc.</p>
<p>Wisconsin is a wonderful place that people like to come to see GREEN, not metal littered all over, they come for Forests, Beaches, Orchards, not Sand mines. Removing an area for a Sand Mine is narrow sited in believing the income from the mine will offset the loss of income from tourism, as once the mine is empty and the spills have destroyed the surrounding land and water contaminating everything, people will not come back to the land to rest and relax, they will have moved on to another part of WI or even another state, thus perminately penalizing the local and possibly the state economy.</p>
<p>The jobs are minimal. They are negated by the loss of jobs in tourism, real estate, hunting and fishing guides, shops and hotel stays. It is short sighted to toss good existing jobs into the air for a few temporary mining jobs. Study should be taken of what we have already lost and will lose in terms of existing pre-mining jobs.</p>
<p>In the long run does farming make more sense than a short term sand mine both financially and economically? A detailed study to look at this debate should be looked at.</p>
<p>The economy can be very negatively affected - property values nearby go down, less agricultural production, less tourism. Our state could become an undesirable place to live if we allow it to be destroyed with sand mining.</p>
<p>Industrial vs recreation vs habitation vs property values.</p>
<p>unsustainable returns long terms</p>

Overall effects on property values. Prevalence of families unable to sell homes adjacent to frac sand sites due to loss of property value. Jobs created by frac sand mining since 2005. Farming jobs lost to frac sand mining since 2005. Impacts on tourism.
I'm concerned about the turn 'em and burn 'em mentality of businesses that are owned and operated by none locals who don't have skin in the game. Im concerned about the long range economic impact on very small communities gearing up for big profits borrowing and investing money that is very likely a short lived resource.
To residents
Consider the long-term effects of what happens when the price of frac sand drops to nothing, these big mining interests will simply drop tools and walk away. This can NOT be allowed to happen! Hold firm the high ground and do NOT let them strip the natural beauty of the land that means so much to so many people, all in the name of the almighty dollar.
How will the economy benefit long-term if once all the sand is gone, will the economy simply return to what it was before?
Though a landowner who sells to the sand mining company will benefit greatly, others in the area are subjected to the air and water pollution that reduces greatly the quality of life. Property values plummet. Local costs lead to increased taxes to repair the inevitable damage to local roads.
What are the benefits and costs. How much does it cost local taxpayers in road deterioration and loss of tourism? The few jobs they add aren't needed in Trempealeau county as Ashley can't fill its plants but they claim there are so many jobs. What are the benefits when an area really doesn't need the jobs, are the sand mines just making money and sending it out of the area? Do they buy anything locally?
costs to local governments number of local jobs created duration of jobs created quantified impacts on ecosystem services proportion of revenues: local vs. exported impact on tourism and recreation externalized costs
Increasing delay in renewable energy future.
Work with the department of tourism and historic preservation to improve the area.
If FSM were done in a responsible and environmentally friendly way, much of what is happening would not be such an issue. My gut feeling is that mining companies want to hurry and glut the land for all that they can get before regulation attempts to set in. They are taking advantage of inadequate zoning, lack of regulation, and a dire shortage of DNR personnel. Who is benefitting from FSM? NOT Wisconsinites.
All corporations engaged in fracking in Wisconsin should be adequately bonded to ensure they can afford to clean up the messes they make. They should be required to put money up front to pay for pollution. A damage deposit!
Renewable energies and sustainable green jobs.
No real benefit to the economy, rich people getting richer.
What other industries can be stimulated that are environmentally friendly
Yep vs. others economy...
What impact will having stricter laws regulating this industry have on various companies? Compare this to: Without regulation, what is the expected costs in health care in a community? What is the impact on the recreational economy due to lost hunting and fishing revenues? Loss of residents in a community due to moving?
\$ amount brought into the state, vs the \$ amount spent on fixing infrastructure and related health issues
Long term benefits of frac sand mining. What happens when all the frac sand has been mined? Will jobs still remain? Will jobs offered by the frac sand mining companies be available to local workers? Will local workers have the necessary skills to be employed by a frac sand mining operation?
On a positive note, it does provides jobs. Whether or not they are long term and pay well with benefits is yet to be determined
I do not know anyone who works for the sand plant or railroads so I wonder what they are actually contributing in that way.
Short and long term growth in jobs and pay. Overall decrease in land and home values
I think any positive change to our local and state economy is good and should be positively encouraged. With a link to the oil industry, it may be a volatile business in our area, but that doesn't mean it still isn't good in SO many other ways
who pays for the long term negative impacts of degraded air and water quality? Who pays for cleanup when the mines shut down and leave? what kind of contamination will remain after the jobs are gone?
Respecting each community's allowance or disapproval of each sand mine that wants to do business there.
What study has been done? Is there a study that compares what it costs the local economy compared to what is given in basically bribes ? Who benefits ? Where does the money go? Trempeleau County has the most mines but is their community better for it? There should be all kinds of data by now. Where is it? Dr. Deller says mining is a flickering business ..50 or more truck drivers just lost their jobs in Chippewa. Are the unemployment costs considered??
I assume the operation will provide some employment.
85% of our county workers have to leave the county to go to work, because there is no work. with a population of 13,000 persons, the only local jobs are farm hands and poor paying minimum wage jobs unless you work for the government. Lets get some mines open, 100 years or more of work available in mines in this county alone.
The state economy is struggling under the current administration and is forcing regional and local economies into spending cuts in crucial areas. Funding is being cut in areas that provide for all in order to pay for programs & electives for the few able to afford it. Pressure to cu funding primarily for political personal gain is straining our financial resources and is not in our best interest.

<p>We should be focusing on other, less damaging jobs for our economy. Gas/oil is a 20th-century fuel; WI needs to get with the times and focus on solar and wind. We will lose frac sand mining jobs anyway, the more the solar and wind industries grow &amp; overtake the oil industry.</p>
<p>Are the sand jobs really taken by local people. Are they really spending money locally?</p>
<p>People will not locate near mining areas, property values will decrease, hunting and fishing and outdoor recreation will be negatively impacted, less forestry and logging, businesses will be reluctant to move their families near mining</p>
<p>Of course you need to consider local, regional, and state economic impact.</p>
<p>Economic plus to the area.</p>
<p>Definite stimulant for this part of the state.</p>
<p>The dnr must understand the nature of the cost that mining has on other industries, including tourism, as well as others.</p>
<p>This is a big issue and should be greatly considered. This business is great for the economy and nobody can logically deny that. It provides lots of high quality jobs.</p>
<p>Very concerned</p>
<p>The industry should pay for the experts required to evaluate rather than the taxpayers. Rules should be clear so that the industry stops the tactic of threatening lawsuits to already burdened cities, towns, counties and state budgets.</p>
<p>Frac sand mining brings less to the local economy in terms of jobs and tax revenue than it displaces in tourism, farming, and value of local property.</p>
<p>Ripping WI apart for short-term benefits is not the long-term solution.</p>
<p>The number and type of jobs that the sand mining industry brings to Wisconsin. The longevity of these jobs. How much revenue (taxes, fees, etc.) the sand mining industry brings the state.</p>
<p>Being a small business owner I have declined hiring additional employees due to the sand. It has not brought a brand of people, politics, and economic development that I would like my employees to relocate to. I am looking to relocate my business and employees to an area promoting professional business development. Are we trading long term professional business growth for short term sand development? Yes in the case of our business.</p>
<p>The true cost of sand mines to local schools in the long run when mines close. Percent of WEDC dollars sent to sand mine areas.</p>
<p>In certain areas, nonmetallic mining can certainly have a significant economic benefit. However, this does not hold true universally wherever a mining operation locates. In many instances, the mining operation is replacing several farm operations that have provided income for more than 100 years. Loss of this economic base should always be taken into account when determining any economic benefit, whether that is measured in the value of crops, milk, forestry, etc.</p>
<p>Mining is a drain. How much are these meeting costing the public? How much will road repair cost the county? How much does it cost to go through the hearing and approval process? How many small business's are lost due to the increased truck traffic? How much is lost from the loss of tourism? Does this really balance out with the out of state business that are making the millions of dollars? How much does the state charge on a per ton basis for the sand? How much revenue does the state get after all the expenses are looked at including the health impacts on the poor (most rural people are lower in income than urban) so the state has to pay more for health care. The effects of the water drawdown on tourism and the general negative feelings that the mines create in communities.</p>
<p>The local economy will only minimally be affected because most large equipment is purchased outside of our region.</p>
<p>The only guy that would benefit from this is the one who started it.No one else would benefit from it!</p>
<p>Typical of boom/bust endeavors like this, a study of economic changes in existing areas of mining operations is needed. Other similar studies show that no direct benefit exists. It's rape and scrape and goodbye...</p>
<p>The few jobs these businesses help, are ridiculous. Most of these jobs are filled by already existing truck drivers, that come from very far away places. AS far as other jobs included in this industry, It is no where near the promised 250,000 the current governor proposed. It is evident he relied on sand mining to take off big. Thank God the joke is on him. Nevertheless, many of these sand mining business are local people jumping in on the money making aspects, and truly not knowing what the business involves. They make numerous mistakes and all to the detriment of our land and air and just creating Big Ugly holes all over the place. Not to mention, the homes are losing value for selling due to all this disturbance, and the messy views, not to mention the before mentioned air and water concerns.</p>
<p>We have done studies with economists from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, showing that the sand mines are detrimental to the economy of Pepin County, which is based on tourism. The mining jobs are not usually given to people of the county--both because there aren't many young men and because the ones there are have little experience in this.</p>
<p>Is ruining ground water worth the jobs? Are you prepared for buying people out of their homes, disrupting lives of WI citizens, creating a no-life-zone?</p>
<p>The economy should not benefit at the expense of residents, farmers and business in the immediate area of a sand mine or processing plant. Those folks should not bear the lifestyle burden involved, and simply buying folks out is an unsatisfactory solution for those who wish to stay. There should be ample and adequate mitigation measures put into place for them, and their groundwater must be protected as to both quantity and quality.</p>
<p>Tax revenue vs. cost to the tax payers at all levels both direct and indirect (i.e. environmental, human health, future land utilization, etc.)</p>
<p>Sand is finite. The beauty of WI natural scenery is forever if mines don't ruin it.</p>

<p>What will the effect be on local tourist economy? On hunting? Fishing? How many jobs does the average mine provide? How many of those will be local jobs? Study the effects of boom and bust mining economies. What kinds of economies are feasible in post-mining economies?</p>
<p>Please work with other agencies to study the overall economic impact to the region. Data suggests the economic benefit to the region is outweighed by the economic costs, environmental degradation, and health risks.</p>
<p>Are we seeing anybody moving into communities with heavy mining? I know New Auburn has not seen any increases in student population even with so many mines. Have people stopped building homes in mining area? How many homes have converted to rental properties? The New Auburn area has had a lot of home being purchased by mining companies and are being used as rental properties. How will this affect the local economy?</p>
<p>all aspects</p>
<p>Sand mines are not a sustainable industry. Some are currently laying off workers due to the decline in prices. They will probably increase production again. But the point is made that they are episodic and not long term. The mines will be depleted and the jobs will go elsewhere. In the meantime other jobs that are far less destructive of the landscape may be endangered as they do not want to be located in an industrial zone (namely a sand mine extraction/processing/loading area.</p>
<p>More jobs, more local income</p>
<p>Positive impacts on the economy by mining is a propagandist statement. Yes, we will see decent low to mid level jobs for 5 or maybe 10 years but after the sand is gone the jobs are gone. Sand company suit wearers are filthy rich and the laborers are out looking for the next low level job while they collect unemployment. This perception that because we are the badger state and mining is so much a part of our history is not an acceptable selling point.</p>
<p>loss in property values of adjacent landowners, agricultural land taken out of production, degraded, impact on area livestock. Negative impact on tourism, hunting, people sell out &amp; leave area, communities divided &amp; dissolved</p>
<p>This is not sustainable economic activity; we should be investing in the kinds of activities that can remain; if we are to pursue it, though, we should make sure that as much of the profits as possible remain in the local economy and that local workers are employed</p>
<p>Yes please</p>
<p>ECONOMY</p>
<p>The poorest counties in the USA year after year are places where mining takes place. Billions of dollars are taken out of some of the coal mines and the people living there just get the toxic waste and moon like terrain. Sand mining will be the same few gain usually far away while locals get the mess.</p>
<p>Oh...that's right! Big jobs...NOT! They just laid off 55 people here at EOG. NICE ECONOMIC GROWTH...NOT!</p>
<p>I have talked with some of the workers at the local hospital where I volunteer and some rent in our area, with 5 or 6 renting one place. They are not workers from Wisconsin, they are workers transported here for short periods of time from Texas, Georgia and down south...the money does not really help our state as it will take more \$ than that just to repair the roads...it will take millions to try to replace our once healthy and plentiful water.</p>
<p>Any economic gains from frac sand should be discounted due to the adverse affects the industry has on everything else we value in Wisconsin.</p>
<p>Exploitation of resources for profit is deadly to all of you/us including those of us tallying this survey</p>
<p>Creates jobs, but at what cost?</p>
<p>Is Industrial Sand Mining important for our economy, how important is it.</p>
<p>Ruin our tourism.</p>
<p>No matter what they claim, my income has not been elevated at all. The savings we see at the gas pump, comes from the fact that our oil wells are back in production, not from silica sand mining. Oil wells here in the U.S., are finally uncapped, and back in production, because it is profitable again.</p>
<p>Regulate mining to provide safe well paying jobs for as long as possible.NO GUT AND GET MINING.</p>
<p>Assure the positive impacts are not overstated and the negative impacts are not understated.</p>
<p>I do not know if it is helping or hindering the local economy but the area is not as scenic as it was before the sand mines.</p>
<p>We can do just fine without industries that hurt us.</p>
<p>Sustainability- how long will this last? is it another trend that will disappear in a few years when a new energy source becomes more popular?</p>
<p>See above.</p>
<p>the land values are awful we were warned when we moved here the land and real-estate was worthless by the frac mine and people couldnt sell there homes . nice homes worthless</p>
<p>We compete for vacationing dollars with Minnesota. We cannot win the competition when our beautiful land, lakes and streams are tainted and destroyed. Once you have lost the public's belief of Wisconsin as a great vacationing spot you have lost major dollars. We love the Mississippi River Road. It is just as easy for us to spend our dollars in Minnesota when we travel along the Mississippi. Why would we want to spend dollars in a mining villiage?</p>
<p>All the research I have seen has pointed to nothing more than a small bump in the local economy, and unfilled promises on the number of jobs the mines say they will provide for the local people.</p>
<p>Please take a close look at the actual jobs created by mining and the economic impact.</p>

<p>Consider ALL costs, including loss of productive lands and loss of property values to neighbors. Include the costs to the State and local governments to develop ordinances, negotiate agreements, monitor, and enforce. Incorporate the Buffalo County UW-Extension studies. Identify who these corporations are and where most of the money is going. And address the local economic impact in 20 years once the mine closes.</p>
<p>One thing that is evident, is that these mines and processing plants, with the exception of truckers, hire from outside the area. One has only to look at the towns that have actually declined. Alma Center, Merrillan, Augusta, to name a few. I spent the time going to these towns and most in Trempealeau County. There is no town saving going on. The consensus is that they wish to God, we had said no.</p>
<p>Don't know of more than one or two locals working at these facilities.</p>
<p>Having a sand mine nearby decreases the value of farm and residential property. How will property owners be compensated?</p>
<p>How much of the total profit generated by frac sand mining stays in Wisconsin? Where do the profits go? Do these number change if the sand mine operator is a Wisconsin resident?</p>
<p>In the short term, mining may benefit certain aspects of the local economy. But what about long-term? Will it mean less people moving to the area, lower property values, less forestry income, and less tourist income? This should be looked into.</p>
<p>I really don't believe that a state as dependent on tourism as Wisconsin, can stand to have this industry expand. I feel it will be an economic loss as well as a health hazard to our state inhabitants.</p>
<p>Well, the frac sand operations have been around for a couple years. Not sure who locally has gained anything. I see some yellow vests around, but also know friends who started with the frac sand companies who are now laid off.</p>
<p>The negative long term impacts on the environment and human health need to be measured against short-term benefits to the local economy. Is it worth it? What legacy are we leaving for the future generations?</p>
<p>The income from these mines is only temporary and once they leave we will have a bigger and more costly environmental mess to fix than we can even imagine.</p>
<p>There must be analysis of both short and long term effects</p>
<p>It seems most of the money generated by the mines leaves the state (unless it's used to bribe.....er, campaign contributions of state politicians. It seems in the grand scheme a lot fewer locals are employed in the sand mine operations than expected.</p>
<p>We should be charging a resources fee to the owners of these mining companies to offset our State budget deficit.</p>
<p>What will this do to our tourism being the drift less area along with lost revenue for the state because they are destroying the natural habitat for our wildlife</p>
<p>Our road is new but my parents yard is full of sand due to washouts. If it has improved the local economy we have not noticed.</p>
<p>Where are the people that were employed by these companies going to find work? Are they expected to re-locate for the next big project?</p>
<p>Our local and regional economy is great, before the sand mines it was stagnant and used up.</p>
<p>I think it is a good source of income for all of the above, plus the local land owner(s)who can sell the sand. I think they should be able to sell the product off their land as they see fit.</p>
<p>Helps all the business in the area regional and state</p>
<p>Provide info to the public so they get accurate info</p>
<p>Environmental degradation detracts from the tourism that is so important in the Driftless area</p>
<p>I am concerned about all the topics related to frac sand mining listed on this page. Please keep in mind conflicting aspects of the economy when FSM are present where other uses such as farming and tourism also exist and usually pre-exist the FSM. Jobs in mining are notorious for being temporary and set up an area for a boom and bust economy that is not sustainable.</p>
<p>We have had neighbors forced to leave because they could not even sleep in their house. It was across the road from a new mine. Of course, the only people that would buy was the mine. The mining may be just a very short term increase in jobs for some but will have devastating results and effects on the land and its future use. My taxes went down \$2.35 in our township. So far, I have seen little benefit in our local area. Our roads are much worse off both local and county. My home is something my husband and I have worked for all of our lives. We live on land once owned by my great grandparents. Why are my rights as a property owner and taxpayer and contributing member to our local community not important. Why can my property values and quality of life be taken away because of this intrusion of industrial sand mines that I now see out my front window. To them, I am a NIMBY!!</p>
<p>Before the sand mine, currently and predicted future</p>
<p>The amount of revenue and jobs sand mines bring to the area</p>
<p>Short term, never as sold to the locals, and inconsistent.</p>
<p>The increase of jobs in the local area is great</p>
<p>At what price do we pay for a few jobs and when the strip all the sand they need they will be gone and we have a big empty spot where there used to be bluffs and valleys.</p>
<p>I don't personally feel there has been much improvement in our economy. Another concern is that since we can get all this sand for frac ing- we will see less money, energy, and time finding solutions to our energy independence and use of wind and solar power.</p>
<p>Our land values are now inflated in Bridge Creek due to sand plant purchases, and yet our land isn't worth anything. Our tax burden negates the small economic impact.</p>

<p>I'm sure there will be some short term economic benefits from mining. If you look forward though, I can't help but think that in the end it will cost our state money because of the health effects mining will cause. Also the cost of road repair will hurt the economy.</p>
<p>I understand and appreciate that the sand mining operations bring good paying jobs and people who can afford to build homes, educate their children and purchase goods that in general stimulate the local economy. However, our roads are ruined, trains derail, and our land is ruined. What is the ultimate cost of this industry?</p>
<p>Although good for the economy, the flip side of the coin is the destruction of beautiful land and habitat. The DNR needs to regulate how many and where these mines are located</p>
<p>The town I am from was dieing. It is now very busy and growing. Not one buissness owner regrets that mine coming to town. They spend their money locally and hire alot of locals to work there. We then spend alot of money in town.</p>
<p>It will ruin roads and cause the rest of us to pay for the damage.</p>
<p>The only ones getting rich are the ones selling their land to the sand mine companies. Then they move away out of state.</p>
<p>Are the sand mines helping the local economy? Are the local governments allowing the sand mines to contribute to the economy or are governments preventing the sand mines from helping out? I.E. giving donations to local causes</p>
<p>It may help them, but at the cost of quality of life. Again, not a professional; you know more about what studies are available than I do. I just live here and have to put up with noise and light pollution, fine particulate matter one can see when the snow melts, rough roads, dodging trucks, coughing, etc.</p>
<p>How can you put a price on our health and safety?</p>
<p>The costs are outweighing any private benefits to the public.</p>
<p>How can you put a price on our health and happiness?</p>
<p>We should not be subsidizing the oil industry. The real cost of producing oil needs to drive the market - not some gov't subsidized cost. There should be no subsidies for the frac sand industry.</p>
<p>What? They should tax the living daylight out of them.</p>
<p>It always comes down to money.</p>
<p>Very important;</p>
<p>All public record. Photos of all these concerns and the documentation made easily accessible to public. Send out flyers and keep us informed. So we can still have a voice in this.</p>
<p>Jobs are limited.....to now....no future....when gone...will be gone!</p>
<p>Vast majority of the money moves out of state. Automation limits the amount of jobs produced. Not sustainable.</p>
<p>Same as 12 and how much does the sickness cost the govt and taxpayer for medical bills?</p>
<p>The economy has not been established yet except for property sold to mines</p>
<p>I don't think it has brought many jobs to the state of Wisconsin and if mining has they are not worth it.</p>
<p>Happy people have jobs, but at what cost?</p>
<p>Please consider the long-term effects of polluted air and water on tourism and resulting revenue diminishment. Who will want to visit a state that's been ravaged by profiteers?</p>
<p>Neighborhoods near rail and roads are being negatively impacted. My sister and her husband have been unable to sell home that is located close to rail tracks (less than 1/2 mile). Walls shake and noise/vibrations scare potential buyers.</p>
<p>I do not see the major benefit to employment and the cost/benefit ratio does not line up to justify the extensive development of open mining.</p>
<p>Do mines really contribute to the community in a positive way as they say they do?</p>
<p>helps alot</p>
<p>Thank the criminal for all the jobs he provides.</p>
<p>Determine long term affect on state economy.</p>
<p>This opportunity has made some rich but the vast majority of us are poorer for the lack of habitat, loss of water quality, loss of autonomy, fear for safety, cost of infrastructure borne by local entities long into the future, and lack of any meaningful compensation based on extraction amounts. When the mines are gone so are what little economic benefit they do bring but ultimately we're left holding the sand when they take their money and run.</p>
<p>Boom and bust</p>
<p>Economic impact especially as it pertains to loss of other business due to mining activity.</p>
<p>The contention is that sand mining operation can potentially provide a benefit to the economy by providing jobs. While this can be true, some of the questions requiring evaluation that should also be included are: Where do the majority of the profits from this activity go? Is this an out-of-state company that will siphon off the economic benefit or will the bulk of the money remain local? What would be the duration of the benefit? A year? A decade? What would be the costs of mitigation and monitory as balanced against the potential benefit of the operation?</p>
<p>How much of the money generated from allowing these mines would actually remain in the local area / state region / state as a whole. What has happened in other areas. Change in poverty level even when accounting for what are essentially migrant workers who come into these projects?</p>
<p>I know a few people who are working for the mines but I do not see any major local difference yet. It does not benefit me in any way.</p>
<p>I get the economy end of the mining debate, but I don't think it's worth sacrificing your way of life for money.</p>

Each township with mining should collect a local tax to compensate for road damage and quality of life. The state should enact a tax for every ton of sand to be used only for monitoring of human health, habitat and compliance.
impact on local land values, including businesses
Certainly tourism will be become nonexistent in this area. The mines destroy the environment removing wild life. The beauty of this area that draws hunters, campers, and visitors is gone. In the long run, the sand operations will not improve the economy of this area. Land values drop dramatically.
Some people are getting rich at the expense of neighbors whose property value decreases and they must live with the noise and dangers of the mining. Most people in the high paying jobs are not from this area.
This industry has been a Godsend for the whole Chippewa Valley and entire state. I can only hope such prosperity for all can grow. Everyone benefits directly or indirectly.
Land and housing prices will drop, no one wants to buy homes next to these noisy things.
like the jobs for the locals
positive, positive, positive
Not the big deal for local jobs that the mines would have us believe.
How do sand mines contribute to rural schools budget? What is the total economic impact to a community with a sand mine?
Should be a kick back to the local and regional economics. State gets their from increased income tax
Thriving!
This is a tricky one. I'd like to see a study done comparing tax revenues for cities/counties/townships increases since the boom vs estimated loss in tourism dollars (and maybe add in additional costs for any roadway upkeep or service increases because of mining). As well as projected revenues vs projected losses well into the future. Eventually this industry will dry up, how long it will take after that to get our habitats back and tourism back to pre-mining levels. Looking at it in 5 or 10 year increments may not be enough, I'm talking 30, 40, 50 years. Not what is best fiscally for the next year or two, but how will this industry help or hurt the next generation of Wisconsin residents? Too often we only look to short term benefits, that is not the way we have to look at environmental policy.
Frack mines drive up property value when booming, making local land unattainable for local residents. Once the mines pack up and leave the land is left ravaged and of little value. Mining tends to be volatile, swinging through booms into busts. These fluctuations can be quite frequent and quite deep. This creates uncertainty about mining jobs and payroll that disrupts communities and depresses local economies. Labor-saving technological change is constantly reducing the number of jobs associated with any given level of mine production. This causes an ongoing loss of jobs even when production is steady or rising. Miners recognize this uncertainty about employment and choose to live away from mines, commuting long distances to work or leaving their families 'at home' while they temporarily re-locate to work. This leads to substantial leakage of the mining payroll out of the local community. Mines tend to have limited connections with the local economy, especially if the mine is located in a rural area. With limited commercial infrastructure, the local economy cannot provide the mine with either the equipment or supplies it needs and often cannot even provision the mining households. As a result, the income generated rapidly leaks out of the community. Mining is very landscape intensive and has often been associated with significant air and water pollution. That environmental degradation makes mining districts unattractive locations for both homes and non-mining businesses. Mining in a variety of ways can discourage or displace other economic activities. In that sense, the economic stimulus provided by the mine is offset by the economic losses also associated with the mine. <a href="http://www.iatp.org/documents/the-economic-benefits-and-costs-of-frac-sand-mining-in-west-central-wisconsin#sthash.62fG47PU.dpuf">http://www.iatp.org/documents/the-economic-benefits-and-costs-of-frac-sand-mining-in-west-central-wisconsin</a>
A few great jobs, some mid-level plant jobs. Now we're seeing layoffs as the price of oil stays low. This is a boom/bust business.
There must be a cost to benefit analysis when these mines are being considered. Sometimes the cost is just simply too high.
Yes sand processing provides jobs and an increase to local economies but it must be balanced with other issues.
I don't believe the local area will benefit from this. A little maybe, not in the long run. The only people that it will definitely affect is the property owner of the land that the mine wants. They will have money in their pockets and the people that have to live by the mine, or contend with the noise and trucks will not receive a dime. Only the annoyance.
See #11 above. Many transporters are not from the local vicinity and dollars flee the local economy. Badger Mining in far west central Jackson County has been in operation for 40 or more years and nearby Village of Taylor continues to deteriorate. That economy has not been influenced positively.
Not know at this time
Not all sand mines are created equal so of course those right under our nose are shown as a shining example of responsibility and stewardship. But I don't trust them any further than we can see them. Their general 'swoop in and git 'r done before the locals wake up' tactics are out of the bag. Unfortunately, like everything: just follow the money. It's only when the potential profit for the the mining company is outweighed by their costs that things will change. <a href="http://chippewa.com/special-section/progress/dunn-county-sand-mine-designated-by-state-as-a-green/article_87fae438-dd2b-11e2-a63e-001a4bcf887a.html">http://chippewa.com/special-section/progress/dunn-county-sand-mine-designated-by-state-as-a-green/article_87fae438-dd2b-11e2-a63e-001a4bcf887a.html</a> Employment opportunities are minimal when compared to impact. Mining companies - and oil, coal, and gas, etc., will volunteer nothing unless forced to. Why would they?
loss of tourism, loss of land values, it will drive people away,

<p>The mines have increase employment in our area greatly. They seem to hire mostly locals and from surrounding areas. People have moved to the area to gain employment. This has increased rentals needed, home sales, and motel business. All these employees, need gas, something to eat, drink, etc.....which comes from local businesses.</p>
<p>Jobs promised vs. actual jobsAmount of jobs held by localsHow many layoffs have already occurred</p>
<p>Rural landowners getting displaced and quality of life going down.</p>
<p>Again, let's look at the long term benefits verses short term gains.</p>
<p>The local, regional and state economy will vastly improve by allowing sand mining. Think jobs,jobs,jobs!!</p>
<p>They have not hired large numbers of local workers as was initially indicated. Many of the workers came with the mines and few have bought homes or live near the mines. The large equipment was not bought in our county--we don;t even have dealers in our area. Governor Scotty has given them tax breaks that limit the state income and locally people have not felt the good outweighs the bad (other than those who sold land for mines). The sale of the sand itself may benefit the states where the oil/gas businesses are but we don't see the sales tax at our end.</p>
<p>Jobs are good to keep young people here</p>
<p>Forecast the economic impact of the frac sand industry on local, regional and state economies at 5,10, 20, 50 and 100 year increments.</p>
<p>For relatively minor handful of jobs and equipment purchases outlined in the 2012 report, there will be a huge negative impact on property values and quality of life. The overwhelming financial benefits accrue to out of state corporate interests. This will not only impact the local and regional economy due to lack of diversity and the loss of new small farming and business start-ups, but people will leave Wisconsin and the state budget will begin to lose tax revenues.</p>
<p>Consider the effect of sand mining on local economies, particularly the boom-bust nature of mining and lack of good paying jobs created for people living in the local vicinity. Most of the jobs created by sand mining have not been helpful to local economies.</p>
<p>What money is truly returned to local economy?Wage impacts for locals?</p>
<p>Data on whether or how much the industry benefits the state, minus the human health, environmental, quality of life issues listed above.</p>
<p>Health and ecology should come before the economy.</p>
<p>I support sand mining and the economy that comes with it. It would be nice to try to link how many secondary jobs are created because of the mining in the area. Not simply the people directly employed by the mines them selves but how about the gas stations where trucks fill up and stop. The Equipment salesmen and service men. All of the architects, land surveyors geologist and the list goes on and on.</p>
<p>frac sand mining profits mostly out of state corporations. there is not appreciable tax per ton on sand to even remotely cover the cost of damage to the states roads, view sheds, habitats, water, air, health and infrastructure.</p>
<p>Our health, clean lakes, rivers and ground water should be put ahead of the economy. Without these we have nothing.</p>
<p>Here's the big political rub that no one really wants to talk about. Yes we need business, but no we do not need a business that does not wish to cooperate with state and local regulations. We also did not need these large business stirring up all this mess. I can't blame them for doing their homework, they knew we were not prepared with state or local regulations. Our state and local governments need to take their job of looking out for the public good much more seriously and get some type of law into place that allows the time for our DNR and others need to properly evaluate and then proceed to issue permits. We can coexist with them, IF we can regulate and monitor them and hold them responsible for their actions.</p>
<p>Frac sand mining has created jobs in Wisconsin. However, mining often runs in a boom-bust cycle. With the recent decline in oil prices, some companies have laid off workers. There is also concern that the jobs that have been created are not going to local residents but rather to specialists who come from out of town. These specialists spend less of their money locally, which hurts the local economy. Property values are another concern. While some properties with valuable frac sand are worth more now, properties next to mines have depreciated in value. Questions also remain as to the viability of local economies long term, such as the level to which a frac sand mine site can be reclaimed and if it can provide economic value after it has been reclaimed. For example, will a former mine site be able to be farmed productively after reclamation occurs?Frac sand mines may bring some money to local economies in the short term, but tourism and other industries may be harmed by the frac sand mining industry and never fully recover. These and other concerns remain. The DNR should review current literature to help local governments and citizens determine the short term and long term economic impacts of frac sand mining. A study by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy titled The Economic Benefits and Costs of Frac-Sand Mining in West Central Wisconsin is a good starting point and should be reviewed by the DNR for inclusion in the strategic analysis. Links to the study are provided below.<a href="http://www.iatp.org/documents/the-economic-benefits-and-costs-of-frac-sand-mining-in-west-central-wisconsin">http://www.iatp.org/documents/the-economic-benefits-and-costs-of-frac-sand-mining-in-west-central-wisconsin</a><a href="http://www.iatp.org/files/2013_05_30_FracSandMining_f.pdf">http://www.iatp.org/files/2013_05_30_FracSandMining_f.pdf</a></p>
<p>tourist dollars? is this short term gain and long term loss?</p>
<p>We need to find better ways of getting jobs than selling out our natural resources . Many resources are not renewable. How do replace that? Sand mines are temporary. We are left with the fallout to fix. That costs a great deal of money. What have we gained?</p>

the state doesn't seem to be getting anywhere and the violations keep happening, the state would profit if the mines were kept in line more, raise the fines and enforce the rules, HiCrush drilled high capacity wells without permits, fine them heavy and let the state make money, not let them drill another high capacity well, or sell another railcar of sand until the pay up. the region doesn't need another mine so they can stockpile the sand somewhere, such as the Milestone Materials on jackson county, they even said that they didn't have a conditional use permit, what are they doing selling fracksand? are they going to be fined now? Are they going to still sell fracksand until they Reapply for industrial in Jackson Co.?

Every area of Wisconsin is in need of good paying high quality jobs, and that is what the sand industry is offering the western portion of the state. It is an industry that needs to have common sense regulations that are enforced fairly and uniformly.

Effects on tourism?Effects on DNR license/permit/fees?Effects on local school funding?Effects on neighboring land values?Effects on local community assets and resources such as roads, electric, etc?

no concern

Good for the sand mines. Bad for land owners. I hope the entire industry goes bust.

All the money seems to leave the state. Can't see that very many people have prospered from the sand rush. People are greedy. Don't see the damage for the dollar signs.

would like to know how many actual locals are hired if only 100 to 1000 are employed by whole company and are any locals doing any work other than labor

While there is no disputing that sand mining has created jobs, these jobs are only good for as long as there is sand to mine. This will not be a long-term sustaining position - the sand will run out. Also, I may be wrong but aren't most of the companies owned by investors outside of Wisconsin? So while they are paying taxes to Wisconsin, the bulk of the money does not stay in Wisconsin.

Why vacation in Wisconsin anymore? The entire landscape has frack sand mines polluting the air and threatening life as we know it. This is what a few major players who dominate the media would have you believe. These players exploit communities they pretend to serve to line their own pockets. Not only are their lies and exaggerations inaccurate, but negativity like this is destructive and becomes self-fulfilling. Wisconsin is a beautiful state and a wonderful place to raise a family. Its time to get the facts straight.

<p>1. The ineffectiveness of fines (they are way too low).2. The lack of consistent, repeated inspections of these mines.3. The process in which citizens can make their complaints known with assurance they will be pursued.4. The willingness to update procedures, regs. as the mining situation changes.5. The effects of this industry on county conservationists, local governments and their lack of funds/personnel to carry out what the DNR expects them to do.</p>
<p>This entire survey will be a waste of time if Gov. Walker's budget proposal goes through, including taking policy-making power away from the NRB and giving it to the secretary. Scientists who know the most information should have the power, not politicians who know next to nothing about biology and geology.</p>
<p>How are fracing programs being received in other areas? Can we learn from their example and not make the same mistakes? I just hope the environment is a primary concern and profits take a back seat.</p>
<p>the importance that standardization of permitting/guideline rules be reitoriated for the purpose of environmental monitoring, industry investment by landowners and mining interests, and local level governmental standardization of permitting. Extremist posing as envirnmentalists are creating unwarranted hysteria at state and local levels that damage land owners rights, national security, economic growth and broad based envirnmental damage by slowing the transition from old fossil fuel technologies to greater usage of natural gas technologies. I think it is important that the DNR address these ramifications once the data has been collected and analized.</p>
<p>Water use in processing...how used? How much? Effects on Aquifers. Compare to agricultural irrigation needs.Tourism...bicycle touring. Trempealeau County has one of the finest bicycle touring areas in the country. More trucks on the roads where now we see some milk trucks daily..grain trucks seasonally; few cars ...Sand trucks are large and dangerous. Young people ride these roads as well as adults. Sand trucks can be hazardous. Why increase that risk...we moved to the rural areas to be safe and enjoy Gods Country. Lets not let big Money take that away from us.</p>
<p>I'd like you to consider putting a cap on the number of frac-sand mines in this state. I think we have enough. I suspect more mines are being applied for because the sand can easily &amp; cheaply extracted. SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES IT'S WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR AND VERY PROUD OF!</p>
<p>Long term effects. What happens when operation over?</p>
<p>No more mining permits.</p>
<p>We need to set a per square mile limit on sand mines as it can destroy everything in our rural areas. This survey didn't gather my opinion of the destruction that sand mines are causing in Wisconsin. I do not benefit in any way from sand mines in my back yard as they degrade our environment and quality of life.</p>
<p>Who's responsible for cleaning up if the water or air quality is negatively affected? Would locals receive fair compensation if they were forced to move or sell their property because of noise, air, or water pollution?</p>
<p>Geologic inventory and maps and directed them to local officials so that they can think now, and not react later.Wisconsin's Smart Growth law essentially ignored geologic aspects of planning.Local units of government must share the blame on this by ignoring mineral and water resources.</p>
<p>Please do dispel all the misinformation out there.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/air/air-quality-and-pollutants/air-pollutants/silica-sand-mining/mpca-rulemaking-for-silica-sand.html">http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/air/air-quality-and-pollutants/air-pollutants/silica-sand-mining/mpca-rulemaking-for-silica-sand.html</a></p>
<p>How the DNR will inflict more stringent rules and regulations to regulate this industry as it has grown more quickly than the DNR can regulate; keeping big money out of the DNRs decisions (it seems 'big business' and money are the big factors since Cathy Stepp took over the DNR and is implementing Walkers attack on the DNR and natural resources)</p>
<p>We who are on the side of preserving the culture, ecology and beauty of western Wisconsin, and won't sell out on our neighbors for personal gain, ask that any further onslaught from frac sand mining be halted. Thank you.</p>
<p>I'm afraid industrial sand mining will be a short-lived practice with long-term effects that will destroy our state and its livelihood. Consumption of natural resources will cost us dearly in the course of our lives and future generations and I believe it to be for naught. We, as a people, need to focus on working WITH the planet first and foremost, then with each other for social and economic improvement. Destructive changes we make to the planet e.g. mining for resources are bound to disrupt its delicate balances and cause tremendous suffering for all living species. Respect.</p>
<p>How does an industrial sand mine effect the image of a community? How does it effect the way the people of a community regard their community? How does it effect the way the families/children who live near the industrial sand mine regard themselves?</p>
<p>I would really like the state to create some regulations regarding these mines. I have seen communities torn apart as they debate new frac sand mines.</p>
<p>Large mines, large profits, not that many local workers share in it.</p>
<p>I think the DNR operates as they need and see fit for what is occuring in the region.</p>
<p>There seems to still be confusion on jurisdiction between local authority NR135 and DNR NR340. The DNR may not be staffed to properly monitor and enforce NR340 or provide assistants to local unit of governments enforcing NR135 with the increase of sand mines.</p>

Documentation:(1) <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Mines/documents/SilicaSandMiningFinal.pdf>(2) <http://www.wisconsinwatch.org/2013/03/03/frac-sand-dnr-violations/>(3) <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2013/02/18/environment/frac-sand-mining-concerns>(4) [http://www.mehaonline.org/sites/default/files/meha/documents/Health%20Concerns%20with%20Frac%20Sand%20Mining\\_0.pdf](http://www.mehaonline.org/sites/default/files/meha/documents/Health%20Concerns%20with%20Frac%20Sand%20Mining_0.pdf)(5) State of Wisconsin v. Hi-Crush(6) [http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front\\_page/article\\_9e9f4c40-8a03-11e2-96d7-0019bb2963f4.html#.UUNo3UaaGKA.gmail](http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front_page/article_9e9f4c40-8a03-11e2-96d7-0019bb2963f4.html#.UUNo3UaaGKA.gmail)(7) <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2013/03/19/politics/frac-sand-mining-minnesota-wisconsin>(8) [http://www.hngnews.com/waunakee\\_tribune/opinion/editorial/article\\_40bbf1de-4bda-11e3-876c-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.hngnews.com/waunakee_tribune/opinion/editorial/article_40bbf1de-4bda-11e3-876c-0019bb30f31a.html)(9) <http://conservationvoters.org/issues/frac-sand-mining/>

The same reports need to be done for new rock quarries as well as sand mines

There are several problems with mining silica sand, or 'frac' sand in Wisconsin. Silica dust, also called crystalline silica, is known to cause a dangerous incurable lung disease called silicosis, which is often fatal (Friis, 2012, pg. 359). There is risk for exposure near mining sites, processing facilities, and along transportation routes, and citizens have found layers of silica dust on their skin and personal belongings in proximity to all these sites (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2012). Silica sand mining also disrupts the natural ecosystem. By removing Wisconsin bluffs, mining causes excessive runoff, potentially leading to waste from mines contaminating groundwater, and damages native plant, animal, and marine ecosystems (WDNR, 2012). Mining operations are often open 24 hours per day, and residents complain about ground shaking from blasting and excessive light and noise pollution (Aiken, J. 2012). After the silica sand is mined, it needs to be cleaned. The cleaning process has several known negative environmental impacts, and scientists worry about a wide range of potential negative consequences, including ground water contamination. Companies wash the sand with large amounts of water and varying chemical concoctions. Current federal legislation, often referred to as the 'Halliburton Loophole', exempts fracking companies from fully disclosing chemical additives, a protection that greatly interferes with regulatory agencies efforts to monitor and research water quality issues resulting from chemical treatment during processing (Earthworks, 2015). The expanding scope of silica sand mining operations has become a large drain on Wisconsin's resources, including infrastructure, drinking water, and air quality.

Check out the Minnesota Environmental Quality report developed by MN to help out Town Board people, leaders, County Board people to consider before they allow mining in their ares. Read the MEA petition carefully Read the Community at Risk report issued in Sept (48 pages) by the Civil Society Institute in Boston. (contact me if you need to do more) Read all the reports issued by citizens. There are many and it would behoove you to have listening sessions with groups of citizens who have experienced first hand many unjust events. Go to the Wisconsin Farmers Union website for their toolkit to find information written by experts about the issues. Read lots of information on what is happening in N.D., in PA, in Colorado, in Texas and various other states impacted by frac sand mining and hydraulic fracturing (at least 34 altogether). There are many websites, facebook pages, scientists who are working on these issues, and individuals who have been working for years on the developing issues. Ron Koshoshek has a wealth of information; the Chippewa Co. Land Conservation office has studies on line; read them. Trempealeau co has written a thick book on the health ramifications of this industry. View the railroad traffic; read about the tanker bombs traveling the Mississippi. If there is a derailment, the volatile gases/oils from the Bakken could kill many people. There may be no place where people can escape with houses and businesses built along the bluffs. Get out into the field; observe boreholes and look for those yet uncovered. People are afraid to report.....or they don't know they should report.....or they may not know what procedure to endure. Study the Dr. Tom Power report produced in May, 2013 on the economic benefits/pitfalls of frac sand mining. Study the violations that have been reported to the Department of Justice. Study the rules that are not working and determine why they are not! Call me: 715-723-6398. I can refer you to numbers of people you can interview. Read about the work accomplished by Dr. Crispin Pierce and his work with students. He has been doing field work on particulates in the Town of Cooks Valley in Chippewa Co. on a daily/weekly basis for a length of time. Check out the work accomplished by the Wisconsin Farmer's Union: hand held

I have seen neighbor going against neighbor from the time that a mine was first proposed. People that lived in harmony no longer get along. I have seen marriages dissolve over the mine issue.

Ground water, surface water and acceptable reclamation plans.

Anything that will maintain or increase regulations on mining operations and eliminate frac sand mining all together.

If there are chemicals involved, I am especially worried. We don't know enough about long-term effects of the chemicals these days to safely use them. In addition, I generally oppose fracking--the articles I've seen suggest to me that it results in decimation of the local ecosystems and economy, leaving people with degraded habitat, water from faucets that is so contaminated that it lights, and water so polluted that it can't be drunk or used.

I know what not to do! For goodness sake do not use barber shop biology like the State has done for deer. Deer may be public sand rock is not public. I find it a bit ironic, that mining and timber are considered bad by public, yet are the very basic resource that helps our standard of living, Agriculture is close to bad but we have to eat.

Consider the carrying capacity of the landscape. How many mines are too many? What is the long-term impact of the wholesale conversion of valuable agricultural land to an extractive industry that will take what it needs, ship it out of Wisconsin to little economic benefit to us, and then leave once the sand is gone, leaving behind a permanent scar on the landscape?