

**DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES IS
MAY 28, 2021: TO ROBERTA
WALLS, NON-METALLIC MINE
COORDINATOR**

**Look for a few ideas below to help
you get started on comments.**



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 28, 2021
Contact: Roberta Walls, Non-Metallic Mine Coordinator
DNRNMM@wisconsin.gov or 608-797-8510

**DNR Seeking Public Comment On Proposed Non-Metallic
Mine Reclamation Plan Guidance**

**MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources (DNR) today announced it is seeking public
comment on its proposed Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation
Plan Guidance.**

The DNR created this guide to aid local and county governments and mine operators across the state in developing mine reclamation plans.

A reclamation plan is the first step towards gaining a reclamation permit and is a blueprint describing the steps needed to reclaim the site to achieve post-mining land use. A reclamation plan must demonstrate compliance with the uniform reclamation standards provided in ch. NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code and offers environmental protection during and after the mining process.

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation Plan Guidance and Appendix A.

Submit comments by Friday, May 28 to:

**Roberta Walls, DNR Non-Metallic Mine Coordinator
Email: DNRNMM@wisconsin.gov or Phone: 608-797-8510**

Please read the references by clicking on the underlined sections.

Ask some questions in the letter you compose. Note that there are many "mays" and "shoulds" noted in the context. The WDRN must write in specific requirements specified by the state to meet the Clean Air and Clean Water standards. It is also important that specific references be made to WI Administrative Codes such as NR504.04(4)(d), NR504.08 (2)(b) and S.289.01(33) of the Wisconsin Statutes which refer to dumping toxic waste materials, sludge and the like back into open areas. Some of those practices may be illegal.

Read the Zambito, Haas, Parsen, McLaughlin study entitled *Geochemistry and mineralogy of the*

Wonewoc-Tunnel City contact interval strata in western Wisconsin (Open-File Report 2019-01/2019). This study applies to many of the mines in your area. There are a minimum number of references made to industrial sludge and/or sludge being put back into the mines from processing plants only to be covered over by the overburden. Heavy metals can leach out from the industrial sludge or waste and cause pollution in wells and the aquifers located in areas where there are low pH levels and sulfides in the sandstone formations particularly where the Tunnel City and Wonewoc layers are found.

Check out the names of the people who oversee the work of the department in regards to non-metallic mining. Make a comment.

.....These are just a few of the concerns noted in the document. Your work on critiquing the material is critical to improve the information providing to the industry as well as to local town and county officials. Please share your concerns with others. Interaction with others via phone or zoom is important in order to dig out the concerns about reclamation of frac sand mining sites.

Please involve yourself in this work to assist those who may at some time in the future be impacted by improper reclamation practices.

Patricia Popple 715-723-6398 sunnyday5@charter.net

Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.

The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The editor of the Frac Sand Sentinel does not accept any responsibility or liability for the use or misuse of the content of this newsletter or reliance by any persons on the newsletters contents.

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