

A Report From Dr. Pierce and His Students



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

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Badger Mine, Trempeleau County
Aug.13, 2013 copyright m.kenosian

Photo by Mary Kenosian

Dear Community Colleagues,

With this note, I wanted to provide a brief update on our frac sand air monitoring work. During the 2021-2022 academic year, our team was focused on testing dormitory wastewater for COVID to control outbreaks, and measuring classroom ventilation and installing air purifiers to reduce COVID spread. While COVID is still a concern and we continue to test classrooms, we are now able to return to evaluating risks from frac sand operations.

I am working with four new students, including Caleb Laufenberg with the following aims:

1.Learn how to set up, download data, and interpret Purple Air monitor results by using two PAMs set up next to the two UWEC dormitories that will be demolished this summer.

2.Examine the long-term trends of PM2.5 values seen on PAMs near frac sand operations to see if the COVID downturn in activity resulted in lower levels.

3.Compare plots of PAMs at varying distances from frac sand operations.

Your help would be appreciated in telling us about any observed mining, transport, or processing activity. We would then focus on data collected around these sites. We will also be installing additional monitors in response to citizen requests in the month of August.

Any input on our research efforts would be helpful.

Best regards,
Crispin

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Editor's Note: I was unable to include charts and data collected that were included in Dr. Pierce's letter due to technical difficulties. For that I apologize. One chart included data from the mine in Hixton collected over time. If you would like to see that data, I would be happy to forward the letter to you with the charts and data. Please let me know.

If you are interested in the installation of a Purple Air Monitor, please contact Dr. Pierce.

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

The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The editor of the Frac Sand Sentinel does not accept any responsibility or liability for the use or misuse of the content of this newsletter or reliance by any persons on the newsletter's 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 and a picture source.