

News from the Town of Howard-S & S mine, the Albertville Mine in Chippewa County via the Colfax Messenger and LeAnn Ralph, journalist for the Messenger. This is an important read for everyone wondering about the safety, the health and the welfare of people living around industrial facilities.



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

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**Evidence of mine  
drainage at the S &  
S mine in the Town  
of Howard,  
Chippewa County,  
WI.**



**In the March 17th, 2021 edition of the Colfax Messenger, there were 3 articles on the front page shared by LeAnn Ralph, investigative journalist for the newspaper. Please take some time to read her discoveries. There appear to be some changes in expectations as to reclamation processes and best practices in the State of Wisconsin as evidenced by a letter last May from the WDNR to officials in Chippewa County due to the discovery of heavy metals in the Superior Silica Sand Mine in the**

**Town of Auburn. That letter is also included for your reading. It appears that data gathered at several sites around Wisconsin, shows that heavy metals have been found in some wells and perhaps even aquifers that would indicate potential pollution that could affect larger populations of people and other life forms if the fines from processing sand/sandstone that were taken back to the mines for the purpose of reclamation. Placing toxic sludge and other industrial waste or "fines" back into the mines from processing plants for reclamation could end up releasing heavy metals which could pollute water supplies for those nearby and at a distance from frac sand mines.**

**The first article is entitled: "S and S mine in Town of Howard closing, reclamation started." It is located [HERE](#)**

**The second article is a continuation of the first from above and it shows a picture of the S and S Frac Sand Mine (EOG Resources) in an early stage of reclamation. Look for it at [THIS LOCATION](#).**

**The third article entitled " No activity in Albertville Valley sand mine in 2020, none expected in 2021." [CHECK OUT THIS SITE NOW](#).**

**The letter from Roberta Walls, Mine Specialist with the WDNR is located [AT THIS SITE](#). Click on it now.**

**It applies to the Superior Silica Sand site in the Town of Auburn. The question is whether it applies also at the S and S site in the Town of Howard. Does it also apply to other frac sand sites located in the State of Wisconsin?????**

**In the first reference, there is a comment about dump trucks hauling sand from the S and S site. Could those trucks be hauling out the "fines" that were placed there from the EOG Resources Processing Plant in Chippewa Falls for many years? I have been told that "fines" consist of 1) the junk such as boulders, grass, tree bark and other stuff not needed to create "frac sand", 2) the clay cakes created as flocculants are added to the mixture to clean out the clays and other sediments not needed with clean frac sand, and 3) the bag house wastes dumped in with the mixture. Several years ago, wet mixtures from the processing plant were being delivered to the Town of Howard and sludge was being dropped on the highways. Concern came from citizens that this sludge became dry as vehicles/winds etc. dried out the concoction and fugitive dust consisting of fine particulates became airborne. At this point in time, it appears that there may be an even higher level of concern about these practices knowing that sludge could contain heavy metals and toxins that**

**could be of danger to the waters of this state.**

**People living near or even at a distance from frac sand mines, processing plants, or trans-load stations might want to ask their city, town, or county and state officials if frac sand mines and related industries should be removing toxic sludge or industrial waste (if qualified) to sites that are able to deal with these waste products as spoken about in Ms. Wall's letter (see above).**

**There is nothing wrong with raising issues among officials! I am not a scientist and certainly not an expert, but I am truly concerned about children and all the families who ultimately could be affected by waters and air that could contain heavy metals and possibly toxins that might affect future generations in a way that would be unhealthy.**

**Patricia Popple 715-723-6398 [sunnyday5@charter.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://FracTracker.org) is also an excellent source of information.***