

PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY**PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING
PurFrac, LLC
April 19, 2016**

Jane Sonnentag, 13522 CTH DD, Bloomer, WI

I'm Jane Sonnentag. My address is 13522 County Highway DD in Bloomer. I'm a Chippewa County resident, obviously. I guess the concerns are the comments that I want to give testimony on. I guess, my concern is just listening to what was presented here tonight, was just maybe clarifying the language as far as to how close to dig to the watertable and maybe if that could be clarified or potentially added to the final permitting phase for the reclamation. And then, I noticed, and maybe I missed it, because I didn't read the reclamation in its entirety, was any regulations about particulate that gets released in the air as a result of the mining, if that language could either be clarified or potentially be added as part of the reclamation language. And, you know, just to give comment that, you know, myself and my husband were included in the reclamation plan as landowners but we do currently not have an agreement with PureFrac as far as, you know, what they wanted to do with reclamation with our land site. The recommendations they made here they didn't consult with us what they plan to do. They said that they were going to return it to agriculture use but that has never been discussed with us and Summit. So, I just wanted to make sure that this was placed in the public comment.

Thank you.

Mark Berge, 1705 135th Avenue, Colfax, WI

Mark Berge, 1705 135th Avenue, Colfax. My statement I want to talk about wildlife as I believe not enough attention has been given to the wildlife issue in any of these reclamation plans, and also about water and financial assurance.

Let me first state that I am dismayed at how easily and quickly we are destroying the beautiful bluffs we enjoy here in western WI. With that being said, I am not so native as to think that with the amount of money involved with this process, that we are not going to see a quick end to sand mining in Cooks Valley Township or anywhere else in western WI. But having lived next to a sand mine for several years now, and witnessing the problems they have in controlling water, I believe we need better monitoring and regulations for these mines. The DNR can start by hiring more qualified people to monitor these mining processes. This could be paid by a fee placed on anyone wanting to open a new mine.

Living next to the current mine, there in Cooks Valley, the EOG mine, we have witnessed first hand what happens when a mine is in operation without proper regulations. For much of the summer of 2014, we witnessed sandy, clay-filled, sludgy stormwater from that mine site travel across our property...the worst occurring in early September of that year with a overnight rainfall of 5 inches, which left us with this sediment-filled water making it all the way to the Red Cedar River. This mine opened...when this mine opened, they had no interest in spending the money to build ponds to control stormwater of this magnitude, as there were no regulations in place to force them to do so. It was only after a lot of bad publicity and pressure from the public has caused them to try to rectify this problem. It remains to be seen if this will work or not.

I am no expert on stormwater or groundwater issues associated with mines, however I will say that due to a lot of excellent testimony at the Albertville Mine public hearing from knowledgeable people, an addendum was added to that mine's reclamation plan requiring better testing and monitoring the stormwater and groundwater. Therefore, I ask that all permit conditions be implemented at the same levels of control for PureFrac as were placed on the Albertville mine.

As for wildlife, anytime I have walked out and sat in the woods, it is a great experience. I have experienced many unique things over my nearly 58 years living here. The latest was I was out scouting for turkeys just a week ago, I had a bear walk through the woods near me with a coyote trailing just several feet behind him,. I have had many run-ins with bear in the woods but never with a coyote trailing close behind. As these forests disappear to sand mining, will we be able to witness these sort of things less and less?

Let me tell you some of the wildlife to be found in areas where sand mines are opening in our area. Besides bear and deer, there are raccoons, squirrels, cottontail rabbits, fisher, mink, long-tail weasels, opossum, badger, fox, coyotes, and on the rare occasion, you may see a bobcat or a wolf. Game birds such as rough grouse and turkey and, on the lower areas woodcock, common snipe and killdeer. Songbirds including many species of warblers, finches, nuthatches, chickadees, catbird, thrashers, orioles, thrushes, including the robin, wood thrush, northern water thrush, hermit thrush, sheer wax wing, oven bird, red star, several species of warblers, cardinals, evening grosbeak, rose breasted grosbeak, jonquil wrens, many native species of sparrows, blue jay, wood peckers, such as redhead pileated, red bellied, yellow bellied sapsucker, common flicker, downy and the hairy. All such as the great horned, barred, screech and saw-whet owls.

In open areas where these mines operate, you find blue birds, meadowlarks, bobblelinks, goldfinch, mourning doves, several species of hawks and pheasants. Also frogs, snakes and salamander are found here along with multitudes of insects and plants.

I do not believe enough studies have been done as to the accumulative effect of all these mines and what they may have on wildlife especially with so many mines in a relatively small area. I am quite certain there is a threshold where there would be a significantly large effect on the wildlife in the area. I doubt that anyone with the DNR and any other government agency has truly looked to see if there if there are any endangered species in Cooks Valley Township or the surrounding townships. I know for a fact there is one threatened species which travels these parts from time to time, the gray wolf.

I believe an ongoing study should be in place where the public can comment on wildlife studies as these mines are being mined and after they are being reclaimed, I think the public should also be included to help with possibly nesting counts and just their general sightings of wildlife. Maybe there could a site on the County website or some place to report, such as what the DNR does with their deer sightings and such.

I am concerned, you know, as far as what is going to happen to the wildlife and if there will be anything left by the time these mines are reclaimed, if there will be enough wildlife left to repopulate these areas.

Finishing up here, I am also concerned about the financial assurance being recommended. It seems to be short for this size of a mine, in my mind. From what I can tell, \$2.9 million, I don't exactly know how this all works. All I can go by is... I was looking last night, the financial assurance for the Fairchild mine, which is in Eau Claire County, has an estimate of \$8,350,000 for reclamation. We only have \$2.9 from what I can tell. I am wondering what the difference is with that...so, I don't know. That's a big difference on mines that are basically about the same size.

I would like to see that addressed, I guess. I'm not, like I said... just have that concern.

Last, I would just say that since the whole mining thing has slowed down, it has been wonderful living where we are. It ...this is the way I envisioned living the rest of my life before the mines came here. It is serene as can be and very quiet. All I can say is Saudi Arabia, keep pumping your oil.

Thank you.

Patricia Popple, 561 Summit Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI

Patricia Popple, 561 Summit Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI. I have been engaged in studying frac sand mining for about the past 8 years and I have a number of concerns. I have not written comments and I will try to get these to you as soon as I can.

As I started to talk about before, we do have the Tunnel City formation in these hills and with the Tunnel City formation, there are sulfides within that formation, or could very potentially be sulfide formations, and with the combination of that and the low pH's in the water and the oxidation when you open up a mine, you end up with leaching of the water through that formation and into the water supply causing arsenic, iron, lead, whatever.... in the water supply.

I just hope that we...that maybe this County can at least alert all of the people to the necessity of testing their water for heavy metals prior to all of this because it is a health issue that can affect children. We know about all of the issues with lead currently going on throughout the states and we certainly could have that kind of an issue, plus arsenic and all the rest of the things. It is an issue that I think we need to have more education on.

The other little tidbit that I heard from television tonight, is that whereas there is a 100 year flood...24 hour flood condition. It has now been upped in the United States to 500 years and it might be something..... I didn't hear much about it....that might be something that should be checked so that we can be assured that the berms and all of these formations out in that area that are created as a result of this mine are, when we have a huge heavy rain, we are going to have some erosion control or much erosion control.

I am also concerned about the stagnant ponds. We're hearing about the zika virus with mosquitos and I don't know what is going into those ponds once they're open, if there are pesticides or whatever that are put in them, but when these things are open and left to sit there without supervision, or not knowing what the content is and we have mosquitos, even though they are saying in WI we have no issue, there has been zika virus discovered in MN to the tune of at least 12 people, so you know. I don't think we have a fence around us but some people like to think we have.

I think further study on...there is going to be additional study in terms of, I think, the heavy metals in the water. We need to be sure to look at those results with the DNR. Seems like it is going to be a year-long study. They must at least recognize there is a problem and we don't want people affected. I don't think anyone wants people affected by heavy metals in the water in any due form. Anytime we have a spill, we have all of this stuff not only going into the Red Cedar formation, through the creeks and so on, and streams that we have here in Chippewa County, but into the Red Cedar Basin and also into the Chippewa River Basin, and the mouth of the Chippewa is already filling up with pollutants from the north, so we need to consider that.... every time we consider how we are going to do this reclamation...how we are going to open up these mines.

Higher performance standards for water and reclamation, they need to be set and followed.

I guess that's my comments for now and I may have a few more.