From: Rose Smith
To: *EQB_Silica Sand
Subject: silica sand
Date: Thursday, December 26, 2013 1:05:29 PM

Regarding silica sand--

My biggest question is this, what government regulation could silica sand mining violate where they would not be shut down? When the kids in SE MN in the 40s, 50s, and on played in sand boxes, they contained silica sand. Now silica sand is being used for bedding for cattle barns and it hasn't killed any cattle yet that we know of. We have big herds of dairy cattle in our area and this is used. The cattle and the people breath it 24/7. If it caused problems, it wouldn't be used. The Arches near Winona on Hwy 14 has a hill of silica sand that is totally exposed and it runs off right into the stream next to this hill. In Rushford, there is a big bank that runs into the Root River. All the hills in Elba are silica sand and run into the Whitewater River. We have never heard of any fish kill.

With all this, where is the problem? The kids and adults aren't dying, the fish aren't dying, the cattle aren't dying. They have been mining silica sand for sandblasting forever. Now it seems to be a problem with some people. I don't understand. Is this a self made-up problem?

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