From:	Pat Schaffer
To:	*EQB_Silica Sand
Subject:	Frac Sand mining in MN
Date:	Monday, January 27, 2014 3:44:19 PM

Dear Board Representative,

I would like to express my concern and that of my family about the potential dangers in mining and transporting frac sand in and across Minnesota. The sudden boom in fracing and need for this sand has resulted in huge pressure from industry to meet market demand at once, without taking the time to discover whether it is safe.

Silicosis has long been recognized as a serious, often fatal health disease, yet no steps have been taken to ensure that the mining and transport of this material will be safe for those living near the mines and transfer points.

Surely basic public health standards require that such activities be proven safe, before they are undertaken on a mass scale. A two-year moratorium on mining of frac sand in Minnesota would give time to do the kind of monitoring at both mines and transfer points that will actually show whether microparticles are entering our lungs and harming our children.

My daughter is currently in the market to buy a house in St Paul. The EQB should provide the public with maps of every location where this sand is being poured into trucks, and into rail cars, so that we can avoid purchasing houses in such locations. My daughter has a six-year-old and a new baby. Particles entering such young lungs can kill them in later years.

The state may be powerless to stop the railways from carrying this material, but we should at least notify our people of the risks. And do what we can to minimize the amounts mined here, until we know more about the health risks. The sand is going no where. It is only prudent to take the time now to avoid health effects in the future.

Thank you for your attention. I hope you can do the right thing for our citizens.

Sincerely,

Pat Schaffer
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