

Frac Sand Mining Moratorium Update April 2013

By Samuel Johnson

An article posted to this website in 2012 provides background material about frac sand in Minnesota and Wisconsin as well as information about moratoriums approved by governmental bodies in both states. This update shows the current status of the moratoriums as of January 2013. Notations in bold reflect changes that have occurred between September 2012 and January 2013.

- Buffalo County, Wisconsin – On October 17, 2012, the County voted 9-3 to extend the moratorium until April 1, 2013. County Zoning Board voted 3-0 to deny a permit to construct a 450 acre frac-sand mine on September 27, 2012.
- Pepin County, Wisconsin – On October 17, 2012, the County voted to extend their moratorium by six months. The current moratorium will now expire on July 1, 2013.
- Crawford County, Wisconsin – County Moratorium expired on October 17, 2012. Individual townships/municipalities within the County are passing their own ordinances to either regulate the industry or create new moratoriums. *See* <http://www.swnews4u.com/section/121/article/8763/>.
- Eau Claire, Wisconsin - Six month ban passed in December 2011 is expired. One township in the County has passed a one year moratorium on any frac-sand activity, with a potential fine of \$1 million per-day for violations. *See* <http://www.wqow.com/story/20049097/new-frac-sand-moratorium-comes-with-1-million-penalty-for-ignoring-it>.
- Goodhue County, Minnesota – Extended moratorium until September 2013.
- Wabasha County, Minnesota – Extended moratorium until August 2013.
- Winona County, Minnesota – Moratorium expired on May 2012. See story below on St. Charles City Council vote.

- Houston County, Minnesota – County Board voted to extend moratorium until March 2014.
- Yucatan Township independently passed a yearlong ban in September 2012.
- Fillmore County, Minnesota – Fillmore County has not extended its Moratorium which expired in March 2013. It is considering approving a frac-sand mine. *See* <http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/blog/sally-jo-sorensen/pretty-neat-small-town-learns-frac-sand-trucks-next-county-may-roll-right-ove>.
- Minnesota continues to consider a state-wide ban on frac-sand mining. Minnesota's regulations on frac-sand mining already far outpace those in Wisconsin. *See* <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2013/03/19/politics/frac-sand-mining-minnesota-wisconsin>.
- Some frac-sand prospectors are beginning to lose patience with the delays caused by Minnesota's resistance to development. In St. Charles, the City Council voted against a proposal which would have created the largest frac-sand processing plant in the world. *See* <http://www.wqow.com/story/21645050/2013/03/14/some-investors-pull-out-of-frac-sand-project>

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