

Minnesota Conservation Federation
Annual Meeting

September 11, 2011

Deerwood, Minnesota

Resolution #6
Moratorium on Sand Mining for Hydraulic Fracturing

WHEREAS, there is national boom on gas and oil exploration has produced using hydraulic fracturing and the sand used in fracturing is fine silica sand, the sand found in great abundance in the Mississippi River Valley of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the sand, currently valued at over \$200 per ton has many mining companies ready to use over 30,000 tons per month.

WHEREAS, state wide public health and department of natural resources do not regulate the mining of sand, the decision on allowing mining for sand to occur falls largely on county boards or local township governments.

WHEREAS, the speed in which mining companies are buying land and setting up operations along with the little research that is available as to health risks caused from crystalline silica (the airborne powder residue) or the environmental effects of the mining process, including the contamination of local drinking water leaves counties and local governments scrambling and confused.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conservation Federation, at its annual assembly in 2011, enact a resolution to place a moratorium on all silica sand mining operations in Minnesota until the Department of Health and the Department of Natural Resources have ample time to gather data and establish regulations to protect the health of Minnesotans and the health of our environment.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conservation Federation through its publication, its association with the National Wildlife Federation, and through its legislative efforts make public any and all information available to help inform the general public in regard to the mining of silica sand.

Submitted by: Barbara A. Prindle, Life Member of the Minnesota Conservation Federation