

WATER - AQUIFER ISSUES

- Fact Estimated groundwater use in Izard County in 2005 was 1.79 million gallons per day, so the proposed use by two frac sand mines near Calico Rock (678,000 gallons per day) would be a substantial increase in the usage within the county. No studies have been done to evaluate the health of our local aquifers.
- Fact Arkansas abides by a mixed doctrine of reasonable riparian use and regulation. This means that landowners (private, state and federal) who own land above any groundwater have the right to reasonably use the water, but they do not own the water.
- Fact Act 1051 of 1985 requires all users of ground water to register their withdrawal of ground water, excluding water withdrawn from individual household wells used exclusively for domestic use and wells having a maximum potential flow rate of less than 50,000 gallons a day. The quantity, location, type of use and name of user must be registered on an annual basis with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). The Commission is charged with establishing a comprehensive ground water protection program, but allowed aquifers in Eastern Arkansas to be pumped to near exhaustion.

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Questions to Ask

- How will water supplies be impacted? What adverse effects could happen to wells and springs? How will we know this is happening? Who should finance the studies to determine the risks?
- What constitutes an adverse effect? If there are adverse effects, who will pay for them and how will this be decided?

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Want more information? Here are some sources to investigate:

USGS Report on Groundwater Depletion -

<http://ks.water.usgs.gov/pubs/press/ozarkgroundwaterflowmodel.html>

Effects of Mining USDA - http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr119.pdf

Water Resources Impact of Rockfort Quarry -

http://www.town.caledon.on.ca/contentc/townhall/departments/planningdevelopment/21NOV08_Water_Resource_Impacts.pdf