

Overview

Open quarry mining is an accepted activity and permitted by state law. However the new quarries/mines that are applying for permits in IZARD County are frac sand processing operations that are part of a much larger and unprecedented expansion of this industry. This expansion will impact aquifers, wells, water tables, roads, traffic, noise levels, trout fisheries, health, safety and welfare of this tourist/recreation/retirement/small farm based area.

The two plants near Calico Rock propose using a combined total of 678,000 gallons of water each day. The towns of Calico Rock, Pineville and Wideman together use 280,000 gallons per day. Issues that raise substantial concerns include the combined effects of multiple frac sand mining/processing operations on:

- Depletion of ground water and local aquifers
- The possible damage to private water wells or springs in the vicinity of the quarry mines
- The possibility of stormwater and processing wastewater carrying pollutants into our streams and rivers, increasing water temperature or changing pH
- The Quality of Life in this area including effects on Tourism, Property Values and Air Quality

Proponents of the new mining ventures will say that there are laws in Arkansas to regulate mining. But the quarry mining laws are not adequate to manage this new type of industry. Before the county allows this to happen on a large scale, we ask that you hear from all sides, consider the risks and rewards and determine the "true costs" of a substantial increase in an extractive industry that is inherently destructive and insufficiently regulated in Arkansas. If risks are found, we urge the county to clarify its authority to act and take action necessary to manage and protect our health, safety and welfare. Before irreversible harm is done.

This packet includes information about the following issues/concerns:

- Water
- Reclamation of Mined Land
- Trucking and Traffic Safety
- Air Quality
- Tourism
- Property Values
- Financial Assurance

Links to access further information regarding each topic are included on each page but some links are complex and challenging to type. If you would like to receive an email with all links from this packet, please email bkcarlson@centurytel.net.