

## Grassroots Group Continues to Battle Proposed Coalmine

In an effort to educate and inform residents about the proposed coalmine, ***Stand Up to Coal***, the local grassroots group fighting to protect farmlands and streams, has assembled a time-line laying out the major events in the project proposed by Sunrise Coal, owned by Hallador Energy Company of Denver, CO. For more information, check out the Stand Up to Coal Website at [www.standuptocoal.org](http://www.standuptocoal.org).

- 2009: Leasing agents from Indiana-based Sunrise Coal, LLC begin soliciting mineral leases for the proposed 23,000 acre underground mine in Vermilion County.
- 2010: News of the mine reaches the public when the Vermilion County Farm Bureau holds a meeting encouraging farmers to negotiate better terms on the mineral rights leases.
- 2010: Stand Up to Coal, a grassroots association of farmers, landowners and villagers, is founded. [www.standuptocoal.org](http://www.standuptocoal.org)
- March 2011: Stand Up to Coal proposes a resolution regarding coal mining to the Vermilion County Board; the resolution does not pass.
- 2012: Sunrise Coal seeks a contract with the Village of Homer for water services, seeking 4000 gallons potable water per day. Organized opposition blocks the sale. **Note:** After a controversial revote by the Homer Village Board one month later, Homer chooses to provide sewer and potable water services. Sunrise's water needs have now grown to 20,000 gallons per day.
- 2012: Fly-over images of Sunrise Coal's coal mine in Carlisle, IN, provide revealing pictures of impacts to surface farmland from their underground room and pillar coal mine, after which the Bulldog Mine would be modeled.
- Summer 2012: DVD video of "Questions about the Proposed Coal mine in Champaign and Vermilion Counties" is created and shared at local community public meetings.
- September 2012: Ogden delivers a formal "no" on Homer water sale issue to Homer Village Board.
- October 8, 2012: Sunrise Coal submits their first mining application to the Office of Mines and Minerals, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- April 2013: Homer board votes to discontinue talks of selling additional water to Sunrise.
- July 2013: After another series of controversial board meetings by the Georgetown village board and mayor, Sunrise Coal announces a contract with the City of Georgetown for 500,000 gallons of potable water a day from the city's source – several high-capacity wells drawing from the Wabash Aquifer near Cayuga, IN 22 miles from the proposed surface facility and 12 miles from Georgetown.
- July 15, 2013: Illinois Department of Natural Resources deems Sunrise Coal's first mining application incomplete.
- October 29, 2013: Sunrise Coal re-submits their mining application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- January 2014: Sunrise Coal's projected timeframe to begin mining construction, which is not met.
- April 2014: Illinois Attorney General settlement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources brings about coal mine permitting process reforms to improve transparency of regulation of coal mining.
- May 2014: Mining construction has yet to begin, no water permit applications have been submitted, no water pipeline or complete railroad line has been secured, no completeness approval of the second mining permit from Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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