

What's in the dust created by a Gravel Pit operation?

It is not the same as the dust created by periodic natural events. The killer is the fine particles of dust you cannot see. The mining and crushing of gravel creates and releases fine particulate matter called Crystalline Silica into the air which will be carried by the wind in every direction. These dangerous particles will definitely permeate the surrounding area.

People will be exposed to this harmful carcinogen every day, all day. Why would any government body willingly **CHOOSE** to allow the creation of a toxic environment?

So what's wrong with Crystalline Silica?

Crystalline Silica is a known carcinogen which has been found to cause lung cancer, silicosis and other health hazards!

Some facts:

- Some of the Crystalline Silica can be of the most dangerous variety with a designation as a PM2.5 particle. Those are particles that measure less than 2.5 micro meters in size
- Once these tiny particles enter the lung they stay there. The body's natural defense encapsulates them causing permanent lung damage or cancer.
- Winds can carry these fine particles over great distances.
- The closer you are to the source, the higher the concentration and danger
- Health effects can range from Silicosis, lung cancer, tuberculosis increased lung irritation
- There is no cure for silicosis
- Once these fine particles enter the lungs, the body has no means to expel them
- Crystalline Silica clings to all inanimate objects that it comes in contact with such as trees, grass, flowers, buildings, etc..
- Crystalline Silica will infiltrate the heating and cooling systems of buildings such as (homes, schools, commercial buildings) and there is no viable way to stop it or mitigate it.
- The dust is cumulative; each day over the years the gravel pit is in operation more and more of this hazardous dust will accumulate inside and around buildings of all kinds.
- Columbia Park and all of Revelstoke sits downwind of the proposed pit and its crushing and loading facilities
- They don't call this "Wind Valley" for nothing. Most days of the year the wind is blowing.

Below are some links and excerpts from articles that address this serious hazard.