

Homer Village Board: Special Coal Mine Meeting



Wednesday, September 26th, 7:00pm

**Homer Village Hall
500 E 2nd St., Homer, IL**

Will Homer Sell Water to a Proposed Coal Mine?

The Village of Homer will hold a special meeting to consider Sunrise Coal's request for more than half a million gallons of water per day - that's more than four times the Village's current use. The proposed sale of water to the coal mine may threaten the availability of clean drinking water, the quality of life and economic vitality of our rural farming communities, as well as the health of the Salt Fork River. Please attend this meeting to show the Village Board you support protecting these local resources for future generations.



Concerns About Coal

We are concerned about the following impacts from the proposed coal mine:

Air Quality

Coal dust from coal stockpiles and coal shipping poses a serious public health concern because it contains heavy metals, including mercury, arsenic, selenium, and chromium, which can cause respiratory, cardiac and neurologic problems.

Water

Large withdrawals of ground and/or surface water for coal washing, as well as the discharge of polluted mine wastewater could impact local drinking water supplies, threatening people, livestock, and wildlife that rely on abundant clean water.

Land

Coal mining takes hundreds of acres of prime farmland out of production forever to construct coal slurry disposal pits, which contain heavy metals that can contaminate the land. Also, coal mining may cause subsidence—with less support below, the land above can sink, damaging roads, buildings, and agricultural drainage, potentially lowering the productivity of the rich soil in this region.

Jobs

The assertion by Sunrise Coal that 300 jobs will be brought to our community does not mean that 300 local people will be hired. More importantly, will the mining wages offset the lifelong health issues and the degradation of our community once the mine has moved away? Farming jobs are long-term and stable, while mining jobs last for only a few years.

Community and Quality of Life

Coal mining changes the fundamental character of our community. Typically, when a coal mine comes to a community, over time the residents move away and property values decrease. There are better industries and businesses we should work to bring to this area that would make our communities strong, healthy, and vibrant.

Take Action

In addition to attending the meeting on September 26th, you can:

- Contact your village & county officials and share your concerns
- Write a letter to the editor
- Sign the petition: www.standuptocoal.org/petition
- Stay informed at standuptocoal.org , facebook.com/standuptocoal prairierivers.org, saltforkfriends.blogspot.com
- For more information, contact: bperbix@prairierivers.org