

October 31, 2006

Cathy Johnson
Secretary to the Commission
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Dear Cathy Johnson:

**RE: SAVE OUR SEINE CONCERN ABOUT THE PEMBINA VALLEY WATER
COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER SUPPLY PROJECT**

Pembina Valley Water Cooperative has proposed to create a new well site to increase their water withdrawal from the Agassiz Sandilands Upland area aquifer complex and create a new 95.3 Ian water distribution infrastructure. Save Our Seine (SOS) is concerned about this project as the environmental effects have not been thoroughly examined.

For years members of SOS have been frustrated at the inadequacy of water flows along the Seine. The water shed has been drastically reduced due to agriculture, a number of diversions have been constructed (ostensibly for flood control) which reduces flows even when the Seine is low. Golf courses, irrigation, cattle and proliferating hog barns all suck precious water from the Seine.. It is hard to imagine that anyone would even contemplate yet another insult to this pitiable little river.

The size of the lower sand aquifer, where the proposed withdrawal will occur, and the recharge time for the aquifer are not certain. It is therefore difficult to see how a positive recommendation of the project is possible. Without knowing the size of the aquifer or the recharge time, it is not possible to determine if a 50 L/s withdrawal will deplete the water supply to an unsustainable level. The area is the headlands to a number of rivers, including the Seine River, as well as a number of creeks in southern Manitoba and therefore the precautionary principle should be respected.

It is important that the Seine River is able to maintain its current quality, flow rate and volume to allow the aquatic and plant life that relies on the river to continue to flourish. Therefore it is important to determine in-stream flow needs for the Seine River prior to promoting this project. Currently the Seine River has a reduced flow due to use by other water users. This is a major concern currently with the low water flow and a new water user would simply exacerbate the situation.

Save Our Seine letter received from the following:

Tammy Rutherford

David Danyluk

Sandy Gessler

Alain Cenerini

Tannys Moffatt

Suzanne Gessler

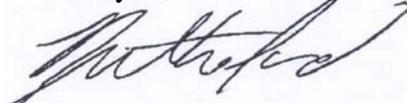
J. Legal

Kristine Koster

D.D. Venema

SOS would like to see further watershed scale and aquifer modeling to increase the knowledge base for the project. These types of quantitative measurements, completed by an independent agency would permit a rational decision to be made.

Thank you,



Tammy Rutherford