



Rural Municipality of Springfield

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March 15, 2023

Manitoba Clean Environment Commission
305-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8

Dear Panel Members:

Re: Rural Municipality of Springfield Closing Statement

My name is Patrick Therrien, Mayor of the Rural Municipality of Springfield.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide closing remarks this morning on behalf of the RM of Springfield.

The RM of Springfield received its name due to the presence of multiple natural springs found within its borders. Surface water bodies and rivers within the municipal boundaries are not capable of meeting regional domestic water demands; as such Springfield relies entirely on local groundwater resources to meet all of its domestic, commercial and industrial water needs both private and public.

The relative abundance of groundwater and the high level of reliance on the resource highlights the importance of active management and planning strategies within the RM of Springfield.

As part of an effort to ensure sustainable and reliable groundwater for the Municipality, the Municipality has undertaken several studies over the last decade studying and analyzing the underlying groundwater aquifers, their characteristics and properties as well as studies and planning reports as related to the development of the Anola, Dugald and Oakbank municipal water supplies. These reports are available publicly on our municipal website.



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The intent of my closing remarks are not to provide new evidence or new information to the panel, however they are intended to reiterate that the safety of Springfield residents, including our valuable water resources is of the utmost importance to Council. We have shown that access to sufficient, safe, and acceptable water for personal and domestic uses is a fundamental right of citizens that Council has fought to protect as evidenced by the multitude of groundwater studies undertaken.

The position of the Rural Municipality of Springfield remains the same; that all questions and concerns raised about the mining process and activity of Sio Silica must be addressed completely. Without all concerns being addressed, the Rural Municipality of Springfield will not consider supporting any unproven operations that have the potential to affect the environment, specifically the groundwater resources of southern Manitoba and their protection.

Although the hearings are coming to an end, the real work now begins for the panel members. Being new to Council, I fully understand the responsibility that now rests on your shoulders. Our hope is that whatever decision the panel makes, all parties will be held accountable for protection of the aquifer from any contamination.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank the CEC panel members, CEC secretary, hearing participants and all presenters that have come out over the last 3 weeks to share your thoughts, concerns, and comments on this very important matter.

Thank you,

Patrick Therrien
Mayor
Rural Municipality of Springfield