



**MINISTER OF
CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

NOV 15 2021

Serge Scrafield
Chair
Clean Environment Commission
305-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8
Serge.Scrafield@gov.mb.ca

Dear Serge Scrafield:

In accordance with section 6(5) of The Environment Act, I hereby request the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) to conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed CanWhite Sands Corp. silica sand extraction project.

I am requesting that the CEC review process begin as soon as possible, and I have provided a review mandate and Terms of Reference to guide your exercise as enclosed. Additionally, I am requesting a final report with recommendations, including on licensing conditions, in accordance with section 7(3) of The Environment Act. The CEC may ask for clarification on this request at any time.

Please contact Laura Pyles, Acting Director, Environmental Approvals Branch, regarding information obtained through the environmental assessment process should you wish to discuss this request further.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Guillemard".

Sarah Guillemard
Minister

Enclosure

c. Laura Pyles

Terms of Reference

Clean Environment Commission Review of

CanWhite Sands Corp. Silica Sand Extraction Project Environment Act Proposal

Background

On July 23, 2021, CanWhite Sands Corp. submitted an Environment Act Proposal for the sequential installation, operation and decommissioning of silica sand extraction wells to remove water and silica sand from groundwater at various locations on private land within the R.M. of Springfield.

The water from the silica sand slurry brought to the surface from the wells would be separated from the sand on site, undergo UV treatment and returned down the wells. The separated silica sand would be transported to a previously proposed sand processing facility using a slurry transport line operating in a loop system. The proposal includes a comprehensive hydrogeology and geochemistry assessment report and independent third-party review.

During the public comment period, requests for a Clean Environment Commission hearing were made by members of the public. The Rural Municipality of Springfield formally requested a Clean Environment Commission Hearing and provided a certified Resolution of Council in that regard.

Mandate of the Review

In accordance with section 6(5) (a) and (b) of The Environment Act, the CEC, at the request of the Minister of Conservation and Climate, shall conduct a technical review and a public hearing to consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed CanWhite Sands silica sand extraction project.

The CEC shall conduct the hearing in general accordance with its *Process Guidelines Respecting Public Hearings*.

The CEC will provide advice and recommendations to the Minister in the form of a report pursuant to section 7(3) of The Environment Act and in accordance with the following terms of reference.

Terms of Reference

1. The CEC will conduct a technical review of the Environment Act proposal and the hydrogeology and geochemistry assessment report and provide advice and recommendations to the Minister regarding potential environmental and health effects of the proposed sequential installation, operation and decommissioning of silica sand extraction wells for the silica sand extraction project.
2. In providing advice and recommendations, the CEC will provide members of the public the opportunity for input regarding the CanWhite Sands silica sand extraction project proposal at a public hearing in a location consistent with the affected community.

The CEC review process should begin as soon as possible and be completed by March 15, 2022