

From: [REDACTED]
To: [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)
Subject: CEC File 6119.00 Sio Silica Sand Extraction
Date: March 21, 2023 3:54:32 PM

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To the Chair Jay Doering and Commissioners Ian Gillies, Laurie Streich, and Terry Johnson:

I'm a 4th generation resident of the RM of Springfield and attended the recent public presentations to the CEC in Anola on March 11, 2023. Since then I've also read information provided by the proponent (Sio Silica/SS), materials from opponents (Our Line in the Sand/OLS, Dr. Eva Pip, and Manitoba Eco-Network), and reports in the media.

Based on everything I've read and my understanding of the issues, I'm strongly opposed to Sio Silica's application to extract silica sand in Springfield.

Water and air are vital elements for life and livelihoods, and the aquifers below us are the sole source of freshwater for a vast area that includes the aqueduct for the City of Winnipeg. These irreplaceable resources must be protected from the untried and unproven methods promoted by Sio Silica. Their processes will create a harmful and permanent impact not only in Springfield, but throughout southeastern Manitoba, Ontario and into the United States.

Sio Silica has provided many examples of why they cannot be trusted with this project:

- In their application, numerous omissions and deficiencies were identified which they have not yet addressed,
- In the test phase, they have exceeded the drilling depth of 200 feet,
- They have re-injected water that was chlorinated (contrary to requirements) and then were vague about how they treated the water before re-injection,
- They failed to cap boreholes at Centreline Road (again contrary to requirements) and only complied after public complaint, and
- They have refused to provide financial documents to disclose their assets, liabilities, debt levels and reserves.

Since they're failing to live up to their commitments and obligations in these early days, it makes NO sense to approve their application and embolden them for non-compliance on a larger scale and for a longer period of time.

Sio Silica is a mid-level operator from Alberta, who will leave the area and all their destruction when the market conditions suit them. They profess to be "green" with talk of using the high quality silica sand for solar panels, but their actions so far and their project plans will only contribute further to greenhouse gas emissions. They've already cut down old growth forests on the site and their future operations will heavily rely on fossil fuels to operate the equipment. There's nothing to prevent them from selling their product to the highest bidder, and to any industry (including oil and gas). The only thing green in this application is the money they intend to make at our expense.

And sadly, I have no faith in our regulatory bodies to monitor and enforce legislation and the

necessary requirements for this project. This buck must stop with the CEC and rejecting Sio Silica's application.

Before I'm cited for NIMBY-ism, let me be clear that this type of mining must not be allowed wherever water quality and water quality can be affected. The risk is simply too great. Sio Silica's hollow promise of jobs will mean nothing when people are without potable water and clean air.

As the CEC, you are the guardian for the public and the environment and have the responsibility to act in our best interests and for future generations. You will be making a grave mistake if your recommendation to the Minister prioritizes economic interests over the environment.

And although the CEC hearings have ended, I have no doubt there will be a public inquiry if silica sand is extracted and mined from Springfield. Your part in the process would also come under scrutiny.

Regards,

Monica Ptak

