

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Vivian Silica Sand Extraction Project  
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To: Clean Environment Commission

From:

Lindy Clubb

[REDACTED]  
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I am **opposed** to the above project and urge the Commission members to recommend it **not to proceed**.

I know you are under duress as a government body to capitulate to Mining, but you need to stand firm and protect the east side aquifers. Although it is a pattern for the CEC to allow a project to proceed, once the momentum has begun and exploratory drills or roads are in place, with a few unenforceable conditions attached, you have an obligation to the public to protect our air, water and land. This project will harm air, water, land and the community.

I was in the audience of 100 of those community members at Anola, many of whom spoke of harm already happening from the uncapped drilling holes, open sand piles, lack of signage, gates and supervision and the destruction on the current company controlled but still publicly accessible site. I can (and did) prompt the City of Winnipeg to clear up piles of refuse from the back road to the Brady Landfill faster than this company acts on neighbor's concerns. I also walked out of the Beausejour hearings in protest the company's petty bullying of Dennis LeNeveu, who gave an excellent credible presentation. I have read and agree with Dr. Pip's concerns about this project and the harm it will bring, I have read and understood the geology reports from the province in the late 1990s, a team led by Robert Betcher, our foremost groundwater expert for Manitoba. They had serious warnings about above ground activities like drainage (we still don't fully understand the interaction between ground water and surface water...see the results of the CEC hearings into a proposal to draw water from the Sandilands Aquifer), lack of protection for (or even knowledge of) the source water for the aquifer, uncapped wells allowing pollution, sink holes forming, and lack of comprehensive compulsory protection for the supply of potable water for thousands of area residents. Not much has changed in twenty years except the pace of development.

Sio Sand should have offered a 3 million dollar bond for emergency clean ups and a budget line for restoration. Their promises are hollow. Where are the company's facts on vital issues such as climate change mitigation, source water location and conservation ? TThe combined effects of an assault on the aquifer from thousands of wells, the attendant noise, traffic, loss of habitat, influx of workers and pipeline excavation were brushed away.

Sio Sand should have offered a 3 million dollar bond for emergency clean ups and a budget line for restoration. Their promises are hollow. Where are the company's facts on vital issues such as climate change mitigation, source water location and conservation ? This company wants to let nature fill in the gaps left by operations. If we leave open areas of disturbed land here on our ten acres topsoil gets blown away, erosion occurs, and thistles and quack grass move in as colonizers. If the company is so far removed from the local knowledge of land and water, only seeing what's convenient and for their own ends, they should not be licensed to operate. The combined effects of an assault on the aquifer from thousands of wells, the attendant noise, traffic, loss of habitat, influx of workers and pipeline excavation was brushed away. There are no contingency plans for failure but every coupling, joint and drill is a threat.

Is the company hostile to community residents and First Nations ? Neighbors had no knowledge of this project until they saw bright lights and heard noise. Yikes. What is the company hiding?They paid for a fraudulent full page ad in the Free press to promise jobs but there are no local hiring policies, no specifics on what was required for worker experience, no specifics on the job tasks or duration, and no training offered. We've seen and heard and had warnings about scams like this.

Consultation with most reserves consisted of a letter. Other companies hire aboriginal experts and biologists then listen to them and act. They take cultural sensitivity training, do thorough inventories of plants and animals, build aboriginal run greenhouses to have plants ready for reclamation, and hire restoration biologists then listen to them and act. If the company is so far removed from simple erosion control measures such as keeping the soil in its place, I fear for the consequences . And I shouldn't have to give up drinking water security during visits or attending ceremonies in the area for non essential sand mining to supply frack drilling in Alberta. I live here. They don't. Had the company been interested in environmental protection, they could have reached out to the experts like the Manitoba Eco Network and the Organic producers" Janine Gibson, Our Line in the Sand group or many other volunteer and paid experts for guidance and planning. Instead, they deflected opposition and are remote in public and private. Perhaps the executive decision makers at Sio Sand, and government officials ought to commit to a four day fast. They would recognize the importance and sacredness of water after going without.

Mines is offering subsidies, lax regulations, low taxes, cheap electricity, public road access and obstinacy to public concerns. There's proof. I was part of our nation's MiningWatch group. If Manitoba had higher standards we would not have the hundreds of provincial mine sites public dollars are still cleaning up, many still leaking toxins. Manitoba Mines department accepts company data only, yet this proposal lacks it geologically, industrially, economically, environmentally, locally, cumulatively, and each group for years and was the representative from Manitoba to Ottawa for consultation on large mines. Consultants for the company missed the temperature needs for trout, among other glaring gaps, and the proposal was turned down due to their inability to replace habitat. This mining proposal ought to be turned down too. No one can replace a polluted aquifer.

If mining brings so many benefits to a community why are some northern First Nations still poverty stricken and towns that rely on mines not flourishing? Sand is simply not comparable to water. Sand is not a critical mining operation, and please, recommend that proposals like this one never be heard from again.

Best regards,

Original signed by

Lindy Clubb