

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Written submission to the CEC hearings regarding the silica sands extraction project centered in the RM of Springfield  
**Date:** March 22, 2023 10:13:11 PM

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To all concerned,

I am writing to express in writing my opposition to the proposed silica sands extraction project in the Rural Municipality of Springfield. My opposition is based on the unacceptably high risk of contamination of the main source of drinking water in the area. The drilling of thousands of industrial wells will enhance the pathways for surface contaminants to enter both the carbonate aquifer and the sandstone aquifer. Even if all of these wells are eventually sealed, as they must be by law upon decommissioning, the likelihood is high that some will not be sealed perfectly. Some seals will likely fail over time and will not be able to prevent contaminants from getting into the aquifers. Furthermore, the massive and irreversible connections that each of these wells will create between the carbonate and the sandstone aquifers, due to the collapse of the shale aquitard, will mean that any contamination that enters the carbonate aquifer will also enter the sandstone aquifer.

A project like the proposed silica sands extraction project should be evaluated in the context of a long-term regional water management plan. I am grateful such a plan already exists: the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan.

Above all, these aquifers should be protected as a lifegiving source of water for the people who live here, and for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Wiens  
Beausejour, MB