

From: [REDACTED]
To: [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)
Subject: Sio Silica Sand Extraction
Date: March 23, 2023 11:39:31 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

When I first heard about this project back in early 2021, I could not help but think it was insane to even consider allowing a start-up company, with no assets or track record, to use an experimental method to extract sand from an aquifer which provides fresh drinking water to many thousands of residents and businesses.

Since then I have read the information available on the subject, from newspaper articles and advertisements to the data and comments available online.

My attitude has not changed.

The risks involved are too great and irreversible and I object to the Sio Silica Vivian Sand Extraction Project.

The information available about this proposed project does not allow for a comprehensive environmental review for licensing. There are way too many unanswered questions and missing information, such as Mitigation Strategies/Procedures, that are to be supplied at a later date - after approval! That is evident from the omissions and material deficiencies listed in the motions filed by Participants.

The EA process allowed for separate assessment of the processing facility and the sand extraction project and addresses only a 4-year period out of the 24-year life of the project.

This "project splitting" has been highly criticized as it restricts proper assessment of all the environmental, social and economic risks and impacts.

While contamination of the aquifer is the main concern, and there seems to be a number of ways this could happen, there are a number of other matters at stake.

The effects of removing millions of tonnes of silica sand from the aquifer was not assessed. There are significant concerns about subsidence and sinkholes developing as a result (which can also lead to groundwater contamination).

The operations of this project will have a negative impact on the residents with potential for noise, air and water quality impacts that have not been adequately assessed considering operations will be 24/7/365 and within a short distance of many homes.

This project will also have a negative impact on the ecosystem. Wildlife will be disturbed by tree/brush clearing (habitat loss), as well as round the clock noise from heavy machinery, truck traffic and general operations. There is also concern regarding spillage/drainage from the operations which could contaminate our streams and rivers.

Tens of thousands of wells will be drilled and abandoned. Over time these wells will be a perpetual source for groundwater contamination and the mere presence of these wells can also hamper any future development.

We are so lucky in Canada to have the security of fresh drinking water. We should not take that for granted

or let anyone jeopardize it!

Humanity can survive without cell phones and solar panels, but cannot survive without water.

To grant an Environment Act License to this project is not in the public's best interest and I urge the Commission to strongly recommend denying the licensing of the project.

Kindest Regards

Janice Brolly

RM of Brokenhead