

Public Hearing File 6119.00

Sio Silica (formerly CanWhite; formerly HD Minerals;
formerly 1993502 Alberta Ltd; formerly 1824455 Alberta Ltd)

March 11, 2023

Clean Environment Commission
Public Presentations

Honourable Minister of Environment, Climate and Parks, Kevin Klein; Clean Environment Commissioners; Participants; Proponent; People of the RM of Springfield and surrounding municipalities who are impacted by the Sio Silica proposal:

I have shared a written submission with the Commission and today wish to present this shorter oral version. I am personally opposed to the proposal brought by Sio Silica to the Rural Municipality of Springfield. My family is impacted by this proposal.

We are guests on Treaty 1 territory, in fellowship with the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene People, whose traditional lands we are discussing, as well as this, the homeland of the Métis Nation.



Ukrainian immigrants in Mountain Road, Manitoba

Immigrants were welcomed to Canada to open the West. Pioneers came as a village from Ukraine to Mountain Road, Manitoba in 1898.

Whose land was it in 1898?

Gloria Romaniuk

94 Calls to Action of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015

- [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls to action english2.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf)
- Empty Land or No Man's Land:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_nullius
- **Doctrine of Discovery**

Three points

First: did the colonizing nations those many hundred years earlier have a right to the resources upon which they grew wealthy?

Second: the land *had been occupied*; no matter what controlling principles prevailed at the time of settlement, the facts are no different now or then – the land had been occupied.

Third: there comes a time when you must take ownership of your natural resources in order to protect them, to safeguard your future. So we are looking here at metaphors of natural resources, ownership and protection of human rights.

The Mines and Minerals Act

- Version of the Mines and Minerals Act in force since Feb 26, 2022, is available at this link:
- <https://www.canlii.org/en/mb/laws/stat/ccsm-c-m162/latest/ccsm-c-m162.html>

Protect the resources - protect the people?

Should mining be allowed through aquifers?

Point # 4

Water flows through miles and miles of land which is shared by families, farms, businesses, schools, medical centres, industry, etc.

People have the right to clean and safe water and air.

No one owns the water or air.

We all own water and air.

Natural Resources and the Common Good:

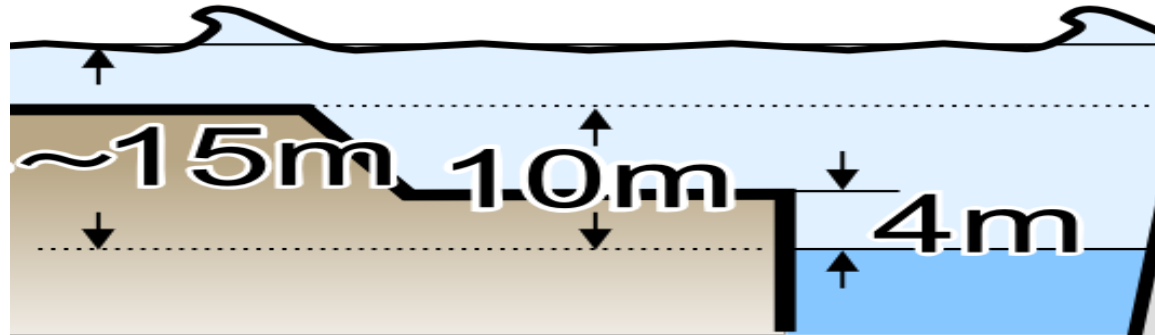
**Climate change
is real.**

**Man-made
disasters are real.**

**Sometimes the
twain meet.**

Here are three examples of Man-made Disasters

- 1. Fukushima tsunami and nuclear disaster 2011**
- 2. Deepwater Horizon disaster 2010**
- 3. Walkerton disaster 2000**



1) Fukushima Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster 2011

"... cannot be regarded as a natural disaster," the NAIIC panel's chairman, Tokyo University professor emeritus Kiyoshi Kurokawa, wrote ...

"It was a profoundly man-made disaster – that could and should have been foreseen and prevented..."

...right to be safe...

"Governments, regulatory authorities and Tokyo Electric Power... lacked a sense of responsibility to protect people's lives and society," the Commission said.

"They effectively betrayed the nation's right to be safe from nuclear accidents."

2) Deepwater Horizon Disaster 2010

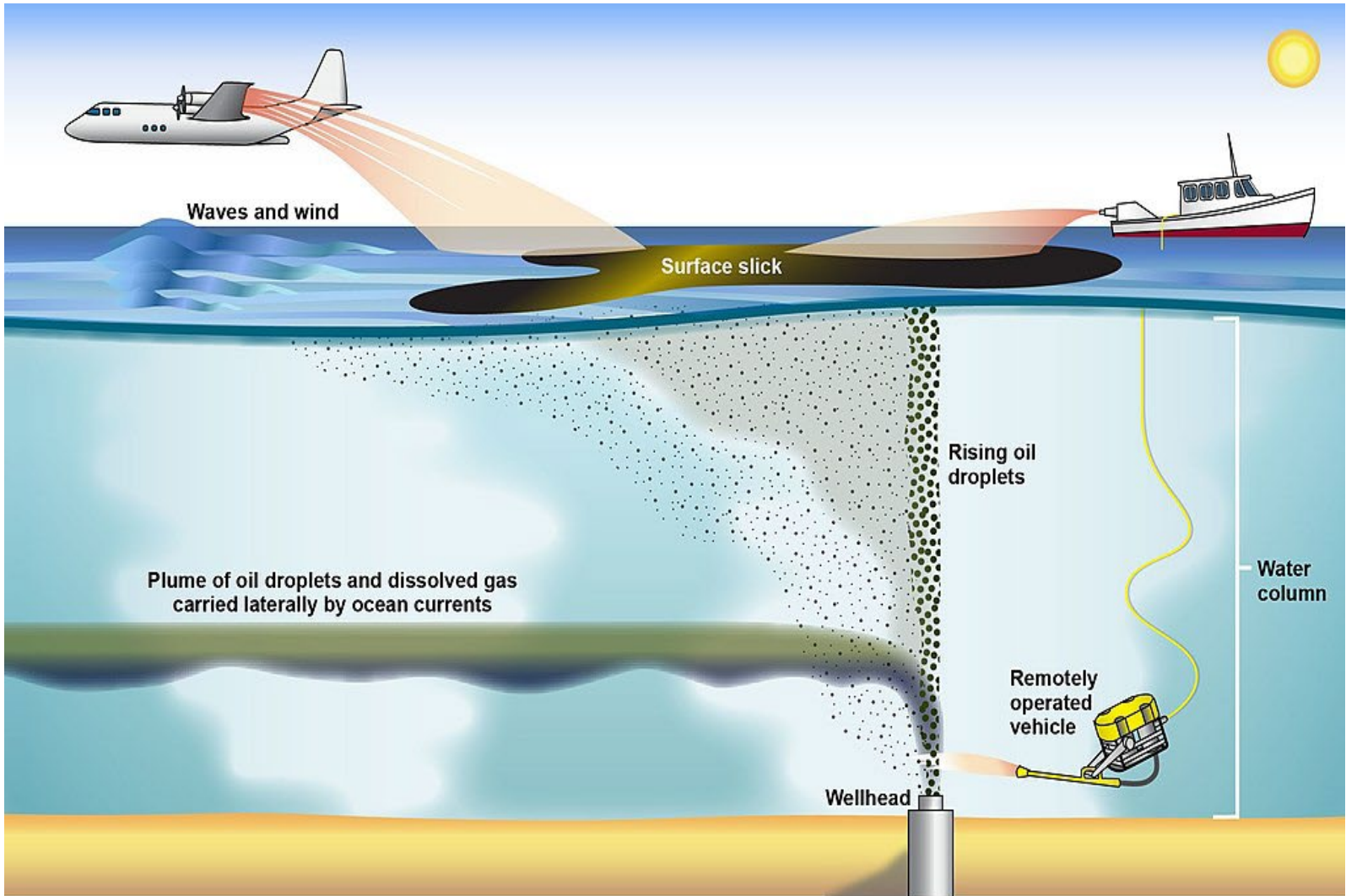


Did the proponents see the risks as falling upon themselves?

Every finger in the pie expected to make money.

Who was assigned to bear the risks for the **Deepwater Horizon disaster**?

Well, **the pelican surely bore the risk**. The fishermen did. The towns did, the coastal bio-systems did, all the creatures in the Gulf of Mexico did, one way or another. **Is the disaster over?** Can the “largest oil spill ever” be considered over? Uh, no.



Source: GAO review and analysis of scientific literature. | GAO-22-104153

The WALKERTON WATER DISASTER, 2000 (made in Canada!)

Walkerton Deaths and Illness *E. coli* O157:H7, Campylobacter



- 7 deaths, 27 HUS,* 65 hospitalized
- 2,321 people sick
- 42% of the cases were unreported
- \$155 million cost

Hemolytic-uremic syndrome: renal failure, bleeding

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(c) 2008, Jeffrey Griffiths, MD, MPH



Source of Walkerton contamination?
bacteria from the manure of nearby cattle

Point # 5

Who will bear the risks

so that Sio Silica can attempt to gain profit?

Sio Silica originally touted methods that were under patent and experimental.

They admitted that risks did exist.

They answer questions but not all answers bear scrutiny, and many answers change, and change again.

Green-washing?

Inadequately answered question

Sand respects gravity.

Gravity is a law of Nature.

The shale and limestone will collapse in some areas, in many areas.

Will it collapse in all areas?

Please see Dennis LeNeveu, 30 January 2023, Item 6, Extraction Well Cluster Design, Limestone and Sand Pillar Stability; and, Item 8, Shale Aquitard Degradation.

I reject Sio Silica as the scientifically competent agent in charge

Nature has a perfect system in place. Nature is meticulous in its efficiencies...

Nature's system has been established over eons... and must be respected.

Nature does what Nature does.

Burden of proof is guaranteed safety

The onus is upon Sio Silica to meet every contingency with **standards beyond risk** – beyond the promises made in:

Fukushima
the Gulf of Mexico
Walkerton

Please see Dennis LeNeveu, 30 January 2023, item 6, Extraction Well Cluster Design, Limestone and Sand Pillar Stability.

*Sio insists what it has done is good
enough...*

Sio Silica must do the work,
must provide the data,
must convince those
whose life relies upon its diligence.

*So far, this diligence
has not been demonstrated.*

Cataclysmic Failure

Who pays for cataclysmic failure? Money cannot replace quality and quantity of aquifers.

We may have to pay.

Worse, we may find **there is no mitigation for loss of aquifers that once supplied clean water to thousands.**

Nature will follow its laws and principles

With perfect intuition,
Nature will follow its laws and principles.

We have knowledge, but
we need wisdom.

...the land, the air and the water!

I thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

I am humbled by the First Nations people who have endured so much for so long.

Only now do I understand to any degree what it is like to have someone try to take from me that which is absolutely precious for life –
the land, the air and the water!