

Dear Commissioners,

Please register my objection to the Vivian Silica Sand Extraction Project.

Information available about this project does not allow a comprehensive environmental review for licensing. This is evident from the omissions and material deficiencies listed in motions filed by Participants.

The granting of an Environment Act License to this project is not in the public interest.

These are my specific concerns:

1) the EA process allowed for separate assessments of the processing facility and the sand extraction project. The process also addressed only a short 4-year period out of the 24-year life of the project. Known as “**Project splitting**”, this approach is highly criticized. It prevents cumulative assessment of a project’s environmental, economic, and social risks, and the impacts upon existing and future endeavors.

2) the mining, processing, and transport operations will operate 24/7/365 within 100’s of meters of many homes in the area. **Noise and air quality impacts have not been adequately assessed, and assessment of artificial light pollution has been ignored.**

3) the extraction will have direct impacts on the land. Trees will be cleared, habitat loss will impact known species at risk. **Wildlife in the local ecosystem** will be negatively impacted by round the clock noise.

4) Access roads which are required for the heavy machinery and truck traffic will impact farm land and livestock. Mining operations will create continual distress and worry, will impinge on the enjoyment of our property, and **negatively impact our livelihoods and communities.**

5) tens of thousands of industrial sized double cased wells will be drilled and abandoned. Casings and sealing compounds degrade over time. With multiple sources of entry, these wells will be perpetual sources for **groundwater contamination.**

6) These wells will be on private property and will **impact our property values**, use, insurance, liabilities, and future development.

7) cumulative effects of removing 1.36 million tonnes of silica sand annually from the aquifer was not assessed. There is serious risk of **subsidence and sinkholes**. Hydrogeological impacts from subsurface geotechnical **failures of the shale aquitard** were not adequately assessed.

8) sterilization of process **water re-injected into the aquifer**, pivotal to the project, was not categorically proven prior to onset of the licensing process. At “... a conceptual stage” the information is insufficient. This is a serious flaw. Given the need to protect local and regional groundwater resources, area residents have **no assurance the water will remain safe.**

Water is our most precious resource. We cannot risk the Carbonate and Sandstone aquifers.

These critical freshwater aquifers are the drinking water source for southern and Interlake regions and must be protected.

I urge the Commission to strongly recommend denying the licensing of the project.

Sincerely,

Lloyd John Fell - LLOYD JOHN FELL

