

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Sio Silica mining proposal  
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Re The Sio Silica proposal for mining sand from beneath the two existing aquifers in SE Manitoba (Carbonate Aquifer, protective shale aquitard, and the Sandstone Aquifer).

I have read much of the documentation presented as part of the hearings. There appear to be multiple studies which have advised against drilling wells which would span both aquifers, creating what are known as interconnecting wells. The interconnecting wells increase the likelihood of cross contamination. In fact, a study commissioned by the RM of Springfield actually recommended the decommissioning of existing interconnecting wells. Approval of a project that will create thousands of new interconnecting wells is completely opposite of the recommendations made by that study. In essence, the conclusions of that study are recommending not approving the new mining proposal.

Obviously one of the biggest concerns is contamination of the source of drinking water for the entire region. If contamination happens, and it is likely due to the huge number of proposed wells and the unproven methods of sealing, there is no going back. The damage to this source of drinking water will be permanent. Will Sio Silica guarantee that this won't happen, and will they back up their guarantee with a promise to provide, in perpetuity, replacement drinking water and water for agricultural and food-processing purposes? If not, their mining project should be denied.

Another concern with this project is the massive disruption on the surface. Land clearing, access road construction, establishment of areas for the workers, noise to the residents, etc. etc. What is the benefit for all the people in the area whose lives will be disrupted by the mining operations, and possibly negatively affected (permanently) by the water contamination? Creation of a few jobs, disruption for everyone else. Again, this doesn't seem like it's good for the area and the project should be denied.

Please reject this application. The well-being of the people who live in the area far outweighs the short-term economic benefits and the profit-making of this non-Manitoba company.

Regards,  
Jeff Nelson

