

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Spam: Sand Extraction Projects - please register my objection  
**Date:** March 24, 2023 1:26:46 PM

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**ATTENTION: ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.**

Hello,

I'm writing to object to the Vivian Silica Sand Extraction Project, and all other sand mining projects and proposals in Manitoba.

While I'm not an expert in geoscience, and I realize we need mining products (including for solar panels, electronic device components, etc), my background in biochemistry and recent review of current patents, has brought me to this stance.

What follows, is a letter template that I've modified.

The information available about this proposed project does not allow for a comprehensive environmental review for licensing. This is evident from the omissions and material deficiencies listed in the motions filed by Participants. To grant an Environment Act License to this project is not in the public interest. The following are some specific concerns.

1. The EA process allowed for separate assessment of the processing facility and the sand extraction project. It also addressed only a short 4-year period out of the 24-year life of the project. "Project splitting" prevents full assessment of all environmental, economic, and social impacts from a project.
2. Mining, processing, and transport operations will operate 24/7/365 within 100's of meters of many homes in the area. Better assessment is needed of impacts such as noise, air quality and light pollution.
3. Extraction will have direct impacts on the land. Trees will need clearing and loss of habitat will impact known species at risk. Wildlife will be disturbed by round the clock noise, which can result in negative impacts to the local ecosystem. Access roads are required for the heavy machinery and truck traffic, impacting farm land and livestock.
4. Multiple industrial sized double cased wells will be drilled and abandoned. The casings and sealing compounds degrade over time. These wells will be perpetual sources for groundwater contamination.
5. Effects of removing 1.36 million tonnes of silica sand per year from the aquifer was not assessed. There are significant concerns about subsidence and sinkholes developing as a result. Potential hydrogeological impacts from subsurface geotechnical failures of the shale aquitard

were also not assessed.

6. Sterilization of injected process water into the aquifer is a major component pivotal to the project that should have been thoroughly proven prior to beginning the licensing process. It “remains at a conceptual stage” with no sufficient information available. This is a serious flaw in the project that is particularly distressing given the need to protect local and regional groundwater resources.

Water is our most precious resource. The Carbonate and Sandstone aquifers are valued and should not be put at risk from the proposed project. These freshwater aquifers are an amazing Manitoba resource and deserve to be preserved.

In light of my concerns, I urge the Commission to strongly recommend denying the licensing of the project. It would be better for mining companies to invest in improvements to processes that don't skirt around or buy out the interests of people and nature. Let's hold them to a higher standard because the lives of us and our children to the 7th generation, literally depend on it.

Sincerely,  
Virginia Cail

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.