

Speech for silo silica meeting

Hello, my name is Wesley Mustard, I'm 23 years. I'm a citizen of the rm of Springfield.

I have a couple of concerns about your operation.

1) The sandstone aquifer is the lifeline of Manitoba for people that rely on water from their wells, with silo silica tapping into both aquifers to harvest silica sand, there is a chance of the groundwater getting contaminated and being unsafe to drink, no matter how small the chance is, I believe that it's not in the best interest of any Manitobian to take the risk of affecting their water.

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File Name: Wesley Mustard
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(Commission Secretary)

Silica sand isn't something you should breathe in or ingest. Silica sand dust particles if inhaled could become trapped in the lung tissue causing inflammation and scarring. The particles also reduce the lung's ability to take in oxygen. This condition is called silicosis. (si·luh·kow·suhs) Silicosis results in permanent lung damage and is a progressive, debilitating, and sometimes fatal disease. And that's just from breathing in the sand particles from the air, I wouldn't want to know the damage it would cause if it was in your water too.

2) There is an unforeseeable danger of tapping into the underground water. Did you know that in China from the groundwater drilling, coupled with

breakneck industrialization, has proved that it's particularly toxic. Across China, an estimated 80–90 percent of groundwater is unfit for drinking, while half of its aquifers are too polluted to tap for industry or farming. This information was found in a study done by the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources in September 2022.

For silo silica to refine the sand into something usable, how many tons of smoke will be produced from the processing plant? The Canadian government talks about making a smaller carbon footprint in the world and being greener. But setting up a processing plant that will produce more smog in the air is going backward in that direction.

3) So with that being said, no amount of money is worth sabotaging your freshwater supply and your air quality. I lived on my property for 23 years and I'm the fourth generation that has lived on the land, I plan on building a house in the future, and what kind of future will my family have if I can't use the water that is under my land?

Thank you for your time.