

January 25, 2023

Manitoba Clean Environment Commission  
305 - 155 Carlton St.  
Winnipeg Mb R3C 3H8

To Whom it May Concern:

**Re: The Sio Silica proposal to build a processing plant and extract silica sand from 200 ft. below surface.**

I have lived on Pleasant Road south of PTH 15 for 46 years now. When I first moved here my water was free from any rust (iron) staining. As the years went on, two housing developments occurred on Eastdale, a mile to the west of me, and my water started to stain my toilet bowl and bathtub with rust. Therefore I can only assume that the more people using the water from the Sandilands Aquifer, the more wells in the area, has an effect on the quality of water. Further the volume of water coming from my tap is not as robust as it once was.


If Sio Silica is allowed to bore countless wells in our area in future and bring slurry to the surface from which they will extract silica sand, supposedly purify the water (which by the way was pretty pure where it originally was) and return it to the aquifer, I can only assume based on previous experience that this will have a tremendous effect on both the quality and quantity of my well water. Everyone in the northeast quadrant of Manitoba extracts water via wells from the Sandilands Aquifer so I will not be alone in my quandary.

And from where will all these residents and businesses in Brokenhead, Reynolds, Springfield, Steinbach, Ste. Anne, Woodridge, etc. obtain their drinking and bathing water, not to mention water for their livestock? Many years ago Winnipeg made an agreement with the band of Shoal Lake that if they were allowed to use that as a source of water, they would not sell it to anyone.

If you agree to Sio Silica's proposal, you will be destroying the lives of everyone in southeastern Manitoba. I implore you to keep that in mind when you make your decision as to whether to allow a company based in Alberta and B.C. to come in, rape one of our natural resources, sell out at a huge profit, and leave the destruction behind for the governments and ratepayers of Manitoba to deal with in whatever way they possibly can. And other than having water trucked in from far afield, perhaps Ontario or the U.S.A., I have no idea how they can fix the situation.

Please, please, do not allow this to happen.

Yours sincerely

  
Heather A. Erickson  
