

From: [REDACTED]
To: [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Roslyn Stanwick WS Public Hearing File 6119.00 Sio Silica
Date: March 24, 2023 2:55:51 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

I was born and raised in Springfield, Manitoba. It is my home. My parents have lived there for over 40 years, where they built a business, raised a family and nurtured a community in a remote and beautiful spot in the world.

Over the last few months, I have been following Sio Silica's proposal for the Vivian Sand Extraction Project with shock and alarm. Their untested methods of extraction are beyond risky -- they're negligent. They threaten to destabilize the aquifer, poison the water supply, pollute the air, cause serious health risks to local residents and deaden access to water -- one of the most basic, abundant and pure resources we depend on -- for tens of thousands of Manitobans, if not more.

During the Clean Environment Commission hearings, Sio Silica did not adequately demonstrate they have done enough planning, risk management or technical testing to meet the due diligence required for their proposal. It is speculative at best and there are plenty of opportunities for it to go wrong. They are planning to drill thousands of wells. Each well could be subject to failure -- crumbling shale, fractures in the limestone, the mixing of aquifers, inadequate well capping, the introduction of heavy metals, the production of sulphuric acid. Once any one of these happens there is no going back. If approved, this project will be a sword dangling over our heads.

On their end, Sio Silica offers job creation and a promise to boost Manitoba's green economy. But, if or when things go wrong, how long will the jobs last? What's stopping this company, new to our province, from cutting and running as soon as major problems arise? Or from establishing the infrastructure and license to operate the plant only to flip it for a cool fee? I'm worried about the precedents this could set and what protection we have from subsequent, expedient companies that may take their place. So many unsettling outcomes. And for a company whose business it is to put our natural environment in the way of serious, irrevocable harm. If Manitoba wants to boost its green economy credentials surely it can do better than this.

The risks of this project are long-term and plentiful. The gains, transient and for only a few. My family and I are impacted by this proposal. Our neighbours and friends are impacted by this proposal. We need to remember, we are guests on Treaty 1 territory, and allies of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene People, whose traditional lands we are discussing, as well as this, the homeland of the Metis Nation. They are impacted by this proposal. I would like to live up to our responsibility, as guardians, and protect the land and its resources for generations to come.

I cannot in good conscience support this proposal. Commissioners, I ask you to please:

1. Note my categorical opposition to the approval of the Sio Silica application.

2. Register my categorical support for the protection of the aquifers in the MSSAC (Municipal Silica Sand Advisory Committee) and Springfield regions.

Sincerely,
Roslyn Stanwick

Long-time resident of Springfield, Manitoba

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