

From:

To:

+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission

Cc:

Subject:

Protect our Drinking Water - do NOT license the proposed Sio Silica project!

Date:

March 24, 2023 9:51:53 AM

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Dear Clean Environment Commission,

In the week of WORLD WATER DAY, I would like to ask you to protect the purity of our drinking water from contamination by industry.

Do not NOT license the Sio Silica proposed project. Please register my objection to the Vivian Silica Sand Extraction Project.

To grant an Environment Act License to this project is not in the public interest. I am writing to you to highlight the following specific concerns.

- The 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.
- 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.
- Tens of thousands of 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.

Water is our most precious resource and should never be put at risk. The Carbonate and Sandstone aquifers are valued and should not be put at risk from the proposed project. These freshwater aquifers are a

critical drinking water source for southern and Interlake regions and must be protected now and for future generations.

Thousands of Manitobans are opposed to putting aquifers at risk.

In light of the many concerns and in keeping the best interest of Manitobans in mind, **I urge the Commission to strongly recommend denying the licensing of the project.**

Thank you,

Katharina Stieffenhofer

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