

EXHIBIT NO. 11-032

File Name: Carolyn Whyte

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Received by: Pete Crocker

My name is Carolyn Whyte. Thank you to the Clean Environment Commission for the opportunity to speak today.

I've lived in the RM of Springfield for 39 years. I've raised my children here, ran my own small business in Oakbank and currently work for Statistics Canada.

Today I respectfully ask you to recommend the ceasing of any further operations of the proposed Sio Silica plan for the installation, operation and decommissioning of silica sand extraction wells in the Vivian area.

The RM of Springfield is fortunate to have a unique and enviable supply of pristine, quality water. One of the greatest concerns with this proposal is the risk, indeed expectation that the shale barrier between The Red River Carbonate and the Winnipeg Sandstone Aquifers will be further compromised and mixing will inevitably occur.

The enormous number of Sio Silica wells (over 9,000 proposed wells) will unavoidably contribute to the interconnections between these aquifers and their intermixing, and increase the contaminant transport from the surface into the aquifers.

While I cannot pretend begin to understand all of the complexity of this process, it is obvious given the immense and intense discussion, debate, comprehensive studies, reports, public hearings and loud public outcry that the CEC needs to stop this operation. Respected University of Winnipeg professor and water quality expert, Dr. Eva Pip, who has spent her entire career studying and researching water quality, sounded the alarm bells years and years before anyone else, about the health of Lake Winnipeg, long before people and governments took notice. Dr. Pip is sounding the alarm bells once again, loud and clear, on the potential disaster that could await the Carbonate and Sandstone Aquifers. Are we going to listen this time?

It is obvious there are many concerns regarding this company already.

- As admitted by Sio Silica themselves, the procedures and technology to be used in this project are untried and undocumented elsewhere. The first four years are expected to be experimental learning. Why should we risk the quality of our drinking water on untried and undocumented procedures?
- The company is proposing to extract high purity silica sand approximately 200 ft below ground. Some test wells already drilled have been in excess of 300 ft. Why are they drilling deeper than they said they would?
- Despite all of their extensive procedures, the company is already not living up to its promise to fill test boreholes.

- In the Sio Silica's proposed decommissioning procedures, they have procedures to seal abandoned Project wells: Their own extensive procedures outline using a 5 Feet thick cement cap to be placed on the very top, allowed to set and then topsoil replaced on top. According to this plan , the casings will be left in place. Yet according to wells already drilled, in numerous instances, the casings have been removed.

**Sio Silica has broken these procedures and this is only the beginning of the project. We are concerned and worried.**

Sio Silica's decommissioning procedures are very vague. How can the CEC promise that after 24 years, this company will not just pull out of the RM of Springfield, move back to Alberta and leave whatever mess they have made which will be in perpetuity?

How will potential tainting of our aquifer be addressed? Who will be responsible for homeowner's tainted wells and drinking water? The ratepayers of the RM of Springfield ? The Province of Manitoba?

If this company cannot even live up to the basic responsibility of properly capping test boreholes, what assurance can the CEC give the residents of Springfield that this company, which is solely driven on making millions and millions of dollars of profit, will adhere to proper drilling procedures, mitigation processes when inevitable leaks and breaks in equipment occur for 24 years in a nearly secluded location?

Our rural development is increasing. Our demand for water grows. Manitoba and the RM of Springfield has an enormous potential for resource development, but it has to be done with real integrity and respect for the RM of Springfield's citizens and our environment. We are open to economic change and development but in a managed and environmentally responsible manner. Of course we want more jobs and industry in our RM. But our water resources are finite and irreplaceable and we need to conserve and protect them.

This is drinking water in our backyard. Invasive and permanent changes to our aquifer may be irreversible.

I respectfully ask the Manitoba's Clean Environment Commission to recommend the ceasing of any further operations of the proposed Sio Silica plan.

Thank you for your time,

Carolyn Whyte

Springfield, MB