

EXHIBIT NO. H-045
File Name: Lorraine Boitson Proc
Date: 3-17-23
Received by: Prock

My name is Lorraine Boitson. Thank-you for this opportunity to present today.

A little about myself:

- My husband and I made Anola our home 45 years ago. Over the years we have built 3 homes all within 2 miles of each other
- We have 3 children and 5 grandchildren
- Our oldest daughter's family operates a dairy farm just 2 miles from our home
- Our middle daughter's family is ½ mile from our home. She owns a hair salon located in her home. Her husband is a diesel mechanic and they also run a beef operation.
- Our son is the youngest and he has a degree in Agriculture and manages a local crop input plant and is planning to build a home this summer just down the road from us.
- My husband and I are both retired but keep busy with our beef farm which our son is also involved in.
- The great thing of having our family so close – is having our family so close. Being surrounded by your children and grandchildren is the best. The only downfall to this is in the event of an environmental disaster we will all be affected. We are all concerned.

As farmers we operate our farms respecting practices that promote environmental sustainability. Our land is our living and water is a necessity.

On the Vivian Sand Project website, Sio Silica states, and I quote "As a resident, you owe it to yourself to get the facts" End of quote., so I made this my mission not only for myself but for my family.

The website also states, and I quote "Sio Silica knows your water is safe, let us prove it to you. Watch and read the **Facts Matter** pieces over the coming months so when someone asks you, Do you think the water will be safe? You can confidently say, Yes." End of quote.

After hours and hours of researching, reading, attending hearings, etc. the only thing I can confidently say is that the more I know, the less I trust this company. I can confidently say that I base this lack of trust not on heresay but on what I have heard with my own ears.

Let me provide just a snippet of what I have learned just these past few days.

At the hearing held on February 27, I picked up a small package titled Sio Silica Company Overview. The first page contained a Safety Message about Winter Driving. It provided tips such as checking the forecast and delaying your trip if travel is not recommended or making sure your vehicle is well maintained with snow tires, full tank of gas, lights, etc. It reminds us to carry a winter emergency kit and to drive to conditions. All information that living in the country for 40+ years I am well aware of. All information that is within my control. Lots of information that included a plan in case something happens like having warm blankets, food, fire starter etc. All great information – we should be prepared for the unknown. Yet, during Sio Silica’s presentations when questioned about things that could go wrong during their mining process they constantly referred to their TARP – Trigger Action Response Plan – which is not developed yet but will be as they go along. They advise us to plan for an emergency but then tell us they will develop their emergency plan as they go along – not very reassuring.

Also at this same hearing, I believe within the first hour, Mr Sander Duncanson, legal counsel for Sio Silica stated, and I quote “Room and pillar mining operations are common all around the world, including across Canada, and they are a proven and safe method to mine underground resources without causing the impacts of a big open pit mine.” End of quote. My first thoughts were - that’s good to know. So that evening I spent hours on the internet looking up Room and Pillar mining. What I found, or rather didn’t find, was that the technique Sio Silica proposes to use has never been tried before and yet Mr. Duncanson eluded to the fact that it was a safe mining technique.

My observations - Sio Silica was not off to a good start.

Information kept changing. There were lots of references to Stantec Reports – Stantec 2019, Stantec 2020, Stantec 2021 yet the most recent, Stantec 2022 is only available in its entirety if a NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) is signed. I heard a number of times, references to NDA’s. In fact, at the February 28th

hearing, we returned from a 45 minute lunch break only to be told that anyone that has not signed an NDA would have to leave the room for an incamera session. So from 1:38 to 2:20 we were asked to leave a “public session”.

Sio states that, I quote “Sio is committed to leaving sites in equivalent or better condition then prior to extracting.” End of quote. It also states that, I quote “sand stays wet and contained the whole time. It won’t float around in the air or pose a risk to people or animals.” End of quote.

This all sounds wonderful, yet Sio’s test sites were not left in equivalent or better condition. Piles of sand were left uncovered, airborne, for months until people complained. We heard that, at the session in Anola on Saturday and again today. My husband saw the sand piles himself and was disgusted.

At this afternoon’s hearing, there was a presentation by Mr. Dennis LeNeveau who has a Bachelor of Education Degree, a Bachelor of Science Degree (honors in Physics) and a Master of Science Degree (in Biophysics). He presented for around 2 hours and showed many slides – a wealth of information. When Jessie Baker, Counsel for Sio Silica had the opportunity to question Mr. Le Neveau, Mr. Baker spent time attempting to discredit Mr. LeNeveau. In my years I have learned that it is not always the letters behind a name that bare all the knowledge. Often the most reliable information is from experience. Mr. Baker also questioned Mr. LeNeveau regarding pictures in his February 2023 submission and if the photographer had permission to be on the land. Mr. Baker asked if Mr. LeNeveau was the person who took the pictures. Mr. LeNeveau did not disclose who took the pictures noting that over the years the land was frequented by hikers, ATV riders, etc. and that he was not aware of any No Trespassing signs. All the information Mr. LeNeveau presented and these are items of concern.

Throughout the hearings I heard many statements from Sio that began with words like, we don’t think, we don’t anticipate, we will agree to adhere to the recommendations in the future, we think it is more reliable, we believe, we don’t forsee, our assumptions, etc. One thing I heard behind all of this is that this is a new and unproven technique and our environment, water and air, is at risk.

So, going back to my opening remarks – can I confidently say that my water will be safe – heck NO. I can confidently say that I am terrified – I can confidently say that I have absolutely no trust in this company – I can confidently say that once the damage is done there is no going back.

In closing I would like to thank the people who have spent days and days of their lives to create awareness to this project. I cannot count how much time I have spent so I cannot even imagine how much time you all have spent. Thank-you to all the experts – sharing your knowledge is most appreciated.

I urge people to go to the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission website and read the transcripts from the hearings. Read the Matrix Solutions Inc. and Arcadis Canada Inc. reviews.

I am not an engineer. I am not a geotechnical or hydrogeological expert. I am not a geochemist. I am a resident of Anola, I am a mother, I am a grandmother.