

From: [REDACTED]
To: [+WPG725 - Clean Environment Commission](#)
Subject: CEC File 6119.00 Sio Silica Sand Extraction
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Importance: High

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March 23, 2023

To the Chair Jay Doering and Commissioners Ian Gillies, Laurie Streich, and Terry Johnson:

I have been following the developments regarding Sio Silica's application to use an untried extraction technique to remove silica sand in Southeastern Manitoba. It came to my attention when some Springfield residents made it known that our Former Mayor and Council had worked with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Sio Silica, formerly CanWest, to attempt to enable the company attain its business goals with minimal residents awareness. That Council was summarily punished by being voted out – the people have spoken. All other surrounding municipalities have denounced the project, giving credence to the election outcome. The outcry continues today with increasing numbers of very concerned citizens in Springfield (and beyond) as more people become aware of the true nature of the proposal. I add my voice to that outcry.

I am a retired Biosystems and Manufacturing Engineer and Fellow of the Engineers of Canada. In my career I attained the position of Executive Vice-President of Business in a Multi-national corporation. In my opinion, the tactics and strategy I've seen employed by Sio Silica are consistent with a profit driven company attempting to unscrupulously achieve their aims: initially under the radar; then working behind the scenes with 'politicians' utilizing in-camera sessions to keep developments 'under-wraps' for as long as possible; and finally, using mass green-washing media when the intent becomes highly public. That approach in and of itself creates distrust right from the outset and ultimately confirms deceit.

It has been acknowledged by Sio Silica that at least two impermeable layers will be breached in the process. Experts are alarmed by the high risk of cross-contamination. Perhaps the Executives of Sio Silica and all those who might approve this mining process should be required to legally and contractually personally, and with their families, drink the water and breathe the (potentially) silica infested air for a period of 10 years; that would demonstrate real leadership and commitment. I realize this concept may seem ridiculous, but pause for a moment and think about whether they would consider this for even a second. Incidentally, this type of leadership commitment has occurred elsewhere in the world.

I am certain that you have already received substantial evidence of Sio Silica violations of the very assurances they make. Instead of repeating, I will just point out that this emphasizes the dishonesty, lack of ethics and disgusting corporate behaviour that we cannot tolerate by anyone, let alone an out-of-province corporation. When the area becomes contaminated, I'm certain they will have already implemented an exit strategy to avoid consequences. Will the Government of the Province

of Manitoba then be responsible and accountable? And then tax the very people affected to pay for the damages?

As the CEC, you have an opportunity to protect our water and stand up for the Environment, citizens of Manitoba, and all the Flora and Fauna (local and migratory) threatened by this careless proposal, by strongly recommending denial of the Sio Silica application.

Please register my categorical opposition to approval of the Sio Silica application.

Respectfully,

Ralph Eschenwecker, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]