



## Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Minister responsible for Efficiency Manitoba

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

Feisal Somji  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Sio Silica  
Suite 1930, 440-2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
SW, Calgary, AB T2P 5E9  
[feisal@somji.ca](mailto:feisal@somji.ca)

Dear Feisal Somji:

**Subject: Silica Sand Extraction Project Decision and reasons under subsections 11(11), (12), (13)**

I have made a licensing decision regarding the proposal submitted by Sio Silica for an Environment Act licence to construct and operate a sand extraction project within the Rural Municipality of Springfield.

In making my decision, I am guided by the overarching principles that inform the licensing regime of The Environment Act, the intent of which Act is to develop and maintain an environmental protection and management system in Manitoba which will ensure that the environment is protected and maintained in such a manner as to sustain a high quality of life for this and future generations.

In making my decision, I have also considered potential licence conditions, project summary, section 35 consultation report with proposed accommodation measures, summary of public concerns, summary of technical advisory input, Clean Environment Commission's technical review and public hearing report and the many other pieces of communication and documents that have been sent to me on this project. In addition, I have also considered the economic impact analysis prepared by government.

Having considered the above information, I have come to the decision that it is not appropriate to issue a licence for your proposed project at this time. In accordance with section 11(11) of The Environment Act, I am therefore refusing to issue The Environment Act Licence and thereby prohibiting the construction, alteration, operation or implementation of this development.

I am not satisfied that the potential environmental effects can be addressed through licence conditions, even on a step-wise basis, and that drinking water can be protected now and for future generations.

Pursuant to section 28 of *The Environment Act*, any person who is affected by this decision may file an appeal in writing with the minister within 30 days after the date of the decision. The minister must then refer the appeal to the Lieutenant Governor in Council in accordance with section 28(1.1) of the Act. Under section 28(2) the disposition of the appeal rests with the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Honourable Tracy Schmidt  
Minister of Environment and  
Climate Change

c. Agnes Wittmann