

File 6275.00 Sio Silica Corporation – SiMBA Sand Extraction Project Public Review

468 people signed and submitted the attached comments and concerns during the proposal review period.

Honourable Mike Moyes
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Director Agnes Wittmann
Environmental Approval Branch,
Environment and Climate Change

Manitoba Public Registry

Re: File No. 6275.00 - Sio Silica, Simba Sand Extraction Project

These comments are in response to the Environment Act Proposal (EAP) for the Sio Silica Corporations proposed Simba Sand Extraction Project (formerly known as the Vivian Sand Extraction Project).

I am a resident of [REDACTED] and based on the information provided by Sio Silica in the EAP and their behaviour over the past few years, **I think the Simba silica sand extraction project should be rejected now and not be allowed to move forward in the assessment and licensing process.**

The ongoing concerns about the potential impacts of silica sand extraction on environment and human health have not been alleviated by the information in the EAP for the proposed Simba Project. Manitobans can no longer "rest easy" as their pristine drinking water is once again under threat of irreversible harm.

Sio Silica's failure to address the main concerns and recommendations of the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) and produce credible data to support their novel extraction process is a major red flag and an indication that this project is not being developed with the best interests of Manitobans in mind.

As noted by our Premier Wab Kinew when Sio Silica's extraction project was rejected for the first time: "In order for Manitobans to be healthy now and for generations into the future, we have to protect a clean, safe and healthy environment." This will require a high standard of impact assessment and meaningful public participation, including participant funding, to ensure the full scope of concerns and potential impacts are properly understood before irreversible harm occurs to the Winnipeg Sandstone and Red River Carbonate aquifers.

I agree with Premier Wab Kinew that Manitoba's resources should be developed "with higher labour standards, higher environmental standards and greater respect for human rights compared to any other jurisdiction in the world." So, I think that **if this project is allowed to continue through the impact assessment and licensing process under *The Environment Act*, the Minister/Director should take the following actions:**

- 1) Designate the Simba Silica Sand Project as a Class 3 development** due to the potential significant and irreversible harm to the drinking water source of 100,000 Manitobans. A Class 3 designation will also ensure the Minister is the decision-maker for the impact assessment and licensing process.
- 2) Require Sio Silica to produce and publicly publish a cumulative effects assessment report** before proceeding any further in the licensing process.
- 3) Require Sio Silica to produce and publicly publish their plans for post-approval practices (monitoring, follow-up and adaptive management) and emergencies in the public registry** so they can be independently reviewed prior to the licensing decision.
- 4) Request the CEC to hold a public hearing to review Project Simba, with full participant funding.**

Thank-you for considering my comments on Sio Silica's proposed Simba extraction project.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Name

[REDACTED]

Date

[REDACTED]

Address