

REFERENDUM on Sio's future

August 13 to September 18

**Call now to
vote NO**

204-515-1252



Mark Miller

RM of Springfield Councillors Mark Miller and Andy Kuczynski are fighting for your clean fresh water supply!

Please support our efforts to allow residents to express their views on Sio Silica Mining in the pristine aquifer we draw our fresh water from by voting today!

Mark and Andy now feel another approach is required: and have created an Action Plan which will allow the PUBLIC to give voice and strength to this cause.



Andy Kuczynski

Are we prepared to allow our fresh drinking water supply to be compromised by an Alberta based for profit mining company that proposes to drill 7,000+ drill holes into southeastern Manitoba's carbonate aquifer and extract silica sand that can be used in a variety of applications including fracking sand which is used in the oil and gas sectors, and if the stars line up a possible source for sand used in solar cell wafer production?

PLEASE DONATE
YOU CAN HELP US FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS
TO AN UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF
CLEAN FRESH WATER!

ACTION PLANS COST MONEY; that is why we have set up three ways for you to donate:

1. Go to www.GoFundMe.com and enter the search term: Save Our Water 2023 click on the title then enter your donation.
2. Mail a cheque to: Springfield Taxpayer Rights Corp., 21115 Oakwood Road, Springfield, Manitoba R5R 0K4 with SAVE OUR WATER as the subject line.
3. By e-transfer to Springfield Taxpayer Rights Corp., email e-transfer to: saveourwater2023@gmail.com

Scan this QR code to watch a very important video on the Sio mining proposal.



The Sio Silica project will cause irreversible harm on an industrial scale that cannot be remediated.

The quality of life that we now enjoy – healthy land, fresh air, and clean water – our peaceful rural lifestyle is at grave risk by Sio Silica Corp.'s project.

This project, with its risks to the only available fresh water source for the area, should not receive an Environment Act License. The risk is too great.

Tangi Bell, Our Line in the Sand MB

PLEASE VOTE NO!

Dr. John Gerrard, Liberal MLA, at the launch of the Referendum, confirmed that he and his party are throwing their support behind Springfield Councillors Miller and Kuczynski to protect our water and environment.

Dr. Gerrard commented "We will put Sio on Ice when or if we have the opportunity, we are opposed to mining in this pristine fresh water supply which is so vital to the daily lives of thousands of residents in south eastern Manitoba".

"We are not in favour of this deal going through" he said. MLA Gerrard also complimented the two councillors for their brave stance on demanding answers about the risks to our water and continued questioning of Sio Silica throughout the process. He went on to say that his Party invites and listens to the public as they adopt its policies for the provincial election. "It's refreshing to see these councillors stick to their guns, taking a stance to protect residents and risk the political fallout."



“Water is the past, present, and future of all life. It is unspeakably precious and vulnerable, and we cannot endanger it through ignorance, irresponsibility, or apathy. We do not have technology to fix accidents or mistakes that imperil groundwater. The consequences of inappropriate decisions we make now will be our permanent legacy and our permanent regret.”

Dr. Eva Pip

***Our
community
depends on its
uninterrupted
clean fresh
water supply!***

POLITICAL *How did we get here?*

1. Is Mayor Therrien trying to discredit this referendum process that involves public participation? – **Yes, it appears that way.**
2. Did Mayor Therrien and Melinda Warren campaign against Sio Silica mining in our aquifer in the October 2022 election? – **Yes, vehemently against in campaign literature, debates, and door-to-door as well.**
3. Did the Mayor Therrien campaign on quote: “An open, transparent, accessible, municipal government”? – **Yes. But what has he done since being elected? Limiting and restricting people in question period, locking people and the media out of council chambers, obstructing public input and safeguards in Sio’s development agreement, etc.**
4. What benefits will Springfield residents receive from Sio Silica’s extraction of massive amounts of gravel from their municipality? – **Nothing really positive. Negatively though, residents take all the risks. Contamination to our aquifer, our prime fresh water supply, our overall quality of life and potential reduction in our land values are all of real concern. We are fighting to promote that the risk far outweighs any benefits for Springfield and even south eastern Manitoba residents and businesses.**
5. Do you accept that Mayor Therrien and Councillors Fuhl and Warren are doing their job when they advocate “a Neutral Position” regarding Sio Silica? – **No. It doesn’t represent the best interests of residents that elected them. We are of the opinion that it is better to fight and lose than not even try to put up a fight for the benefit of the citizens of Springfield.**
6. What is the role of a municipal councillor? – **Municipal government should be all about councillors giving back to their community and not politicizing challenges in Springfield; trust, transparency, open government, and above all standing up for their constituents on tough issues, like Sio Silica.**
7. Is Mayor Therrien and administration withholding information on Sio Silica from Councillors Miller and Kuczynski? – **Yes. There apparently is much background information regarding the prior history and communications between Sio Silica and the previous Council and the current staff that hasn’t been revealed, at least two Councillors Miller and Kuczynski who after repeatedly asking for more background and details have had to resort to requesting it under the Freedom of Information Act. It is difficult to believe that this critical information would not be provided forthright and willingly.**

“How has the Sio Silica Project come this far?”

We are risking collapse and contamination of the aquifers. We have seen empty words and a shallow commitment to protect the air, the land, and the water. Do not allow drilling through pristine aquifers during this time of escalating climate change. Stop Sio Silica!”

Gloria Romaniuk

Questions surrounding Sio Silica and the answers as we know them.

There are two separate applications for Environmental licensing by CanWhite Sands Corp. aka Sio Silica. One is for the processing plant in Vivian and the other is for the Vivian Sands Extraction Quarry Project. Is this a concern? We believe if the processing plant is approved first that the extraction portion of the project may become just a foregone conclusion.

1. WHO IS SIO SILICA?

We believe the parent company of CanWhite Sands Corp. is HD Minerals, both are Calgary-based firms. In or around 2022 CanWhite Sands Corp. morphed into Sio Silica for its Manitoba Project. We don't know who the owners are because their names have not been made public. There is no extensive background information on them or their previous mining experience. But a number of Board members have strong ties to the oil and gas industry.

2. IS THIS A MINING OPERATION OR A GRAVEL QUARRY?

Sio Silica will basically be extracting sand from gravel and sand deposits below the surface and transporting the sand to a central processing facility. Sand/quartz/silica are all non metallic minerals.

We believe Sio Silica should be considered as a gravel quarry operator and therefore permits and licensing should fall under the Groundwater and Water Well Act and the Springfield by-laws that govern gravel quarries.

3. Why doesn't Sio Silica want to be categorized as a quarry operation?

In part it could be do to provincial legislation regarding mining is outdated and less restrictive in a number of ways. Today no License would be granted in a gravel quarry lease application where the aquifer will be penetrated with over 450 bore holes annually.

We believe, each drilling pad of 3, 5 - or 7 (clusters) rigs boring into the aquifer would then require a Conditional Use Permit which would involve a separate Public Hearing and Development Agreement from RM Springfield. Development Agreements would include conditions that are intended for the protection of residents and could include clauses for insurance of sureties for each drilling pad cluster.

4. What does Sio Silica's website say about the quality of the sand and the uses in the oil and gas fracking industry?

Nothing or very little. They no longer list fracking sand in their list of uses.

5. How big is the Sio Silica Processing Plant terminal and storage area at Vivian going to be?

788 feet (240 metres) or almost 3 Canadian football fields long and 138 feet (42 metres) or 12 stories high.

Someone compared it to the Fort Garry Hotel and Apartment Complex.

6. Is this deposit a significant new find?

No. Natural Resources Manitoba geologists have known about this deposit for many years.

7. Why allow Sio Silica to extract gravel now from these mineral claims.

We believe politics, money, and connection to the PC Party, i.e. David Filmow, appointed Director to Sio's Board, drives this application.

8. How many tonnes of silica sand is used by each fracking well in Alberta and B.C.?

5,000 tonnes: That's right up to 5,000 tonnes of silica sand is used per well.

9. Extraction of 1.36 million tonnes per year of silica is proposed to be removed. How will this sand be used?

From early reports on the Vivian deposit Sio Silica said the sand would be used for fracking. This seemingly unpopular admission has been changed over time by the company to emphasize more environmentally acceptable uses. Geo-chemistry has not been disclosed.

10. Where will the product be shipped by rail to?

At the Vivian site, a large oval area has been cleared for an estimated 110 rail cars to be loaded which could go by CN Rail to the designated areas.

We believe the sand could go to any of the oil and gas fields in North Dakota, the Montenay Natural Gas fields in NE B.C. and/or the Clearwater oil fields NW of Edmonton up to the Peace River area.

11. How much water will Sio require to slurry the silica sand and bring it to surface?

We believe millions of gallons of fresh water could be used to compliment the quarry sand slurry extraction process, thereby adding more stress to residents' reserve supply of high-quality fresh water.

12. Isn't water protected under provincial laws such as the Water Rights Act?

That Act does give priority for domestic purposes, but it basically is restricted to use not protection.

13. Why doesn't Sio Silica use open pit designs to extract the silica?

Most likely because it would be too costly. There is too much overburden to remove and provincial law prohibits quarry operators to break through our aquifer.

14. Is the airlift 30% water/sand slurry method of extraction of silica process used anywhere else?

Not that we are aware of.

15. Can we trust Sio Silica?

There is no real way to know. Other than what they post about themselves, there is very little to no history or references, corporately that we can depend on at this time. They have made a number of claims that are questionable, e.g. Sio has stated they have over 70% support from residents.

We believe that statement to be false.

16. Has Sio produced a strong remedial plan in case of an environmental incident or event to our aquifer?

No, not to the satisfaction of residents.

17. In the July Development Agreement signed by Sio Silica, but defeated by Council (by a 2 for and 2 against, 1 abstained), how much was the insurance or bond security level?

One million dollars per occurrence, \$20 million total policy with a 60-day cancellation clause.

We think that is insufficient.

Send a strong message to Mayor Therrien and Councillor Warren, and tell them to take action instead of empty words. Be bold and keep your election promises or let someone else fight to protect our water!



Sio Silica's Vivian Mining Project plan is to extract 33M+ tonnes of silica from the aquifer complex. The resulting cavities will cause extensive, irreversible formation collapses, compromising the ground water. Further deterioration will result from Sio's re-injection of the aerated extraction water back into the aquifer.

Expert witnesses independent of Sio, confirmed this at the Clean Environment Commission Hearings (CEC) – where the RM of Springfield elected NOT to oppose Sio.

On receiving the CEC Final Report, Minister Klein, instead of quashing Sio's proposal – did a political side-step by directing it be subject to 'further review'.

NOT NEEDED, Sio's dubious unproven mining venture is about profit taking while devastating the environment.

Right-thinking citizens must put a stop to Sio's unconscionable plunder of a world-class fresh water resource.

Darryl Speer

Clean Environment Commission Report of the Vivian Sand Extraction Project. The Report is available on the Province of Manitoba CEC website.

http://www.cecmanitoba.ca/hearings/silica-sand-extraction-project/doc/cec_vivian_sands_extraction_project_report.pdf

Excerpts of Interest: That

- The Government seek a legal opinion with respect to sections of the Well Standards Regulation under the The Groundwater and Water Well Act:
- Ultimately, the Vivian Sand Extraction Project is envisioned to last for 24 years or more, generating nearly 10,000 extraction wells. In view of the potential effects on a water resource that serves tens of thousands of Manitoba homes, farms and businesses, getting it right at the beginning is essential before anything of this magnitude should proceed at full scale;
- After this lengthy review, members of the panel are unable to state with confidence that all potential environmental effects of this project have been fully considered and that adequate detailed plans have been prepared for preventing or mitigating these effects;
- Sio Silica proposes to mine silica sand using a novel approach known as airlift, in which air pumped down wells into a layer of loosely consolidated and will draw up a mixture of sand and water. This airlift method is an established method of extracting water from wells, but the commission's knowledge has never been used to mine silica sand.
- The uncertainty resulting from a project that is essentially experimental in nature is a greater concern when we consider that the proponent intends to carry out these activities, over the long term, within aquifers that are a source of drinking water for towns and residences and water for agriculture and industry in a region that is home to some of the most rapidly growing communities in Canada;
- The commission is of the opinion that, given the stakes involved and the magnitude of the project, greater certainty is required before proceeding to full-fledged development of this project.

Sio Silica does not “want to create hundreds of jobs and generate untold millions of dollars in tax revenue.”

What they “want” is to make as much profit as possible for a relatively small number of people.

Of course, their pursuit of profit will require them to pay people to do the work, and to pay whatever taxes are owed. But what Sio Silica really “wants” is to spend as little as possible on those things — wages and taxes cut into profits. It's just how business works. But for the editor to ascribe, whether intentionally or not, some sort of altruistic motives to this company's plans is just plain wrong. It might also be noted that calling this “a classic battle between the economy and the environment” isn't really accurate either. This is not an either/or situation, where we can either have jobs and tax revenue, or we can protect the environment.

There will always be other businesses and other potential jobs and sources of tax revenue, but we have only one environment. The government of Manitoba won't have anyone knocking on their door next month or next year offering them a new aquifer to replace a ruined one, but I can guarantee that there will be plenty of businesses pitching plans that will promise jobs and tax revenues. Unless it can be conclusively shown that the sand can be extracted without environmental damage, short-term gain for a few cannot be put before the environment in general, nor the people of Springfield and area in particular.

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PLEASE VOTE – YOUR VOTE COUNTS.**
*The most important environmental
decision ever to be decided by residents.*

