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November 8, 2020

Cathy Johnson
Secretary
Clean Environment Commission
303-155 Carlton
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8

Dear Ms. Johnson:

This is an urgent request for the CEC to invoke Section 6(3) of The Environment Act. The Commission “may **on its own volition** conduct an investigation into any environmental matter”. (Emphasis added.)

We ask that such an investigation be directed to the proposal of CanWhite Sands (CWS) of Calgary to erect a silica sand processing facility at Vivian, and to use risky borehole mining to produce the facility’s feedstock sand. CWS has mining leases on about 85,000 hectares of land in south eastern Manitoba (Winnipeg’s footprint is about 46,000 hectares), under which is the best water on the planet. The boreholes, hundreds of them, will pierce the aquifers causing irreparable damage. It is unavoidable.

The Environmental Approvals Branch (EAB) has just published the comments of respondents for File number 6057.00. Never before have so many Manitobans been so vocal, so unified and so outraged on an Environment Act Proposal. Two hundred and sixty-eight citizens wrote letters. Read them here:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6057canwhite/index.html>.

We have lost confidence in the EAB directorship of Shannon Kohler. Similarly, the minister of Conservation and Climate, Sarah Guillemard, is cavalier in her duties. Neither of these powerful people will move the enormously dangerous CWS project from Class 2 to Class 3 status to officially engage the CEC.

But they cannot prevent you from conducting the “investigation” to which you are entitled under 6(3).

Representatives of “Our Line in the Sand” are eager to meet with you under prescribed Covid protocol, in person or virtually. We will present compelling science, while explaining the history of this pending tragedy. Approval of the CWS license is imminent. These are grave circumstances; far worse than the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative in south eastern Manitoba which the CEC condemned years ago.

Our local volunteers have worked ceaselessly to uncover the facts. Some have been at it for 3 years. But as Emily Dickenson wrote, **“the truth must dazzle gradually”**.

Please circulate this letter to the commissioners.

Yours truly,

C. Hugh Arklie, CA (ret.), BA (Env. St.)
Volunteer
Our Line in the Sand