

MSSAC CHRONOLOGY OF ACTIVITIES

The members of the Municipal Silica Sand Advisory Committee (MSSAC), being the rural municipalities of Tache, Ste. Anne, La Broquerie, Hanover, Brokenhead, Reynolds, St. Clements, and the City of Steinbach, have met seven times since the MSSAC was formed in September 2021, to stay on top of the two proposals submitted by Sio Silica Corporation (formerly CanWhite Sands Corp.) for their processing facility and extraction process. The Provincial Environment Act Proposal processes are proceeding and the MSSAC has been actively engaging the province.

The MSSAC activities to date include:

- Issued its first News Release on September 29, 2021, on the establishment of the MSSAC;
- Sent a letter on October 5, 2021, to the Minister of Conservation and Climate requesting a Clean Environment Commission Public Hearing on CanWhite's silica sand extraction project and the processing facility;
- Submitted detailed comments on the Environment Act Proposal for the silica sand extraction project to the Environmental Approvals Branch on October 5, 2021, which was subsequently posted on the Manitoba Public Registry;
- Received a copy of a letter dated November 15, 2021, from the Minister to the Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) requesting that the CEC hold a public hearing on the silica sand extraction project and that the review process be complete by March 15, 2022;
- Received a copy of a letter dated December 15, 2021, from the Acting Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch that intervenor funding is not available to a number of parties for participation in the public hearing. Instead, the CEC will hire an independent technical expert to assess and report on the silica sand extraction project, which report is to be made available to the public for review;
- Received a copy of a letter dated December 16, 2021, from the Acting Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch issuing Environment Act Licence No. 3667 for the silica sand processing facility near Vivian, Manitoba;
- On December 23, 2021, approved the engagement of KGS Group Consulting Engineering firm to review the silica sand extraction project; review the CEC technical expert report and represent the MSSAC at the public hearing;
- On January 20, 2022, sent a letter to the Minister of Conservation and Climate appealing the issuance of the Environment Act Licence for the processing facility, because the public hearing for the extraction is yet to occur;
- Received a copy of a letter dated January 13, 2022, from the Minister to the Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) approving the CEC's request to extend the

timeframe of the public hearing process. The process is to be over six months from the date that the Conservation and Climate Department completes its review of the extraction project.

- Noted that the Manitoba Public Registry includes a letter dated February 3, 2022, from the Acting Director of the Manitoba Environmental Approvals Branch to the Chair of the Clean Environment Commission that states that “the departmental environmental assessment review for the proposed Sio Silica Corporation (formerly CanWhite Sands Corp.) silica sand extraction project is now complete.” The letter further states that “...the Clean Environment Commission hearing process can now commence...”.
- Received a letter dated February 28, 2022, from the Minister of Environment, Climate and Parks acknowledging receipt of MSSAC’s letter of appeal (to the licencing of the processing facility) dated January 10, 2022 and advising that the appeal will be considered in accordance with Section 27(2) of the Environment Act.
- On March 25, 2022, e-mailed the Participant Request Form to the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission for participation in the Public Hearing for the Vivian Silica Sand Extraction Project.
- Received a letter from the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission on May 16, 2022, granting Participant Standing to the MSSAC.
- On May 25, 2022, received a list of all contacts approved as Participants to date. This list will be updated as additional Participants are approved. From this point forward, any correspondence directed to/from Participants and the CEC, must be shared with all Participants.
- On June 2, 2022, received supplemental information (#1) from Sio Silica Corporation on the sand extraction process.
- On June 17, 2022, received supplemental information (#2) from Sio Silica Corporation on preliminary drafts (annotated agendas) of four Follow-up Plans.
- On June 24, 2022, e-mailed a letter to the CEC and all Participants requesting clarification on when the Hearings would be held (and suggested after Fall municipal elections) and when the report of the CEC technical advisors would be available.
- On July 4, 2022, received supplemental information (#3) from Sio Silica Corporation on their plans for progressive abandonment (of wells) and supplemental information (#4) explaining process wastewater treatment options.
- On July 6, 2022, received a letter from Sio Silica Corporation’s legal counsel for the Hearings stating that “the Hearings should proceed in a timely manner, as mandated by the province, and should not be delayed for months based on the timing of local elections and harvesting.”
- On July 7, 2022, received a letter from the CEC in response to the MSSAC letter dated June 24, 2022, stating that “the technical review report is in preparation and is expected to be available by early August. The members of the technical team will be provided on completion of the technical review.”

- On July 18, 2022, received a letter from Participants LeNeveu and Sullivan addressed to the CEC, stating that “the CEC hearings process must be delayed until essential data from pilot tests and essential documentation is submitted prior to commencement of the hearings to address missing technical information that is essential for the hearings.”
- On July 19, 2022, received a letter from the CEC stating “The Clean Environment Commission technical advisors continue to work on the technical review that is expected to be available in early August. The panel and its advisors have full access to the “Stantec” report as part of the Commission’s mandate. Sio Silica has confirmed that should others wish to examine the contents of the “Stantec” report they may gain access by contacting Sio Silica and signing a non-disclosure agreement.” In the covering e-mail, the CEC also advised Participants that an in-person pre-hearing meeting is being scheduled in Winnipeg for August 16, 2022.
- On July 21, 2022, received a letter from Sio Silica Corporation’s legal counsel for the Hearings, in response to the letter dated July 18, 2022 from Participants LeNeveu and Sullivan stating that the Hearings should not be delayed and the Hearings should proceed in a timely manner. The letter goes on to say that the “the Two Participants are requesting a material delay for matters that are typically and appropriately addressed after a licence is issued for a project, can be addressed during the Clean Environment Commission (“CEC”) review process for the Project, or are outside the scope of the CEC’s review process.”
- On July 25, 2022, received a letter from Participant LeNeveu “regarding the non-disclosure agreement pertaining to the "Stantec" report and requests for the CEC to submit a redacted "Stantec" Report to the participants and to require Sio Silica to submit a state-of-the-art finite element stress analysis on the updated well cluster design.”
- On July 26, 2022, received a letter from Sio Silica Corporation’s legal counsel for the Hearings, in response to the letter dated July 25, 2022, from Participant LeNeveu, stating that a non-confidential copy of the Stantec report is included on the Public Registry, and regarding finite element analysis, “such an analysis is not needed to assess the environmental impacts associated with the proposed silica sand extraction. As part of its geotechnical analysis for the Project, Stantec used a numerical modelling software for advanced geotechnical analysis.”
- On July 27, 2022, received a letter from Participants LeNeveu and Sullivan wherein they directed a couple of questions to the CEC regarding the numerical modelling software.

The MSSAC regularly monitors the CEC website and as of July 28, 2022, a detailed schedule for the public hearing has not been posted. However, it is expected that there will be detailed information provided at the pre-hearing meeting on August 16, 2022. The CEC website includes the “Hearing Directive for the Vivian Silica Sand Extraction Project, February 2022” and this document provides a schedule of events (without dates) and identifies the four Commissioners that form the Panel for the Public Hearing.

For information on the Environment Act Proposals and public comments, go to:

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

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6119/index.html> (Extraction Project)

For information on the CEC public hearing process, including the Hearing Directive, go to:

<http://www.cecmantoba.ca/cecm/>

Mayors and Reeves of

R.M. of Brokenhead

R.M. of Hanover

R.M. of La Broquerie

R.M. of Reynolds

R.M. of Ste. Anne

R.M. of St. Clements

City of Steinbach

R.M. of Tache