

Manitoba Environment & Climate Change Response

July 29, 2026

Response regarding: Manitoba's Silica Strategy Deserves a Broader Discussion

Hello Edwin Giesbrecht,

Thank you for your email of June 6, 2026, regarding the proposed Sio Silica project. Your email was shared with the Department of Environment and Climate Change, and as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environmental Stewardship Division, Shannon Kohler provided this response.

On February 16, 2024, in accordance with section 11(11) of The Environment Act, the Minister refused the issuance of an Environment Act Licence and thereby prohibited construction, alteration, operation or implementation of the Sio Silica Sand Extraction Project.

The Province advised that it has received a re-application from the proponent. The Environment Act allows proponents to re-apply for a licence; however, the proponent must outline how the new proposal is different from the previous proposal.

The department advised that a technical analysis and environmental review and assessment will be conducted. The review process includes environmental and public health protection, early consultation, and public participation.

The Province further advised that the environmental review and assessment of the project remains ongoing and that any future licence, if issued, would include limits, terms and conditions intended to ensure environmental protection.

Sincerely,

Shannon Kohler
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division
Environment and Climate Change
Government of Manitoba