

Public Statement

CanWhite Sands Corp. Public Meeting

November 12, 2020

On November 5th, 2020 the Province of Manitoba posted on their Public Registry website all of the public and Technical Advisory Committee comments and the proponent's response to these comments with respect to CanWhite Sands Corp. proposed silica sand development project.

The Manitoba Director of Environmental Approvals also determined not to recommend to the Manitoba Minister of Conservation and Climate that a hearing be held by the Clean Environment Commission because potential environmental effects and potential mitigation strategies are well understood.

We are at a loss to understand how all the potential environmental effects and potential mitigation strategies are well understood regarding this development project, when the government of Manitoba steadfastly refuses to review CanWhite Sands Corp. mine and mining method as part of the current provincial environmental review process.

The Manitoba Director of Environmental Approvals also requested that CanWhite Sands Corp. hold a public meeting, at a date yet to be determined, to address concerns related to their proposed silica sand project.

A CanWhite Sands Corp. (proponent) led public meeting process in no way meets the formal requirement to have the company submit third party technical information and data on their mine and mining method and submit said information as an Environmental Act Proposal under the Manitoba Environment Act, so that both the public and government experts can review the entirety of CanWhite Sands Corp. proposed development as one project.

Even the government of Manitoba's own Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) were questioning why the mine and mining method was not being done in conjunction with the company's processing facility, when one of the TAC members stated... ***"the processing plant will require that the necessary supplies of sand be secured, we recommend that the approvals associated with these two applications be linked."***

More importantly, a proponent led public meeting process, as outlined, does not in any way meet the standard of a Section 35 Consultation process that must be undertaken when there may be an infringement on Aboriginal and Métis rights by CanWhite Sands Corp. proposed project.

Also, how does the public get concerns addressed, through a proponent led public meeting process, about CanWhite Sands Corp. mine and mining method when there is no requirement on the part of CanWhite Sands Corp. to submit any third party technical information and data about its mine and mining method for public review well in advance of such a public meeting occurring?

Furthermore, any proponent led process should in no way proceed until the Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change has made a determination, as per requested by five different entities,

to designate the proposed project as an Impact Assessment Agency designated project for review and assessment under the Federal Impact Assessment Act.

As stated previously on a number of occasions, we have lost trust in the Provincial review process, as the outcome has clearly been predetermined by the government of Manitoba with respect to the CanWhite Sands Corp. proposed development project.

And for the above reasons, our participation in this proponent led public meeting would only lend credibility to an already extremely flawed Provincial environmental review process.

Therefore, we again call for a joint Federal/Provincial Panel Review process to be undertaken that assesses and reviews CanWhite Sands Corp. processing facility, its mine and mining method as one project.

Signatories:

Boreal Action Project
Camp MorningStar
Council of Canadians –Winnipeg Chapter
Organic Food Council of Manitoba
Our Line in the Sand
Manitoba Eco-Network
Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition
What the Frack Manitoba
Wilderness Committee

For more information:

Don Sullivan 204-292-0870, What the Frack Manitoba
Janine Gibson 204-434-6018, Organic Food Council
Tangi Bell 204-266-8253, Our Line in the Sand