

Winnipeg Free Press August 17, 2020 Edition

Protect our water

Re: *Sand plant threatens drinking water, critics say* (Aug. 13) An out-of-province company has apparently applied to the province to remove 3.5 million tons of sand per year at the Vivian sand mine near Anola in the R.M. of Springfield.

What it entails is that this sand must be brought up through the aquifer, the source of drinking water for 64,000 people, and the water then released back into the aquifer.

There should be a unanimous 64,000 people voting against this project, including those of the various councils of the R.M. of Springfield, R.M. of Brokenhead, Town of Beausejour and others.

Going ahead with this project might mean some money and jobs for the municipality and/or province, but it may well end up

being an ecological disaster, robbing 64,000 people of their prime source of drinking water. Then what? No one should disturb this precious resource.

Assurances by whoever is involved in planning this do not mean a tinker's cuss. Once the aquifer has been disturbed and the incredibly fine sand particles are mixed with the drinking water, it will be too late to do anything about it.

I urge the people, even those not directly affected, to speak out against this proposed endeavour.

Water, especially the great-tasting water we are so privileged to have in our little corner of the world, is our most precious commodity. Leave it alone.

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