



Prairie and Northern Region Région des Prairies et du Nord
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September 21, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dennis LeNeveu
What The Frack Manitoba
<email address removed>

Dennis LeNeveu,

Thank you for your letter dated September 8, 2021, concerning the Vivian Sand Project (the Project) proposed by CanWhite Sands Corp. You have requested that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) designate the Project under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

Under subsection 9(1) of the IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of the IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond to your request with reasons by December 7, 2021.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review the new information about the Project provided through the *Environment Act* Proposal; concerns expressed from the public (that the Agency is aware of) and Indigenous groups; and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether they should reconsider if the Project should be designated. If designated, to proceed with the Project, CanWhite Sands Corp. would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of the IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.



A Registry page for the Project is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at the following link: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80974>.

Important Note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – are considered public and may be released. If you have provided any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency as soon as possible. The Agency does not accept information marked as confidential without prior contact.

To contact the Agency regarding this analysis, please contact the Prairie and Northern Region at pnr-rpn@iaac-aeic.gc.ca. Information received from What The Frack Manitoba and the public prior to October 12, 2021 will be considered.

Sincerely,

<transmitted electronically>

Barbara Pullishy
Regional Director, Prairie and Northern Region

cc. Shelly Boss, Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region