



First public meeting held by CPS since shift in strategy from sand sales to solar glass manufacturing

For Immediate Release – May 26, 2022 – Last night Canadian Premium Sand hosted its first public meeting since it transformed its business to process Manitoba sand for solar glass instead of selling it for fracking in the oil and gas industry. About 30 people attended the public meeting in Seymourville, the source of the silica sand, located 2.5 hours north of Winnipeg on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

“We were really pleased with the turn out and the range of questions from residents from Seymourville, Hollow Water First Nation and local cottagers,” said Glenn Leroux, President & CEO of CPS. “The public meeting was part of our application process to have our existing 2019 Manitoba Environment Act Licence altered to reflect the updated project to use the sand to manufacture solar grade glass.”

“Under the new CPS plan - the first solar glass production facility in Canada - there will be less sand extracted, less traffic and a reduced environmental footprint”, he added.

In addition, the project provides direct benefits to the communities of Hollow Water First Nation and Seymourville through participation agreements that include financial elements, consultation on land use and a variety of community engagement initiatives.

Hollow Water First Nation Band Councillor Furlon Barker who attended last night said he’s heard stories from Elders on how everything from timber to gold has been extracted from the land without the Indigenous participation or benefit.

“But that has all changed with CPS, which is now sharing the opportunities that silica sand creates. It is a first” Barker said.

Seymourville Elder Charles Simard who is an advocate for the project was also there to support the CPS project. “Solar is the new hydro for this province and this community should benefit from that,” Simard said.

The next steps are to compile the results of last night’s meeting to add to the application for the licence alteration. And, in the near future, host a public meeting in Selkirk where CPS hopes to build the solar glass processing plant, says Denelle Bushie, a civil engineer, Hollow Water band member and CPS’s project lead.

“This community event was an important step towards altering the licence to reflect the new plan,” Bushie said.

For more information

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