

**PUBLIC HEARING**

January 30, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Hearing Held in Council Chambers and  
via Electronic Communications

**Bylaw 1637/23 – Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17 –  
Redistricting of SE-12-57-21-W4M from AG – Agriculture District  
to RE – Resource Extraction District**

**VERBAL SUBMISSIONS**

- |    |                   |           |
|----|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Don Rimstad       | Opposed   |
| 2. | Richard Frederick | Opposed   |
| 3. | Bev Gaulin        | Opposed   |
| 4. | Maureen Amonson   | Opposed   |
| 5. | John Vriend       | Opposed   |
| 6. | Treena Lane       | Undecided |

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

- |    |                             |         |
|----|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1. | John & Dawn Vriend          | Opposed |
| 2. | Dave Rubis                  | Opposed |
| 3. | Robert and Sophie Swiderski | Opposed |
| 4. | Ian & Bonnie MacLeod        | Opposed |
| 5. | Richard Frederick           | Opposed |



January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

This is a letter regarding concerns we have regarding a public notice regarding a Land Redistricting of SE-12-57-21-W4.

We have concerns about the Reclamation proposal from SIL for the property. It is our understanding that currently there are a couple other mines in the area that are termed active. If this is truly the case then why do they need to begin work on the next site? If they have been sitting idle for many years then why haven't they been reclaimed? When these sites were first mined and how come no timelines are ever part of the equation.

SIL is putting forth the proposal for a Landowner whose address is Thunder bay, Ontario. Does he have an interest in what happens in the area living that far away?

There are no dates regarding start and finish for the project. How can this be so open ended with a property that borders a recreation area.

Has Council ever considered asking for a Security Bond to cover the reclamation and restoration in the event that the operator or owner walks away from the project or claims bankruptcy?

This proposed project is very close to the Redwater River. We are wondering what environmental studies have been done or will be done to protect the water shed. At a meeting in Redwater last November the Environmentalist from SIL could only show one reclamation site where sand was extracted and the property returned to a hay field. This tells me that SIL does not take reclamation seriously.

We purchased land in the area with the intention of farming and contributing to the neighborhood and community. The history of Victoria Trail and the Redwater Recreational Area are historical and unique to the area and these two things among others need to be protected.

Sincerely,

John & Dawn Vriend

*Arrowhead Nurseries Ltd.*

780 472-6260

Jan 24/24

Dear Councillors + Jonathan Heemskerk

This is regarding 2/0/2 VICTORIA TRAIL  
Which is Zoned A.G.

- There are too many  $\frac{1}{4}$  sections out here that are a total waste land because of the Sand Extraction.
- once the trees are stripped and destroyed the land will never again be able to produce anything.
- I pick blue berries out there and its beautiful land. I've lived out here for 30 yrs. and have seen all the damage that these pits cause, not mentioning the trucks that wreck the Roads and the BRIDGE.

I SAY NO to changing the Status of these lands.

Also Sil Silica Claims to Reclaim the LAND BACK to original Status which is not Done. We are left with Big SWAMP Areas of 80 Acres or more with absolutely no growth of anything total wasted land. all Done for Money.  
Please Keep the land A.G.

Sincerely Dave Rubis  
TWP 5 N 20 RR 2/0 B

**From:**

Severed in line with section 17 of the FOIP Act

**To:**

[Legislative Services](#)

**Subject:**

Fwd: Public hearing-bylaw 1637/23 meeting on 30 January 2024

**Date:**

January 26, 2024 1:35:45 PM

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, and know the content is safe. If you are unsure of the contents of this email, please reach out to IT at [ISSupport@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:ISSupport@sturgeoncounty.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:**

Severed in line with section 17 of the FOIP Act

**Date:** 26 January 2024 at 12:26:15 GMT-7

**To:** [sturgeonmail@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:sturgeonmail@sturgeoncounty.ca)

**Subject:** Public hearing-bylaw 1637/23 meeting on 30 January 2024

To whom it may concern. We(Robert and Sophie Swiderski)live extremely close to the proposed Sil Industrial Minerals pit at 21012 Victoria Trail.

This is the fourth application by this company for future “ natural resource extraction “rezoning within 6 months.There is NOTHING natural that this company-plus previous ones,have ever done or achieved by even the feeblest attempt at reclamation.Sturgeon County has repeatedly afforded extensions to their permits,so basically it is open ended local government approval for endless disturbance with no end in sight.If they were to withdraw from their interest in this area(unlikely) are the monetary bonds pre excavation large enough to cover comprehensive reclamation so the taxpayer is not on the hook?How many billions in reclamation future costs has oil and gas defunct companies left for the public purse to deal with?

One of our largest concerns is the health of residents who live nearby to haul routes and these massive open pits-some since the 1950s.Fracking sand is as detrimental to the lungs as asbestos is.These carcinogenic particles are open to the 4 winds to contaminate local farmland,our personal vegetable gardens,our livestock are suffering-and if our windows are open-our homes.The sand is then stockpiled in towering mounds at their main production plant just north of Bruderheim.There is no containment of this aerial poison-I invite members of Sturgeon County to take a fact finding drive out to this area,check all the exsisting pits,the public recreation area slap bang in the middle of all this,then take a swing by the Sil plant.The mountains of fracking sand can be viewed clearly from the highway if you do not wish to personally get too close.All the farmers in the area are gone-most dead from cancer.THEN ask yourself if you personally,or your children, would elect to live close to these operations.  
**RECLAMATION BEFORE EXCAVATION!**

**From:** [Jonathan Heemskerk](#)  
**To:** [Legislative Services](#)  
**Cc:** [Melodie Steele](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sand Pits on Victoria Trail  
**Date:** January 29, 2024 2:51:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hello,

Below is a letter with respect to Bylaw 1637/23 for the public record.

Thanks,

**Jonathan Heemskerk**  
**PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING**

780-939-1398

[jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca)

[sturgeoncounty.ca](http://sturgeoncounty.ca)

9613 100 Street, Morinville, AB T8R 1L9



Severed in line with section 17 of the FOIP Act

**From:** Ian M McLeod  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** Jonathan Heemskerk <[jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sand Pits on Victoria Trail

You don't often get email from [redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, and know the content is safe. If you are unsure of the contents of this email, please reach out to IT at [ISSupport@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:ISSupport@sturgeoncounty.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

Severed in line with section 17 of the FOIP Act

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ian McLeod  
**Date:** January 26, 2024 at 7:41:36 AM MST  
**To:** [jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.com](mailto:jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.com)  
**Cc:** Ian McLeod < >  
**Subject:** Sand Pits on Victoria Trail

Good morning. Thanks for taking our phone call regarding the industrial sand mining on

Victoria Trail. My wife and I have driven on Vic Tr. for 45 + years.

Our concerns are: Little to no reclamation has been carried out on the existing pits. There are hazards with the steep banks and water. We have never witnessed birds or animals in the water nor any weeds ...what is the quality of the water? Isn't this Vic Tr a heritage trail? Is this the way we wish to leave a historic trail for others to travel and see?

The breaking of the bridge girder this past fall shows loads are too heavy for the structure let alone the road beds leading up to the bridge deck and sand pits. The Vinca bridge decking has been deteriorating for years as well with no resurfacing effort by the province.

Large numbers of trucks on haul days is a concern when driving on Vic Tr. as the road is very narrow without proper ditches. The road surface has a lot of wash boarding which makes travel risky.

In my opinion Sil has not been a good industrial neighbour with this site and some improvement is needed before granting extending the pits to a new area.

John, could you send us info following this meeting so we will be aware of the conditions the county has set for potential expansion of the pits and any efforts to improve the old pits. Thanks

--

Ian and Bonnie McLeod

Severed in line with section 17 of the FOIP Act

H. Richard Frederick<sup>RE</sup>  
(6 pages)

January 30, 2024

Presentation to Sturgeon County Council

**Subject:** Sturgeon County granting Sil Silca (or anyone) permission to mine silica sand from proposed pits 66, 68/76, and 88/89.

I am against the county allowing mining from the proposed pits listed above. Some of my concerns are as follows:

- Our property values will go down
- There is an unreal amount of truck traffic. At the intersection near my place, you look left and there is a truck coming, you look right and there is a truck going. My neighbor says 400 trucks passing per day.
- There is almost **constant** noise from all the big trucks on the road. Even inside your home you can't get away from the noise.
- As land/homeowners we get no benefit from this operation, **just problems**.
- Dust kills. There will be road dust and silica dust even with the best of preparations. Silica dust is deadly to humans, animals, and plants. Its fine particles can remain in the air for 12 (twelve days).
- Silica dust is as bad as or worse than asbestos and causes silicosis, a non curable deadly disease of the lungs.
- Has the county addressed issues (and got it in writing) such as the use of truck Jake brakes, loud mufflers, road speed, rock damage from trucks to others on the road, road grading, road up grading, and eventual road rebuilding? These items should not be at the counties (tax payers) expense.
- This area is a busy natural green area with quads, bikes, snow machines, and horses as well as many animals such as deer, moose, coyotes, porcupine, and others.
- Did the county get approval or does it need approval to run all this truck traffic through a green area?
- Has an environmental impact study been done? I have already noticed moose acting strangely, I suspect just from all the truck traffic and noise.
- Is this sand available from less populated areas?
- If the county approves this operation it should be willing to guarantee (in writing) our water wells, our rights to **normal** peace and quiet at home, our health in respect to silica dust, and our water table or surface water (which affects our wells and water ponds used to water livestock).
- I see further unrest and ongoing contention with the county because of the severe impact (e.g. having to move) that this operation will have on our lives just from the truck traffic and noise alone.
- As I see it the county has not done its due diligence to us as taxpayers in respect of protecting our properties (both property values and aesthetic values) and our health from possible harm both due to noise and silica dust.

Some of the above information was obtained from Google.

All of the truck traffic through our area has already been approved by the county apparently because it is happening daily (M-F). I think the trucks ruined one bridge and now run by us to use a different bridge when loaded. The approval of these pits listed above will make our situation even worse.

*As the attached map shows more than 15 homes will be within one mile or less to these dangerous pits.*

## Silica Sand Mining Information from Google Site

1. **What are the disadvantages of Silica Mining?** Like other forms of mining, these quarries are notorious for erosion, water pollution, air contamination, and noise pollution- all of which have adverse effects on the local environment and nearby communities.

2. **Why is Silica Hazardous?** This respirable silica dust causes lung disease and lung cancer. It takes only a very small amount of airborne silica dust to create a health hazard.

3. **Is Silica Worse Than Asbestos?** The dangers are the same, yet we cannot afford for the results of exposure to silica dust to be the same as what occurred with asbestos. Silica could be as lethal as asbestos, if not more so, with equally serious consequences.

4. **How Cancerous Is Silica Dust?** ...It is estimated that 230 people develop lung cancer each year as a result of past exposure to silica dust at work.

5. **Is Silica A Human Carcinogen?** Respirable size (able to be breathed in) crystalline silica is a known carcinogen.

6. **Is Silica Sand Toxic To Children?** In addition to the cancer risk sand particles can be a risk to children's developing lungs.

7. **How Long Do You Have To Be Exposed To Silica Dust To Get Silicosis?** 1) chronic silicosis-exposure to silica dust for more than 10 years. 2) accelerated silicosis-exposure to silica dust for 3 to 10 years. 3) acute silicosis- develops within weeks or months of exposure to silica dust.

8. **Does Silica Dust Stay In The Air?** Respirable silica dust is invisible to the naked eye. It is so light that it can remain airborne for a long time (up to 12 days). Because it can travel long distances in the air, it can affect populations not otherwise considered at risk.

9. **Health Effects.** Besides silicosis breathing crystalline silica causes lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease.

10. **Is Silica Sand Rare?** Silica sand is one of the most common varieties of sand found across the world and there are vast quantities across North America.

## Silica sand what are the cons

Silica sand can be a health hazard if it is inhaled or ingested. Silica dust can cause silicosis, a lung disease that can be fatal. Silicosis is caused by the accumulation of silica dust in the lungs. The dust irritates the lungs and causes inflammation and scarring.

## silica sand dangers

Breathing in dust from crystalline silica-containing materials can lead to lung disease. Silica dust particles become trapped in lung tissue causing inflammation and scarring. The particles also reduce the lungs' ability to take in oxygen. This condition is called silicosis

## What is silicosis

As it sounds, silicosis is a disease which occurs after over exposure to the crystalline particles of silica dust. These particles enter and irritate the walls of the lungs, causing tissue to scar and thicken. Silica dust exposure has also been linked to lung cancer, and is a known carcinogen for this reason. Three different types of silicosis can occur, depending on the amount of silica dust and the length of exposure.

- **Chronic Silicosis** - This level of silicosis develops after ten or more years of exposure to relatively low levels of silica dust particles.
- **Accelerated Silicosis** - Develops after five to ten years after exposure to crystalline silica dust at relatively high concentrations.
- **Acute Silicosis** - At this level, symptoms can develop as soon as a few weeks or four to five years after initial exposure. At this level, the concentration of silica dust would be considered very high.

At first exposure, people often have no initial symptoms. As the condition progresses, however, tell tale symptoms become apparent, such as;

-Shortness of Breath

-General Fatigue

-Coughing

-Localized Chest Pains

### **Is silica sand bad for the environment**

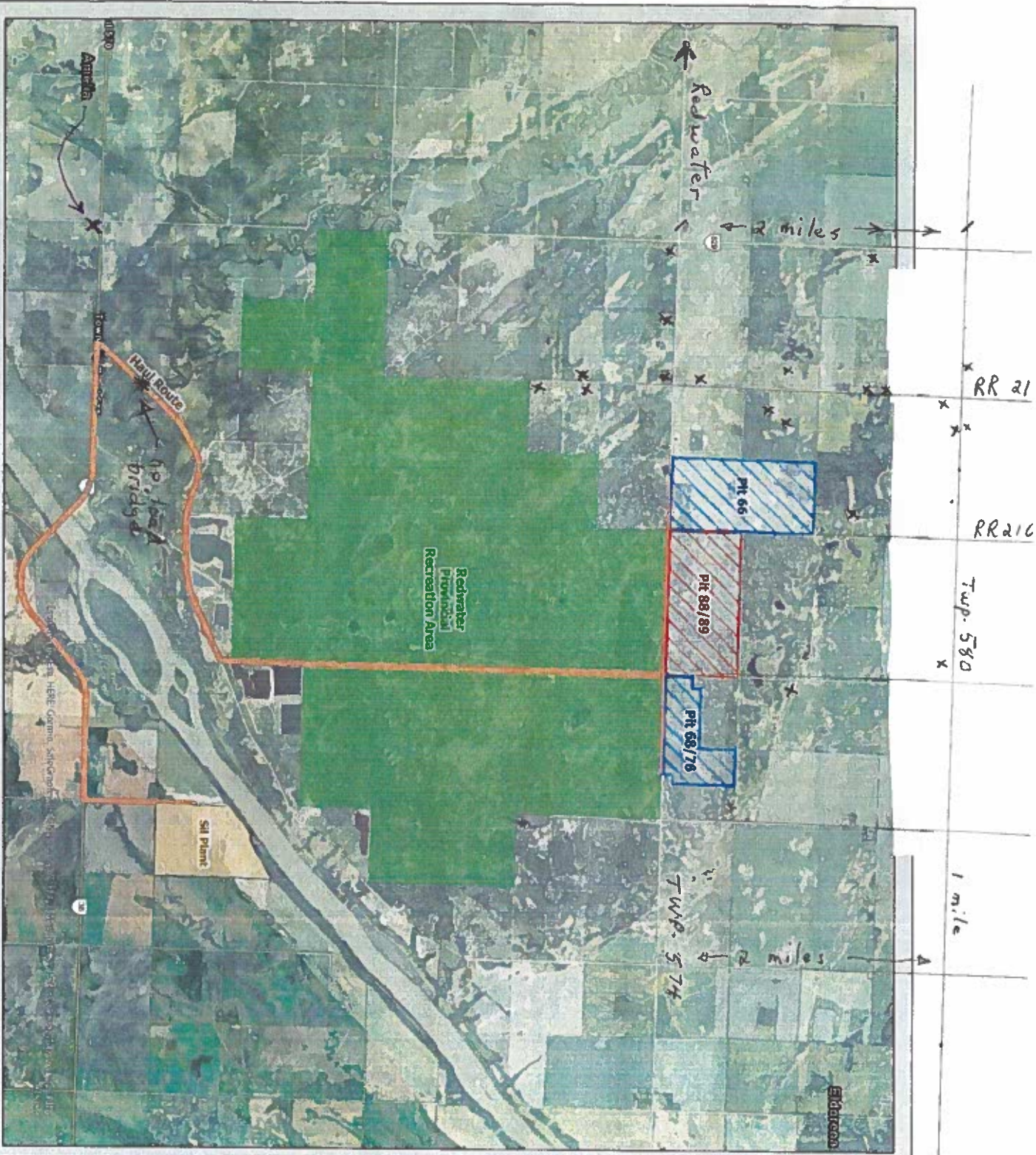
Silica sand mining or processing can affect drinking water sources. Any mine may create a pathway for chemicals and/or bacteria to more easily reach the groundwater.

Pollution: The SPM (Suspended Particulate Matter) generated by silica mining and from the rubble heaped on the side of mines, is posing threat to the local environment. These particles get accumulated on leaves and thus they disturb the photosynthesis and respiration process.

### **What is the danger of crystalline silica exposure**

Crystalline silica has been classified as a human lung carcinogen, and can cause serious lung disease and lung cancer. It only takes a very small amount of respirable silica dust to create a health hazard.

One of the dangerous effects of silica exposure is a disease called silicosis, which can be contracted after just a few months of high exposure. Silicosis occurs when silica dust enters the lungs and causes the formation of scar tissue, reducing the lungs' ability to take in oxygen. There is no cure for silicosis, and cases can be disabling or even fatal.



H-Scale: 1:40,000 V-Scale: N/A	
Date: Aug 2023	
<b>Pits 66, 68/76, &amp; 88/89</b>	
Rezoning Public Consultation Map	
Legal Land Description (parts of): 25-57-21-W4M, 29&30-57-20-W4M Sturgeon County	

<b>Legend</b> Silt Plant Proposed Haul Route Provincial Recreation Area Areas to be rezoned from AG to: Direct Control - Resource Extraction Resource Extraction		<b>X Homes</b>
--	--	----------------

Bearings: Decimal Degrees North Azimuth Version: 1.0	Projection: Transverse Mercator Map Units: Meter Datum: North American 1983
---	---

 0 0.5 1 2 km N	 <b>SIL Industrial Minerals</b> <b>We're Ready</b>
-----------------------	--

# OPEN HOUSE INVITE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR REZONING



OPEN HOUSE **NOVEMBER 20, 2023 @ PEMBINA PLACE, REDWATER | 6:30 TO 8:30 PM**

Sil Industrial Minerals would like to notify you that we are preparing to apply for rezoning of the **E½ 25-57-21 W4M** (Pit 66) and **W½ of SE 29-57-20 W4M + S½ of SW 29-57-20 W4M** (Pit 68/76) from the current Agricultural (AG) land use zoning to Resource Extraction Direct Control (DC-RE), and **S½ 30-57-20 W4M** (Pit 88/89) from AG to Resource Extraction (RE) for the purpose of **three separate** future sand extraction pits. We would like to engage nearby residents in public consultation prior to submitting our application for the rezoning of these adjacent properties.

The three pits will be **mined individually and not as one contiguous operation**; Sil does not intend to mine and haul from more than one pit at a time. The intent of this broad rezoning is to maximize transparency around Sil's future proposed operations and reduce the administrative burden of multiple rezoning applications for adjacent properties. Sil hopes to enter one of these pits within the next 2 to 3 years, pending market conditions, and the earliest a pit would open is fall/winter 2024.

The nature of the proposed future development at each of the three pits will include:

- Topsoil stripping and salvage
- Sand extraction
- Hauling to an off-site processing facility – there will be no processing on-site
- Reclamation to waterbodies including wetland areas with naturalized ecosystem functions
- Off-site dewatering subject to approval from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

Hours of operation and hauling are proposed to be:

- Winter months only
- Monday to Friday: 6am to 6pm, and Saturday: 7am to 5pm
- Not including Sundays or Statutory Holidays

If you have any questions, comments, or other feedback on our proposed operations at Pits 66, Pit 88/89, or Pit 68/76 and are unable to attend the open house, please contact:

**Ebberly MacLagan**

Exploration and Environment Coordinator

Direct: 780 916 1410

ebberly.maclagan@sil.ab.ca

**Nathan Holden**

Field Lead

Direct: 780 577 2328

nathan.holden@sureway.ca

Please provide any comments prior to November 17, 2023 or attend the open house at **Pembina Place in Redwater on November 20, 2023 (6:30 to 8:30 pm)**

Thank you for your feedback!

See reverse for map