

Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger

1019 North Fifth St

Custer, SD 57730

MAR 09 2023

Dear Mr. Hoelscher,

I am a Custer county resident and am concerned with the proposed drilling for the F3 gold Newark project.

Assessment needs to be done in order to understand the relationship between the environment and mining development. I am deeply concerned for air pollution, sound pollution, pollution, surface and aquifer pollution thru limestone environment, water poisoning for resident use, creation of water shortages, use of hazardous substances and resulting contamination during flooding or daily events, waste management, devaluation of local properties, reclamation of land. State and local governments will not benefit from these mining operations.

Repeal the law put in place in 1872. Mining on Federal Forest lands includes support of lithium mining, gold mining and other mineral mining needed.


Custer water pool is stressed right now with the drought. Where will the water they need come from, how will it affect our stressed water resources, will it contaminate our water, where will the water they need come from, how will it affect our stressed water resources.

What will be the effect on the underground cave systems be which are extensive, Jewel/ Wind Care. As well as the endangered snails in the area, bat caves and elk preservation and other game preservation and the impact of French Creek drainage, Custer, Custer State Park and tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

Primary road access of county road 286 Upper French Creek Road and National forest system road 781 will be affected. There will be increased dangerous traffic on our county funded roadways and our state Highway 16. It will affect local campgrounds, city and county traffic which is already stressed during tourist season and negatively affect our local businesses and taxpayer bases negatively.

It is urgent for you to respond now. Key resource parties were not at the meeting for questioning. Who from the state of SD allowed the permits for drill projects. Campgrounds in the area must maintain their water systems following specific criteria of a high standard. Who guarantees the same level of water care for this project.? Who will want to camp where there is high traffic, noise, water issues, light pollution?

Sincerely

  
Jan Vanderwarka



