

FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger
1019 N. 5th Street
Custer, SD 57730

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Merlin Hamilton, we bought our 5 plus acres at [REDACTED] in Custer, SD in the late 1990's. We put our house on it and moved in in 2006. We had the well put down in 2005. We have enjoyed good water from that well since then. This is why we are opposed to this project that could contaminate the water supply to this well and many others.

I'm not sure I fully understand (categorical exclusion) in reference to the drilling process you propose, but we property owners in this area feel we need an environmental assessment be done before the drilling is started.

We definitely oppose this drilling and mining project for many reasons, including first of all, the water supply to our wells, as well as the impact on French Creek drainage and our property values. It will also impact businesses in this area due to water contamination.

Wildlife, which we all enjoy, will also be effected.

ALL IN ALL, WE ARE AGAINST THIS PROJECT FOR THE ABOVE REASONS AND MANY MORE.

This drilling will effect a multitude of property owners and businesses in this area and needs to be cancelled.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

Merlin L Hamilton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]