

February 21, 2023

Rob Hoelscher:

I have many concerns regarding the Newark Gold Exploration Project. It is very close to where I live and I feel it would impact me and my neighbors greatly. My #1 concern is water quality.....what are they going to do to our wells and water quality? If they are using 10,000 gallons of water a day, where is it coming from, where is it going, and what contaminates will it be putting into our water? Will it deplete our water supply?

Other concerns are: wildlife-how it will affect them, noise pollution, light pollution, destroying the natural beauty of that area, and lowering of property value. It is a gorgeous area with many rock formations. It is so peaceful and quiet. I understand why the Native Americans felt it was a sacred area, it is!! I hike and horseback ride there and it would be a crime to have it destroyed!!

You need to have an Environmental Assessment done before they are allowed to touch a thing. Also, if they do find gold, what then? Will we have to put up with an ugly hole in the ground, noise, loss of wildlife and the natural beauty? Would you be happy???

This just doesn't impact the immediate area, but surrounding areas. You need to look at the big picture.

They say the project is following the mining laws made in the 1800's. It is time we change those laws. When companies come in and use 10,000 gallons a day and drill 2000 to 3000 feet deep, that is nowhere close to what was done in the 1800's. We need to protect these beautiful Black Hills so future generations can enjoy them.

Let me ask you just how do we go about updating the mining laws? Something needs to be done!!

Do not let them destroy this sacred area!!!!

Nancy Halbur

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