

MAR 2 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

F3Gold Newark Project Drill Program

Attn: Rob Hoelscher:

Thank you for the information you presented at the public meeting on the proposed drilling project. In that meeting you said you would try to increase the response time for input and I have not seen anything to indicate that action has been taken. Since the letter was dated Feb 8 I assume my comments will still be considered in the original 30 day period.

I do not agree with the supposition that this is a project that complies with your explanation of a CE. There are so many sites proposed for drill pads that I cannot imagine the "minor impact" to the area from the equipment needed to construct the pads themselves. Our county roads are certainly not conducive to heavier truck traffic. I would not want to put more short "roads" that invite off road vehicular traffic in our forests either.

While I do not know what the actual drilling structure will look like I am certain that those structures and pads will be intrusive on the forest and if nothing comes from this initial exploration can we be assured that the land will be returned to its original natural state? Thinking about the future impact of this entire project is just as important as the current impact and I am very skeptical that this company would reclaim the area to its original state.

I am not versed in the condition of our underground condition of the Black Hills but I do know that water is a premium here just like most places on our earth. My properties are on private wells and depend on that water to be pure. Like many other entities who rent to tourists my home's well is tested each year to ensure safe water. The abundance of sites and drilling seem to me to be a chance for the water in the Wabash Springs and surrounding area to be impacted. In addition, the water needed to actually drill seems to be an issue since we have been in a drought condition here.

My final concern is one we as a nation need to address and that issue is our disregard for the very issues of ownership of the Black Hills. While I realize we cannot give the Native nations back the area, I feel we need to honor the judgements that have come down that should essentially negate the 1872 treaty that allows a company the right to destroy land for profit. Even the Supreme Court has ruled that old treaties were broken.

Thank you for your time and your agreement to lengthen the comment time and your consideration to do an environmental impact study paid by F3 Gold. I am certain that the input from the meeting on Feb 16 requires the Forest Service to conduct a full impact study be done.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Shana Hindman, landowner on French Creek

Cc: Senators Thune and Rounds, Forest Supervisor Bryan Karchut