

From: [REDACTED]
To: [F5-comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon](#)
Subject: [External Email]No to Categorical Exclusion Newark
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2023 7:36:26 AM

[External Email]

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Dear Wendy Schuyler/Forest Service,

I was told emailing you could be useful to stop F3 Gold from doing immediate exploratory Drilling upstream of Custer utilizing *Categorical Exclusion*.

As an Environmental Engineer I must warn that an Environmental Assessment should be absolutely mandatory given the circumstances.

The initial drilling project is only a precursor to the larger mining project that F3 gold is interested in. The long term project of F3 Gold may result in acid mine drainage entering the water, resulting in devastating consequences for public health and wildlife in the surrounding area and particularly regarding the city of Custer.

Acid mine drainage results from the exposition of sulfides present in the mine to air and water, the chemical reaction taking place produces sulfuric acid, such an acid can dissolve toxic heavy metals found in rocks ,such as arsenic, into public waters. Needless to say this will cause a dramatic loss of wildlife and potentially poison the drinking water of local populations for many years to come.

Acid mine drainage is only one of the many negative consequences such drilling will bring to the local ecosystem.

By allowing a company such as F3 Gold to start drilling without the proper environmental assessment, the Forest Service effectively admits to disregarding environmental protection and public health.

Thank you for your understanding,
I hope this message will be heard,
Best regards,

Merik Slingerland. [REDACTED]

