

Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger

8 March 2023

RE: Newark Exploration Drilling Project

NO commercial gold mining or gold prospecting of any kind or type should be permitted in or around the Black Hills area.

As you know, the Black Hills has a unique lure and attraction for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. The Black Hills has a thriving tourism industry that was built by the work and risk of the people. They created an outstanding renewable resource and they expect you and your associates to protect this very special place. The Hills are a legend and vital to the State of South Dakota. Is it true that F3 has an enormous amount of active mining claims in this area? Do they really need that many? Please disclose all of their mining plans in our State.

We own 9 homes that are active, producing vacation home rentals. We have 6 residential, producing water wells that service our private location. There are many residential wells in this general area, besides ours.

This proposed mining operation poses the possibility of well damage and contamination.

We have heard that a large portion of drinking water for the City of Custer comes from French Creek and points west. This mining operation could be a hazard to many water sources. Is F3 Gold adequately insured?

Please PROTECT these Black Hills. The F3 Gold mining request must be denied.

The Black Hills is NOT a renewable resource. Everyone must protect it.

Sincerely,

John P & Patricia E Fink

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

cc: Kristi Noem, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Dusty Johnson