

Custer County Commission South Dakota

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO F3 PROPOSED DRILLING PROJECT WEST OF CUSTER

WHEREAS: the US Forest Service, Hell Canyon Ranger District is accepting public comment until April 10 on a proposal by F3 Gold, LLC (F3) of Minneapolis, MN to conduct an extensive exploratory drilling program three miles west of Custer; and

WHEREAS: the proposed drilling would comprise up to 39 drill sites, with multiple core hole wells at each site; and

WHEREAS: F3's Plan of Operations indicates that large (tanker truck loads) water quantities for the project would be obtained from the limited local water supply; and

WHEREAS; F3 has provided minimal information to the public about exploration ways, financial means, guarantees against potential damages, ultimate possibilities or results of ore body data, and a plethora of other questions raised by the public; and

WHEREAS; the exploration can have only one success aim – the establishment of a large gold mine; and

WHEREAS; the resulting large gold mine would degrade and change the essential character of the southern Black Hills; and

WHEREAS; the project is nearly surrounded by Custer County residential neighborhoods which would bear potentially disastrous off-site impacts including, but not limited to: private water quality and quantity degradation, noise, extreme property value loss, increased fire danger, and very importantly to the area – loss of recreational potential in part of the Black Hills National Forest; and

WHEREAS; there is huge resistance to this project by the citizens of the County of Custer as witnessed by the recent public meeting; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Custer County Commission that due to the risk of eventually losing major tourist activity, damage to the local economy, damage to heavy traffic on County roads, potential drawdown of water supplies, and to foster the general welfare of our residents, the County hereby expresses its opposition to the project until such time as all the required baseline data gathering and all other required environmental studies, analyses and reviews have been duly conducted and approved by proper authority.

DATED _____, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY COMMISSION

By _____
Jim Lintz, Chairman