



ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE

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April 30, 2025

Mystic Ranger District
United States Forest Service
8221 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57702

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Rochford Mineral exploratory drilling project /#67838

Please find attached a copy of Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council Resolution No. 2025-394, opposing the opening of public lands surrounding the Pe Sla area to exploratory drilling for minerals based upon continuing violations of the 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie and upon the threat of toxic mining waste pollution into the water and environment surrounding Pe Sla.

The Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project is in an area near Pe Sla, a sacred site whose lands were recovered through a joint effort by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, working in cooperation with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is a direct successor to the Brule Band of the Great Sioux Nation, a signatory tribe to the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie and the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

The proposed Project is located within and adjacent to the lands within the Treaty boundaries of the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie and the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. The tribal nations of the Great Sioux Nation, Oceti Sakowin have retained aboriginal and treaty rights to those lands, including protection of grave sites and sacred sites, (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. Section 3001 et. seq., Pub. L. 101-601), protection of cultural, religious and historical sites, (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. Section 470 et. seq., Pub. L. 89-665).

The proposed Project threatens and is a violation of treaty and aboriginal rights of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to cultural, historic and burial sites that may be located within the boundaries of member Nations of the Great Sioux Nation, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is a signatory band to the 1851 and 1868 Treaties of Fort Laramie.

Mystic Ranger District
United States Forest Service

The USDA Forest Service invitation for public comment for the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project does not meet the goal of consultation required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470 et. seq., ("NHPA") to identify historic properties potentially affected by activities associated with the Project, and fails to assess its affects and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties and does not provide for full and meaningful consultation with the proper Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, as required by NHPA, and applicable federal law.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe opposes the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project on public lands surrounding Pe Sla by any local, county, state or federal regulatory entity based upon continuing violations of the 1851 and 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie provisions, for failure to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and applicable federal law, for failure to establish full, regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal official in the development of Federal policies and projects, and upon the threat of toxic mining waste pollution into the water and environment surrounding Pe Sla from the mining activities associated with the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project.
Please contact my office if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Wooden Knife, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe



cc: Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
RST Sicangu Oyate Land Office

