

Robert Wiehr  
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May 9, 2025

James Gubels (Mystic Ranger District)

RE: Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project

My family acquired a cabin along with 10 acres on Seven Hills Road, where Pete Lien & Sons are planning a mineral exploration initiative. The North Fork Castle Creek flows within 150 feet of our cabin, allowing us to enjoy the soothing sounds of the creek from our deck. Notably, two of the proposed drilling locations are situated just to the east of us, adjacent to this creek and the larger Castle Creek it feeds into. Additionally, the source of the creek, which features a spring, is also being considered for a drilling site. Even if the company does not utilize this water for drilling purposes, one must consider the potential effects on these creeks if they are selected as mining sites!!

Three of the proposed drilling locations are alarmingly close to our property, specifically to the north, east, and south. The tranquil Elk migration area surrounding us would be severely compromised if any of these sites were chosen for mining operations. The ecological balance and the natural beauty of the area would be at risk, leading to irreversible changes in the environment.

We are also apprehensive about the potential contamination of our well water, a concern shared by our neighbors to the west. Also, the peaceful atmosphere of our cabin would be disrupted by increased truck traffic and noise pollution. It is likely that the mining operations would utilize the forest service road adjacent to the creek in front of our cabin. Furthermore, the proximity of these proposed mining sites would significantly decrease our property value.

I urge a 60-day extension for the public comment period on scoping. Having worked on various environmental issues during my time in the USAF, I firmly believe that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is essential before any mining activities are approved in this region.

You can contact me at [REDACTED].

Thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,  
[REDACTED]

Robert Wiehr