

To Whom it may Concern:

It is my strongest belief that the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project proposed and led by Pete Lien and Sons is in fact not at all in the best interest of anyone outside of the corporation itself. For the damage that would be inflicted upon the land would be catastrophic and will not only result in devastation of the earth itself, but to the wellbeing of the Lakota people residing in and around Rapid City.

The land which the project would destroy is referred to as Pe' Sla and it has been a sacred site of ceremony and spiritual practices for centuries. Many native nations consider the site utterly irreplaceable and precious. The proposed project is not a mere blatant disregard, but a direct attack to the indigenous nations who regard Pe' Sla as precious. Of all the places that they could choose to destroy for the sake of extracting granite, they chose a site that would devote spiritual and physical wellbeing of thousands of people, as well as wildlife and resources.

The project entails creating 18 drill pads, each with ten holes that would be one-thousand feet deep and drilled at both slanting and straight angles. To create this, they'd have to cut down trees, disturb the ground, and would then release toxins into the mud which would not only cause damage to the wildlife but would also bring about the loss of all other uses for the land itself. This is all damage created by drill pads alone. There is also damage that would be done to the water.

Due to the toxins created by the drill pads, there is an extremely high risk of toxins contaminating the Rapid Creek Watershed—water supply that both animals and people of the land love, have protected and need. This would not only damage the water in the watershed itself, but would also damage and contaminate the water underground. The drill pads would be terribly close to streams and rivers that all things living require to survive.

Indigenous people would be disproportionately affected by this project going into action.

All of this for a rock in the ground. They want to trade rock for money in their pockets. And the people who have lived there for centuries would have to pay the heaviest price. No clean water to cook, clean, bathe, or drink and the place that they would go to to pray for a miracle would be gone. Their sacred grounds belong to them according to their treaty with the federal government signed one-hundred and eighty years ago, and was taken illegally to be raped and killed. This project personifies what it means to rape and kill the earth. It proves that corporations such as Pete Lien and Sons think that they can take what they want from Mother Earth without respect or consideration, not caring about the damage it does, and giving no thought to all living things dependent on her.

I beg you to keep this from happening. You have the power to say yes or no. And I plead to you with all that I am, do not destroy their church, their mother, their home.

Sincerely,

Peyton Niemeyer



1st Descendant Red Lake Nation of Ojibwe