

To Whom It May Concern

16 May '25

My name is Harley Glayzer, and I am a young Ojibwe Nunpa Physicist, born & raised in the Hills. (He Sapa.) I am writing to strongly oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project proposed by Pete Lien & Sons near Pe'Šla in the central Black Hills.

As a scientist, I understand the need for natural resources and the technology they support. But as a Lakota Person, I also understand that some places hold a sacredness that cannot be — and SHOULD NOT — be disturbed. Pe'Šla is one of those places. It has been a spiritual and cultural center for the Očheh' Šakowin since time immemorial. Our ceremonies, stories, and way of life are deeply tied to this land. It is not a relic of the past; it is still very much alive for us today.

Graphite may power batteries, pencils, lubes, and a whole myriad of other techs, but NO AMOUNT of so-called "progress" or fancy-schmancy techs are worth the DESECRATION of a sacred site. What we are facing is not just environmental degradation, it is treaty violation, cultural erasure, and a stark continuation of the ongoing genocide (as recognized by the UN) of Native Americans. Pe'Šla is NOT just land; it is our relative. It is where we go to pray, to seek guidance, to connect with the Universe and our Ancestors. One cannot drill 1,000 feet into that kind of sacredness without drilling into the heart of who we are.

I urge the Forest Service to deny the
Rockford Mineral Exploratory Drilling
Project and to conduct a Full Environmental
Impact Statement (EIS). The cumulative impacts—
cultural, spiritual, environmental, ecological—
must be considered with the gravity they
deserve.

I am young, and I have devoted my
life to science and learning. But that
journey means nothing if it costs us our sacred
places. Please do not allow this project to
move forward. Protect Pe'Šla—for the
earth, for the future, and for all peoples
who believe that there are still things in this
world that are too sacred to destroy.

Respectfully,
Harley Glayzer
OóheNunpa Lakota
Physicist & Defender of Pe'Šla