Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2023 7:00:00 AM
First name: Chris
Last name: VanNess
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I request a full Environmental Analysis be done before this project is approved or denied. Do no harm!

In addition, these are public lands. They belong to all and should be administered to the benefit of all not just a few private companies.

Please see detailed description of issues in attachment.

[attachment text below]

F3 Gold drilling operations

Proposal issues, comments in Bold

Water will be used for the diamond core drilling operations. No water will be sourced from surface water source under this Amendment to the Plan of Operations. All water will be sourced from an approved Municipal or Industrial source. Water will be trucked from the source to storage holding tanks either at the drill site and/or the staging area. Water will be circulated via water pump and water lines from water storage tanks to the drill site. The quantity of water used is estimated to average in the range of 5,000 [ndash] 10,000 gallons per day per drill rig.

Where is all this water coming from exactly? The ground water table in this area is unpredictable and unreliable. Many people in the area haul water from the Custer City water supply. Can the area support this amount of water usage for this project without causing hardship on the local residents? Would this company be hauling water from Hot Springs, Rapid City or some source many miles away? Do these towns even have the water to support this project with all the new growth they are currently trying to service?

There is currently no seasonal closure planned.

How will the recycled water in the tanks and in the water lines keep from freezing in the winter? I suspect recycling will not yield as much water as they think.

Drill cuttings and water used to flush the drill hole will be collected in tanks at the drill site. Cuttings and fines will settle out and the water can be recycled and reused for drilling. Upon completion of each drill hole, cuttings and fines will be dispersed in the disturbed area. Topsoil will be placed on the cuttings for reclamation including reseeding and planting as necessary.

Would these cuttings and fines be tested for harmful chemicals or radiation? There is uranium around here too. If they test positive, will proper disposal be done? Who monitors this? Who pays for this?

In the event of a reportable quantity spill, F3 Gold and its contractors will report the spill immediately to the U.S. Forest Service and the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources. [*]Active containment and cleanup will be initiated and coordinated as necessary.[*]

The highlighted [*] statement does not say who actually does the cleanup or who pays for it. There are current cases where these entities simply walk away leaving the State and Federal governments to pay for any cleanup.

DUE TO THESE ISSUES I request a full Environmental Analysis be done before this is approved or denied. Do no harm!

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