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First name: Kathy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Governor Noem On February 16th, 2023 a meeting was held at the Custer High School hosted by Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger for Black Hills Hells Canyon Forest Service. The goal for Rob was to answer questions about the upcoming Gold Exploration by F3 Gold above the Custer City water shed, which the crowd found has already been approved to start May 2023 without an environmental study. It was not brought to attention before the approval to proceed. Many citizens asked what they could do to delay the project and were not given any positive answers. Many concerns were voiced: 1) Water contamination. Drilling holes and discovering Gold could release Cyanide which would run down hill to residences water wells and eventually to Custer City Municipal Water. 2) Without Environmental Study how would the drilling and diversion of water pools below the surface affect wildlife and livestock? 3) Without Environmental Study are there historical sights in the area that would be compromised? 4) To push the project through it was approved using a Categorical exclusion? In such a highly populated area of ordinary citizens as well as the area hosts a herd of elk that occupy the area of drilling from Spring to Summer & fall. How would this project effect their long time feeding grounds? 5) F3 Gold proposes to drill as many as 390 holes from 39 drill pads. 6) F3 Gold would be drilling 7 days a week 24 hrs a day. The Black Hills is like an amphitheatre and the noise pollution would be deafening. Rob Hoelscher promised the concerned citizens another meeting about the issue because the people do not want the drilling and we understood it has already been approved and there was no meeting called before that approval. What I would like to see is the representative from the State to talk to us about the Bond Process for F3 Gold and how they would be held accountable for poisoning a cities and residence water! Respectfully