

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Beth and Kris

Last name: Paulson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attn: Rob Hoelscher This proposed project needs to be stopped in its tracks. This is not an exploration for something that is a necessity to generate energy for taxpayers, nor will it be an exploration for a mineral to manufacture for goods and services that are anything other than a luxury item as well as just an income stream for the developers. There is no real benefit for the public. To offer up our natural resources that support wildlife (such as elk, which we are still trying to increase herd sizes - this will actually affect them adversely). Was an environmental study procured? My guess is probably not. This community however small is highly dependent on tourism and to decimate the beauty of the Black Hills for exploration and then possibly excavation is unconscionable. To potentially devalue property after everyone has been slammed with high property taxes will be devastating to the community. To allow 24/7 operations and allow anyone a pass to waste valuable water resources for exploration is too great a cost. We are still in a drought and to use 10,000 gallons of water a day is irresponsible. As a custodian for our natural resources in the area, there should not be any permits granted for exploration. What happens if they find their precious gold? They destroy the area to claim it. Our entire planet is made up of minerals. Just because you know it's there, doesn't mean you should be allowed to destroy and waste other resources to reach it. Most everyone outside of Custer city limits and throughout the Black Hills have personal wells as their water sources and to allow a company that we have no guarantee will have the resources to clean up after themselves and possibly contaminate a very precious water source to many is also highly irresponsible. We do not need this in our community. It does not provide value to our community. It will only provide value to those wishing to exploit our national forest for their personal gain. Our vote is NO NO NO NO NO!!!! Beth Paulson Kris Paulson