

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Laura

Last name: Thorp

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Laura Thorp and I live at *redacted* in Custer. I walk the area when weather permits daily with my dogs right through the proposed project area. I see elk, deer, turkey and other wildlife that will be scared away by the presence of drilling equipment and all that it entails. I am concerned about the noise, night lights, traffic, destruction of habitat, and loss of wildlife to the area that will take place if this project is allowed. My home is on a well and I am concerned about water pollution from drilling in the area.

This area is supported by tourism. A project like this will affect outdoor recreation and the economy of the area. It will also affect property values.

I believe it is mandatory that an Environmental Assessment be performed as has been done for other recent gold exploration projects in the Black Hills. A categorical exclusion is definitely not appropriate for this project. Since this is an exploration project it is only the beginning for this company. Therefore all potential future drilling should be described and assessed as well now. It is important to understand the environmental ramifications of this project before it can even be considered.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this extremely important matter.

Respectfully,

Laura Thorp