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Comments: We are writing to express our strong opposition to the above mentioned project. Our immediate concern is the likely damage to our existing roads caused by heavy equipment, and the eyesores created by "temporary access routes (12 feet width)", "drill pad sites (0.06 acres)", and "three staging areas (0.25 acres each)". The natural beauty of this area is not just for the enjoyment of its residents, but it also attracts tourists to the area who contribute to the area's economy.

Although the report states that "any water used for the drilling would be sourced from an approved municipal or industrial source," we have to wonder what that source would be, and who has the final approval of this source. Then there is the reality that trucks carrying water are very heavy, and are likely to cause even more damage to our roads. The report also states that "no water would be sourced from local surface waters", which is fine, but what about the area's ground water? We would like to know what effect the proposed drilling would have on our aquifers. We believe that, at the very least, an environmental impact study should be conducted.

Another real concern lies in the future. Yes, this project will produce only maps, but those maps will be sold to mining companies who will do their damndest to build mines. That is when the real destruction of this beautiful place will begin. This project seems like a short-sighted attempt to make (somebody) money, while abandoning the responsibility to preserve and protect our national forests.

Although many who attended the February 16 meeting report that this project is already a "done deal", we would beg that you reconsider and listen to those of us who want to keep our forests strong and healthy.

Mark and Mary Jennifer Radulovich