

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/1/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Sheri

Last name: Heaton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr Hoelscher,

I am writing to request that you require an Environmental Impact Statement for the F3 Gold Newark Project. I request this because I believe that drilling and mining in this area will be shown to be detrimental to the area, its water and its wildlife. I am therefore opposed to this project.

The area that they are requesting to drill on is just a short distance from my home and it is a popular place for me and my family to hike and enjoy the wildlife. There is a herd of elk that are frequently in this area and it is not uncommon for us to view Bald Eagles as well. The increased noise, traffic and disruption of the area to create drilling pads and drill will in all likelihood drive away the wildlife. In addition, the peace and quiet that we moved to the forest to enjoy will be destroyed with increased traffic and the drone of the drilling.

We purchased our land in 2003 and built our dream home on it. We planned to be here for many years with our property and house eventually being inherited by our children. I am very concerned that the drilling project and potential gold mining project will affect our water, property value and overall quality of life.

I am also concerned with the future of Custer and Custer State Park. We all know the important role that tourism has on our community. The probable negative impact to tourism of gold mining so close to town needs to be factored into the impact that the proposed project will have.

Please reconsider your decision to grant a categorical exclusion for this project and require a complete Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Sheri Heaton

redacted