

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/6/2023 6:00:00 AM

First name: Charlie and Ann

Last name: Mathern

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Rob Hoelscher-

We are responding with our concerns against the Newark Exploration Drilling Project. We have been residents of the Black Hills area for the past four years and have spent vacations in the area for the past sixty years. Our children recently purchased twenty six acres of land here as well. It is the beauty and unspoiled environment that has always attracted our family to this area. With the proposed thirty nine drilling sites covering thousands of square feet each, mining is sure to follow, despite claims to the contrary. Although doubtful that we would see an impact in our lifetimes, generations to come would almost certainly see the cultural heritage of the Black Hills compromised. We do not understand how oversight and monitoring of this project could prevent that from eventually happening. Despite a hoped-for economic boost that this project proposes to offer, we feel that it is outweighed by the negative impact on the environment of this sacred land. The integrity of the Black Hills is not for sale.

Thank you for considering our views before it's too late.

Charlie and Ann Mathern