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First name: Johanna

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Organization: Taboosi Dikudu No&#39;Obatu Numma Cooperative

Title: Executive Director

Comments: Why you care about this project and the Black Hills

The Oceti Sakowin homelands Paha Sapa renamed the Black Hills by colonial discovery and manifest destiny practices is an integral part of Lakota Indigenous fishing, gathering and hunting areas that are legally protected by Land Order No. 7956. Public Land Order No. 7956 withdraws 20,510 acres of National Forest System lands in the Black Hills National Forest, Pennington County, South Dakota from settlement, sale, location, entry under public land laws, as well as from mining and leasing under mineral and geothermal laws.

I have read some of the documents submitted here and support the Indigenous people as stewards of the land that deserve to have their watershed protected for future generations to come.

The name of the project (Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838)

Please accept my request for a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment. I just found out about this project this week so my comments can be more clear, concise and correct as we both can understand the project proposal "Scoping" submitted by Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

The main reason I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838. I would like to demand the USFS abide by its own NEPA Guidance document, Appendix A; Authorities, Major Laws, and Regulations That Pertain to the Forest Service. Please see Aboriginal and Territorial homelands like the Northwest Ordinance (1 Stat 50), and the potential negative environmental impacts that come from mining operations like fracking contaminates the groundwater with volatile organic compounds like hydraulic grease to operate the drill. The Oceti Sakowin and USGS refer to the South Dakota groundwater as the Ogallala Aquifer. There will be so much disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota Indigenous people who have been forcibly removed from their sacred watershed called the Pactola Reservoir and Rapid Creek subwatershed if the permit for drilling is to proceed it would be highly illegal and volatile toward sacred lands and potential pollution to surface water for drinking water.

I make a demand that you deny Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project and that you require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

Respectfully,

Johanna Emm, Executive Director

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