Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/16/2023 7:00:00 AM
First name: Chad
Last name: Dahlke
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Hello,I'm a concerned SD resident. I am worried the Newark Project isn't appropriate for a Categorical Exclusion, and the Forest Service needs to do a full Environmental Assessment.The gold mining industry's history in SD is highlighted by polluted water. Arsenic concentrations that exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Maximum Concentration Limit of 50 microg/L for drinking water were found in water from Annie Creek, a tributary of Spearfish Creek, and from Whitewood Creek. Gold Run, a tributary of Whitewood Creek, and Annie Creek contained Se concentrations in water that exceeded the EPA Ecotox threshold of 5 microg/L and were classified as a high hazard for Se accumulation from water into the planktonic food chain and for resultant toxicity to fish and aquatic birds. Concentrations of As, Cd, Cu, Hg, Ni, Pb, and Zn in sediment exceeded EPA Ecotox thresholds in one or more of the watersheds suggesting potential adverse ecological effects. The Potential mining area is upstream from a city (Custer) that relies on clean water for tourism (French Creek, which the project would impact, runs right through Custer),Please protect the sanctity of clean natural water in the black hills and deny a categorical exclusion.Thank you for your time,Chad Dahlke*redacted*