

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/11/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Dowell

Last name: Caselli-Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms SchuylerThe Newark Project is in no way appropriate for a Categorical Exclusion. The Forest Service needs to do an Environmental Assessment Here are some reasons why:

- * this isn't a small project -- it is likely to involve up to 390 drill holes,
- * the company can't complete the project in one year,
- * there are certain to be cultural resources in the area that have to be protected,
- * Newark Project is upstream from Custer where they rely on clean water for tourism (French Creek, which the project would impact, runs right through Custer),
- * this is a "foot in the door" by the company. They actually want a larger project, so there would be cumulative impacts that are currently not described (their project was originally larger),
- * Newark Project requires construction of more than 1/3 mile of road and clearing of more than one acre of ground.

Any and all of these are grounds for turning down a Categorical Exclusion. Thank you for placing my concerns in consideration as this matter is reviewed and thank you for all you do to keep our Black Hills so wonderful!Yours in cooperation,Dowell Caselli-Smith