

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Jerry and Margaret

Last name: Nelson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: ADDENUM FROM JERRY AND MARGARET NELSON

redacted

March 6, 2023

redacted

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON NEWARK EXPLORATION DRILLING PROJECT

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

1. We are opposed to mining of ANY minerals in our Black Hills (gold, lithium, uranium)and any other ore sourced for these elements/minerals.
2. We do not see how you can use Section 8 as a Categorical Exclusion (CE) under NEPA per 36 CFR 220.6 (e) (8).

It clearly states "CONSTRUCTION OF LESS THAN 1 MILE OF LOW STANDARD ROAD"

Your scoping letter states "An estimated ~5,500 linear feet of temporary new access alignment for drill site access are proposed"

Also stated under Section 8 (vii) it states " Approving a plan for exploration which authorizes repair of an existing road and THE CONSTRUCTION OF 1/3 MILE OF TEMPORARY ROAD; clearing vegetation FROM AN ACRE OF LAND for trenches drill pads, or support facilities.

Your estimated acreage is 4.49 acres . This exceeds one acre requirement.

(Drill pads 2.24 acres, Laydowns 0.75 acres, New temporary access alignments 1.5 acres (roads)

Your new road exceeds both the 1 mile and the 1/3 mile requirement.

3. Categorical Exclusion List states the USFS can develop CE's for categories of agency actions that they have found DO NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. How can you determine this ? We strongly feel the impact on the environment is very significant.

4. Categorical Exclusions (c) Scoping

This states " if the responsible official determines, based on scoping , that it is uncertain whether the proposed action may have a significant effect on the environment, prepare EA. If the responsible official determines, based on scoping that the proposed action may have a significant environmental effect, prepare an EIS.

Who is the 'responsible person?'

5. We feel F3 Gold is under estimating the size of the drill pads and the time frame for such a project . They are

trying to meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion and once their foot is in the door, who stops them if the acreage is larger? The time frame expands?

The USFS needs to protect the environment . These F3 Gold figures are not feasible.

Why rush this? Do an Environmental Impact Statement.