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First name: Linda

Last name: Zachow

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rob Hoelscher

1019 15th St. Custer, SD 57730 Dear Ranger Hoelscher, I am a homeowner in Custer County since the 1970's. These are my comments on the proposed Newark gold exploration project. My number one concern is what this project would do to our water quality. I am concerned about the economic impacts of this proposed project. If our water is messed up, it doesn't matter how many tourist businesses we have. Also, there are already problems with water quantity in this area, such as a friend of mine's ranch, where they had to drill a new well. I'm also concerned about what this project is going to do as far as the value of my home as I age. I am worried about the beauty of the area and what it would do to the Black Hills in general. The other thing is I learned recently about the old mining law, the 1872 Mining Law, and I'm concerned that companies will not clean up after themselves, as has happened before in our area. These projects are always about the money and there isn't always responsibility. I've seen this in other areas as with the tar sands pipelines. I definitely want an Environmental Impact Statement to be done for this proposed project. Sincerely, Linda Zachow *redacted*