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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Schuyler,

I'm writing to strongly protest AGAINST a categorical exclusion for the Newark Exploratory Drilling Project.

It's "categorically" astonishing to me that we still have to fight these kinds of projects.

It's my understanding that this isn't really that small of a project, with plans to drill upwards of 400 holes.

Further, the drilling and potential gold-mining will be done above a municipal water source that provides Custer citizens, as well as tourists, with water. I know the Forest Service employs scientists and naturalists, so I'm not going to belabor the essential nature of clean, safe drinking water to people's health and happiness, but, sheesh, it feels like maybe someone should, given that this action is actually under serious consideration.

If the Black Hills becomes known as a place with safe water issues, it will impact our number one industry greatly. That's an economic gamble to give all thinking people pause.

Further, we all know that the profits from a project like this will not just leave the area, they'll leave the state. Then, when it's time to clean up the mess, we'll be left with the bill.

This whole thing is so gross on so many levels.

Please, please, please work to stop this, for us, our children and generations to come. NOTHING else on this planet works without clean, safe, affordable water. Our children's futures should not be sold for the profits of a very few people who will not pay any of the real costs.

Sincerely, Rochelle Hagel