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First name: Ben

Last name: Haecherl

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a Custer resident and I love our public lands here in the Black Hills. I am also an environmental engineer with a specialization in water treatment. I am writing to ask you to STOP the Newark Exploration Drilling Project. The extent of drilling being proposed could have negative impacts on residential/city wells in the area. In the Black Hills, groundwater travels through cracks in the bedrock/shale. There can be dozens of layers of bedrock with water at varying depths all with varying water quality. When drilling at the proposed depths occurs, all of the layers that are pierced will cause the ground water to mix together. If a layer of groundwater at lower elevations is contaminated (Arsenic for instance is very common in the hills), it will contaminate all the layers when mixed. Neighboring wells that previously had good water quality could therefore become contaminated.

I am firmly against the Newark Exploration Drilling Project. At a minimum, an environmental study must be performed prior to any drilling.

Signed,

Ben Haecherl

redacted