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First name: Peggy

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: April 8, 2023

TO:

Rob Hoelscher,

District Ranger

Hell Canyon District

1019 North 5th St

Custer, SD 57730

RE: F3 Exploration Project

Comment period

Dear Mr. Hoelscher:

This letter is to voice opposition to the F3 Exploration Drilling Project which may be allowed to proceed with a Categorical Exclusion under NEPA. This exclusion is inappropriate for numerous reasons including:

- \* Potential contamination of ground water and wells
- \* Lack of adequate water to sustain this project
- \* Lack of baseline studies regarding the water status, local wells and aquifers
- \* Degrading of aesthetics of Southern Black Hills
- \* Negative impact on tourism which is main economic driver of area
- \* Negative impact on wildlife in the area including disturbance of eagle nest
- \* Lack of information provided to community by F3
- \* Too close of proximity to town for mining exploration or large scale mining
- \* Lack of baseline Environmental Studies on potential impact

Based on these reasons - please halt the F3 exploration. Or at the very least demand Environmental

Impact studies be completed prior to any drilling. Do not issue a Categorical Exclusion!!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Peggy Smith

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