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Comments: This is perhaps too late for the public comment period as I see it is past the 30 day period from the posting date of the letter asking for comments. I thought that I heard the comment period was extended to April 10 which is today.

If not too late I would like to request that the mining company involved be compelled to file a Environmental Impact Statement at the very least so the public can be informed of any long term effects to what is public land. Granting a categorical exclusion to this project is nothing more than an attempt to avoid the Environmental Impact Statement and would make a bad precedent for any future mining claims. Sadly our beloved Black Hills seems to be under a new wave of mining claims through a long outdated 1872 mining law which will allow the National Forest lands to be eventually sold off piece by piece when mining ceases on those claims.

Please require an Environmental Impact Statement of all proposed mining. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John W. Newland

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