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First name: Madeleine

Last name: Amen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The objector's name: Madeleine (Tess) Amen

Address: 327 Evans Lane, Spearfish, SD 57783

Phone: (425) 772-7619

Proposed project: Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project

Name and title of the responsible official: Steve Kozel, District Ranger

Name of the national forest and/or ranger district: Northern Hills Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest)

Comments in opposition Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project,

How many soil samples did the Project proponent take from National Forest Service land during exploratory scoping and what are the latitudinal/longitudinal location coordinates of these samples? Where are these samples being stored?

Have impacts to recreation been taken into account in this document? Impacts to consider include (but are not limited to): the creation of restricted zones that limit public access to areas within the forest, generation of significant noise and dust which impact the recreational experience for visitors seeking tranquility, visual impacts of equipment/disturbance, safety concerns for recreational users which would all negatively impact essential local tourism economies, specifically for the City of Spearfish.

Are any of the areas for proposed work culturally significant to local tribal entities, considering that the Black Hills are a sacred location and Oceti Sakowin treaty land?

What tribal engagement has been undertaken? Please provide documentation of this coordination including dates, meeting locations, meeting attendees. The Project actions directly violate tribal sovereignty.

Do areas of proposed work impact old growth forest? To what extent has mitigation sequencing been undertaken to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for impacts to old growth forest. Old growth forest is important in terms of biodiversity, sequestering carbon dioxide, and natural resilience.

What vegetative restoration is proposed for areas temporarily disturbed by exploratory drilling?

Will native materials be used to backfill exploratory holes?

What type of signage/fencing will be erected to ensure that environmentally critical resources are not impacted by Project activities?

Have City of Spearfish officials and residents been made aware that the proposed Project plans to utilize city drinking water sources, and to what extent (i.e., gallons of City-treated drinking water per day)? Considering that the Black Hills region is in preliminary stages of planning to construct a pipeline that brings drinking water from the Missouri River to this region - impacts to an existing, local drinking water source are important to understand. Has mitigation sequencing (i.e., avoidance, minimize, and compensatory mitigation) been considered when planning Project actions and mitigating impacts to vegetation and soils that support our ecosystems.

Thank you for considering these concerns so that we can ensure that the Black Hills remain a healthy resource for our community.

Regards,

Madeleine (Tess) Amen