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I am writing due to the upcoming Newark Projects proposed by F3 Gold.

I am a seasonal worker in the Custer area, and work with a company local to the area. It has been communicated to me by my superiors at my work that this project, should it go through, will put them out of business, meaning that I will lose my job in customer service. Personally from what I have read of F3 Gold offering only new jobs to the Canadians workers they have on standby, the insinuation that this project will somehow bring jobs back to our community is nothing less of insulting. The company I work for is a part of the tourist industry, of which I am specialized in. F3 gold will not be able to hire me. I am not a miner.

If this project goes through and puts me out of work, I will be forced out of the community I am currently a part of. I understand that this project has been put under the term Categorical Exclusion, which is meant to mean that it will not have an impact on the local human population. I cannot understand how this can even be entertained as others such as myself will absolutely be impacted by the loss of our employment opportunities and right to quiet enjoyment of our homes.

As someone who is not reliant on city water, my residence runs on a well system. It has been made clear this project will require at least 10,000 gallons of water, which is extremely worrying to me and my neighbors. Is this water going to come out of our aquifer? If so, then that will drain the well water for locals like myself and leave us deprived of a basic human necessity.

Will it come from the city? If so, then the roads and traffic in town will be heavily negatively affected by increased traffic of large rigs that will damage our streets. Will F3 Gold dig below our well water? If so, then that will absolutely contaminate the water supply of local residents, and again leave us without one of the most basic human necessities needed for survival.

Will local farmers have to start competing for water in order to keep their crops and cattle alive? Will local wildlife be displaced from drained lakes and dried up creeks? Or will households and farmers have to start worrying about prey and predators crossing into the farmland and backyards to compete for water with their pets and cattle?

The noise impact alone will have a major negative impact on the quality of life not just for myself and my fellow Custer residents, but also for the local wildlife and tourists. 24-hour drilling will scare away local wildlife that plays an essential role in the wildlife ecosystem in the Custer area. Locals that hunt and businesses that rely on hunters will be directly and significantly affected by the loss in wildlife in the area. That fact that no environmental impact study has been conducted and was even waived has proven to us residents that F3 Gold, Rob Bergman, and Brian Lentz do not actually care the Black Hills at all and only care for it for as long as they can use to further their own self interests.

Thank you,
Ariana Rebecca Lynch