

February 28, 2023

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District Ranger Rob Hoelscher

1019 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Custer, SD 57730

Disrict Ranger Hoelscher,

I am writing concerning the Newark Exploration drilling project by F3 Gold, LLC of Minneapolis, MN, and the Categorical Exclusion in NEPA.

I am living on property purchased in 1987. This property boundary is shared with the Black Hills National Forest. Numerous drill sites proposed by F3 Gold in the Newark Exploration Project appear to be within one mile of my home.

MY CONCERNS:

- 1) Noise – Noise from drilling 24 hours per day will impact my home 24 hours per day
- 2) Water – My water supply is from a well that could be contaminated. 2022 was the driest year in over 128 years. Our water supply is already in dire danger as the Custer Water Pool is extremely stressed right now with the drought.
- 3) A categorical exclusion is not appropriate for this project. I am requesting an Environmental Assessment specifically for the F3 Gold Newark Drill Project.

In conclusion, I am concerned for the following reasons:

Air pollution

Sound pollution

Light pollution

Surface aquifer pollution

Water poisoning

Further creation of water shortages

Again, I am requesting an Environmental Assessment specially for the F3 Gold Newark Project before this project is approved.

[REDACTED]  
Rebecca Cooper

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