

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [F5-comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon](#)  
**Subject:** [External Email]newark exploration drilling project #63527  
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April 8, 2023

TO:  
Rob Hoelscher,  
District Ranger  
Hell Canyon District  
1019 North 5<sup>th</sup> 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 are 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  
[REDACTED]