

**QUESTIONS, EXCERPTS AND COMMENTS FROM
“EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES”
GILT EDGE MINE SUPERFUND SITE OPERABLE UNIT 1
EPA ID: SD987673985; LEAD, SOUTH DAKOTA – SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Table of Contents for this document reflects 20 pages. I am attaching pages 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 for your initial review. This document dated 2014 is now nearly a decade old, but it provides insights as to the extent of environmental damage and contamination that has occurred as a result of gold mining in the Northern Black Hills.

Please note the contamination sources result from disturbed buried mineralized rock and induced pathways for contact with oxygen (atmospheric air) and water (precipitation or groundwater). The contamination sources can contain iron, copper, cadmium, zinc, nickel, lead, arsenic and many other metals in various concentrations depending on the source of the rock. The contamination can be slightly acidic to very acidic. When contamination is generated from a source, it often flows into surrounding ground and surface water and contaminates those waters as well.

The report notes the contamination sources come from materials both above and below ground.

Page 18 of the report references the modified remedy proposed and the subject of this report is at an estimated cost of **\$87,846,000**. The footnote indicates costs of the modified remedy has an accuracy between -30% to +50% of actual cost.

Although not reflected in this report, reliable sources have informed me that currently the estimated costs of remediation will exceed \$200 million.

The contamination sources documented by the Environmental Protection Agency indicate that there has been and is a continuing negative impact on all surface and groundwater for drainages from the Gilt Edge mining disaster.

In summary and by conclusion, one must seriously question how any reasonable objective person could approve new exploratory gold mining efforts in an area of the Black Hills National Forest that does not suffer from the major multi-generational environmental degradation so well documented by the Environmental Protection Agency.