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Comments: A project such as this is worthy of an environmental assessment, and should be denied a categorical exclusion from NEPA review. The test drilling wells have the potential to reach ground water, bringing harmful minerals to the surface which have a reasonably high probability of polluting Hot Creek, endangering aquatic life. The open pit mining which is likely the planned outcome of positive testing, would create large scale potential for water pollution for the future.

Road traffic servicing such a mine would be tremendously disruptive to wildlife due to noise, vibrations, dust and nocturnal light. The mining operation itself would, of course, create the same also for many years.