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First name: Lynn

Last name: Arnold

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the F3 Drilling at Jenny Gulch.

Our water source, the Rapid Creek Watershed, must be kept up to the high standards of excellence that our drinking water system has earned for 19 years. It provides water to Rapid City, Box Elder, and Ellsworth Air Force Base, a population of over 78,000! How can drilling near this water source this even be entertained in the second most populated area of South Dakota? In the hub of our tourist sector? Given the water source component, this demands a full EIS rather than the shorter EA.

Drilling risks contaminating our water supply, negatively impacts cultures, degrades landscapes (which effects tourism), destroys habitats, utilizes vast amounts of water, generates waste, and damages roads.

The cultural implications are absolutely astounding. Tribes were not given proper consultation on this matter, especially considering the pandemic. This rushed assessment has not done the tribes justice. This area includes some of the most sacred sites to our Native Americans who consider land and water to be priceless. And how does F3 treat this culture? With complete disrespect by even devising a Plan B, a cultural disaster.

Jenny Gulch is also a popular recreational area, as it is part of the Pactola Lake area. This region will be affected with destruction of landscape, contamination of the soil and water, and the constant noise pollution of an operation running 24 hours a day. (In addition to how the residents of the area will be impacted.)

There is one small access road to handle all the equipment associated with this operation as well as those who go there regularly or visit? This will hinder the many, many people who come for the recreational options annually, something that supports our local economy.

The overland trails spanning eight feet will be an eyesore for all. That kind of damage will take years to get to looking anything like it did before the drilling. And when all of this is done, who is going to help repair the roads in the area? There will be significant damage from all of that heavy equipment.

The environmental implications are dire. The assessment states that contamination could occur due to spills. This risk it itself is too great, but there are further water concerns.

According to the report, this water will be coming from our area to the tune of 10,000 gallons PER RIG, PER DAY. That equates to 40,000 gallons of water daily if all 4 rigs are functioning. That does some damage to infrastructure of the area.

The small retainer never covers those costs.

Additionally, the report states that,

"Each drill site would have a maximum footprint of approximately 2,500 square feet (0.06 acres), where the drilling rig, rod tray, support vehicles, portable cutting tank, and water truck would be placed."

That means that 117,500 square feet of destruction of land all over our area! This will negatively impact our residents, our recreationalists, and the wealth of animals who live there.

History tells us this is a very BAD idea for our area.

Risking our water source is too great for all of the people who depend on it.

The disrespect this project shows our Native Americans is upsetting. The project disregards Native American culture, degrades landscapes, destroys habitats, decreases tourism, utilizes water, generates waste, and

damages roads. Given the location in question, a full EIS needs to be done.

I vehemently oppose F3 drilling in Jenny Gulch.