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Comments: I live on Ruby Road, in the Diamond subdivision, within a mile from most of the proposed exploration sites in the F3 Gold Newark project. I have serious concerns about how this project will affect the area in and surrounding the sites. Firstly, if F3 Gold employees and equipment plan on accessing the majority of the sites from Hwy 16 via Upper French Creek Road, I want to make it clear that the county has a hard time maintaining that road as it is (potholes and washboarding being the primary concerns) and the added traffic of heavy vehicles will likely only make it worse. Secondly, should F3 Gold and their employees and vehicles access the sites from Custer Limestone Road via the seasonally open (May 15-Dec 15) Forest Service section of Upper French Creek Road, that road is dangerously rough, prone to washouts, lined along sections with dangerous deadfall, and sparsely maintained as it is. Additional traffic may serve to erode the area further, which in case of an emergency to the south of our subdivision (for instance, a forest fire) would be our only exit to safety. Secondly, I want to know if any of the exploration methods, equipment, or employees will create a heightened risk of forest fire during this project. Our area is suffering from a drought, and we have received less snowfall than anywhere else in the Hills this winter. My concern is a spark from equipment or an employee's errant cigarette could put my home in danger. Thirdly, I want to know what will be done with the water that will be used during the project. From my research, it appears F3 will truck in water to be used for this project, but what will happen to the water being used? Will it be dumped onto the ground? If so, what chemicals or minerals will it contain? I am concerned about the water table so close to my home being affected. Additionally, the way sound carries in this area has me concerned that excessive noise from the drilling and exploration will not only disturb the peace that my neighbors and I enjoy, but that it will also disturb the diverse wildlife that make this area their home. In the area of F3's lode claims I have personally observed deer, elk, owls, eagles, hawks, coyotes, foxes, woodchucks, rabbits, and more that are attracted to the plentiful wild berries that grow in the area. How will their drilling methods disturb these animal's rightful habitat? Next, how will the area be restored after the drilling exploration is complete? F3's website and online materials suggest their main goal is to merely prove their hypothesis that gold deposits remain in the Hills. After spending extensive time in the area they plan to drill/explore, I happen to agree with their hypothesis based on the geologic and mineral formations I have observed myself. However, once the hypothesized lodes are found, what will happen? Does F3 plan to expand into a full-on mining operation, or do they have interested parties lined up to mine their claims for them? What if valuable minerals besides gold (including, but not limited to silver, lithium, uranium, or tourmaline) are found instead? Will these findings result in mining operations or the sale of the lode claims to mining interests? Basically, what is the long term plan here? I am not inherently anti-mining or anti-gold exploration. I personally feel that modern knowledge and technology can extract precious minerals in a less invasive, safer, and more sustainable way than it has been performed in the past, and I think that responsible mining would be a valuable driver of our local economy by creating jobs outside the service sector for our area. But the Newark project (and the total number of acres claimed by F3 Gold) seems too large to simply be an exercise in proving a theory about whether gold still exists in the Hills. I want more transparency from both the Forest Service/BLM and from F3 Gold about the details of this initial exploration and what the long-term ramifications to this area would be if indeed gold deposits are discovered. Lastly, what do the local Native American tribes have to say about F3 Gold's plans to mine? Are the spiritual and religious beliefs of the Oglala Sioux, who consider the Black Hills to be sacred lands, being considered? Have the areas of the lode claims to be mined been surveyed for any archaeological importance? What are F3's policies should archaeological artifacts be discovered during active drilling/exploration? These are only some of the concerns held by myself and my fellow community members. F3 Gold has an opportunity to make their case to the people that live here and build a relationship based on trust, denominating that they promise to be good stewards of the land, water, air, and wildlife while they undertake this project. If they don't, I predict the whole town of Custer (and possibly other anti-mining, clean water, and Native American activists) will work tirelessly to protest their work. Thank you for considering my concerns.