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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is an addendum to our previous letter.

1. We are opposed to mining of any minerals in our Black Hills (gold, lithium, uranium etc) and any other ore sourced for these elements/minerals.

2. We do not see how you can use Section 8 as Categorical Exclusion (CE) under NEPA per 36 CFR 220.6 (e) (8) . It clearly states "Construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road". Your scoping letter states "An estimated ~5,500 linear feet of temporary new access alignment for drill site access are proposed'.

And under Section 8 (vii) it states "Approving a plan for exploration which authorizes repair of an existing road and THE CONSTRUCTION OF 1/3 MILE OF TEMPORARY ROAD; CLEARING VEGETATION FROM AN ACRE OF LAND for trenches , drill pads, or support facilities. You exceed both the 1 acre and the 1/3 mile. The scoping letter estimates the acreage at 4.49 acres. And the road is a little over a mile.

3. The Categorical Exclusion List states the USFS can develop CE's for categories of agency actions that they have found DO NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. How can you determine this? It is trying to be fast tracked with no baseline studies. We feel there is a significant risk for harm to the water and environment.

4. Categorical Exclusions (c) Scoping

This states "if the RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL determines, based on scoping, that it is uncertain whether the proposed action may have a significant effect on the environment, prepare EA. If the responsible official determines, based on scoping that the proposed action may have a significant environmental effect, prepare an EIS.

WHO IS THIS RESPONSIBLE PERSON? And whoever you are, do your job and require the EIS.

5. F3 GOLD

We feel F3 Gold is under estimating the size of the project in every way just to get a CE. They are under estimating the size of the drill pads, and the time frame. Once they have their foot in the door, who is going to stop them? What do you do if the project takes longer? The acreage increases? The roads are longer? Is there any recourse? Is the project halted? What is the plan for these digressions?

THE USFS NEEDS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. THESE F3 GOLD FIGURES ARE NOT FEASIBLE.

DO NOT RUSH THIS. DO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.