Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/7/2023 9:14:00 PM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Statement of Opposition to the Newark Gold Exploration Project

My name is Ellen Conroy. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Newark Gold Exploration Project in Custer, SD. A categorical exclusion is not appropriate for this project because an archaeological, cultural, and land study has not been done prior. I am demanding that an Environmental Impact Statement be completed.

First, there should be a cultural survey of the lands because there are prominent stories that live here. I've concluded a study like this at a site near Sturgis, SD. We found significant evidence of Indigenous historical habitation in the area. There are significant stories and artifacts that reside amongst the beautiful Black Hills and surrounding areas. They must be preserved.

Next, the richness of our wildlife must be protected. I've witnessed mountain lions, bald eagles, deer, and many other precious lifeforms roam freely in the Black Hills. I am deeply concerned about the impact of wildlife. The Newark Gold Exploration Project will harm and massacre our precious relatives whose home is the Black Hills.

Finally, I am a member of the South Dakota Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association.
Our International Dark Sky Places program protects public and private lands from light pollution today and long into the future. A goal is to implement dark sky friendly lights to protect the night skies for present and future generations. Light pollution affects us all. The planned year long 24/7 lights and noise of the Newark Gold Exploration Project will disrupt wildlife, humans, and also any potential future tourism related to night sky astronomy.

In conclusion, I urge everyone to join me in opposing the F3 gold mining project in Custer, SD. We must protect the Indigenous peoples treaty rights, our environment, wildlife, and economy from the potential harm that this project may cause.