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First name: Phil Last name: Nichols Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a retired consulting engineer living west of Rapid City along Rapid Creek. My wife and I have four properties along SD Hwy 44, three of which border Rapid Creek. Our potable water supply is the rock rubble below Rapid Creek, which in turn is affected by the Rapid Creek and Pactola watershed. I have lived in and near Rapid City since 1949, graduated from Rapid City High School in 1955 and the SD School of Mines in 1959. I started my consulting business in 1968 and retired in 2020. Some time in the 1980's I was contacted by the Rapid City Engineering Department, asking me to contact Senator Tom Daschle regarding gold mining along Rapid Creek. A gold mining operation near Rochford, SD had requested permission to dig in Rapid Creek. The city of Rapid City was concerned that disturbing sediments in the creek could release heavy metals into the creek water. I contacted Senator Tom Daschle and the project was immediately stopped. This quick action is what is needed.