

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/10/2023 8:34:17 PM

First name: Tom

Last name: SwiftBird

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am OPPOSED to the Newark Exploratory Drilling Project. It violates the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. *McGirt v Oklahoma* (2020) set a standard that treaties are the law of the land unless explicitly repealed by congress. The project did not consult with tribes at all. The entire Black Hills are sacred to the Lakota and other tribes, and have been used ceremonially for thousands of years. Exploratory drilling could destroy cultural resources that have not had a chance to be surveyed.

Aside from violating treaties, and tribes inherent right to consultation when disturbing their ceremonial lands, the project has potential to poison French creek, which flows downstream far as Pine Ridge.