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Organization:

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Comments: Newark Exploration Drilling Project: Being a concerned citizen who enjoys the beauty of the Black Hills, I am opposed to exploratory drilling for gold in pristine and all natural areas of the Hills public and private. Allowing this drilling would lead to areas being driven over destroying natural grasses and plant life unique and fragile. Especially concerned about the partial clearing necessary to drill which will takes years to recover, if at all. How will drilling impact the water tables and natural process of water flows in those areas? There should not be categorical exclusion from an environmental impact statement, and I am asking that one at least be provided. How will this drilling impact outdoor recreation and tourism? What will happen to French Creek water flow? How will this impact Custer State Park? Finally, because of historical Native significance relationship with the sacred Black Hills there should be consultation with the Tribes identified in the Black Hills Claim settlement. Thank you.