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Comments: Opponents to exploration and mining have indicated the exploration pollutes water. How? Where is the proof, or studies, that indicate that's true? Drilling an exploration hole is similar process to drilling a drinking water well, yet there is no outcry about well drilling and the pollution that is causing. Why? Because drilling is not the major environmental catastrophe that the public is making it out to be. Most of the public is uninformed when it comes to exploration drilling and even more so when it comes to mining laws, operations, and reclamation. All they have is fear and emotion, not science. Hire the best groundwater experts in the Black Hills to conduct a full source water protection study to actually define the area of biggest concern. Then do a study to prove that exploration drilling causes contamination; oh, that's right, it doesn't so you can't. Then prohibit all activities that could cause environmental harm (ATV use, overfishing/hunting, etc); oh, that's right, you won't do that either.