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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have read your draft study and have many concerns about this project. Your study admits that many impacts can be expected from this project including aquifer, private wells, and surface water contamination; disturbance of endangered/sensitive species including plants, raptors, and bats; damage to vegetative ground cover and roads; increased risk to recreational users such as hikers and bikers; among other concerns. The fact that you are basically leaving it up to the company to self-regulate in regard to water contamination, noxious weed control, chemical spills, reporting bat dens and archeological findings, etc, is also of great concern. We area residents have lived for years with damages caused by current and past projects that were not properly managed or reclaimed. Existing creeks are already contaminated with arsenic and other toxins from mining activities. Additionally, the blackout dates suggested do little to protect the thousands of people who utilize the proposed areas such as Tinton Trail and the Spearfish Canyon rim all year long, which you found has seen significant increase in numbers over the last 5-8 years.

I oppose this project and urge you to complete a full, comprehensive environmental study before considering allowing this drilling to proceed.