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Comments: I am very interested and strongly opposed to the Golden Crest Exploration Project for a variety of reasons. I am a resident of the Black Hills, with my home and primary residence in the Aspen Hills neighborhood, just a few miles from some of the test drill sites. Notably, along with every resident in Spearfish, we get our drinking water from an aquifer that will be punched through during test drilling operations, with potential contaminants seeping into our water source through other surface feeds in the greater Spearfish Canyon watershed. I am particularly concerned that the Environmental Assessment (EA) performed is not sufficient to evaluate the full impact of this project, and request that the Forest Service commission a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Finally, the absolute raping of the land and disruption and abasement of this vital natural resource for all who visit or call the Black Hills their home is an abomination.

Although this stage of the project is "only exploratory drilling", the real end game is obviously a large scale commercial game similar to the Coeur Wharf Gold Mine. The Solitario Zinc company has no interest in conducting this activity for anything other than the sake of constructing such a mine to get to these precious minerals for their own profits. And although such profits will be capitalized by Solitario and its shareholders, the costs in terms of damage to water quality, ecosystems, property values, quality of life, tourism, roads, recreation trails and countless other aspects will be all be socialized. The track record for this type of mining in this and nearby areas (such as the Superfund cleanup sites in Butte Montana's Berkeley Pit, and our very own Gilt Edge Mine superfund) should be a clear wake up call for citizens to stand up and put a stop to this before it has a chance to get started. This should not even be up for debate.