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Comments: Im writing to address section 3.6.4.3 in the draft DA. This section articulates that a study was to determine aquifer vulnerability and susceptibility based on data from outside the project area. I believe it to be necessary to research impacts of the drilling on water quality specifically in the spearfish creek watershed, which has many unique geologic features and directly impacts various communities drinking water.

Additionally, I'm addressing section 3.7.5.2.1 where it states, "Spills of drilling fluid, petroleum products, or other chemicals are not expected to occur in the Project vicinity. However, if such a spill were to occur, the impacts to surface water quality from spills would likely be minimized as a result of the spill prevention and containment measures." For the safety of the people that recreate and live near the land, a detailed prevention and containment plan is requested from Solitario.

In section 3.12.5.2.1 you discuss that the Project is not anticipated to impact the value of adjacent properties. I would like to see data supporting this as in many other communities, open pit gold mining, the method of mining that would take place if this project proceeds to the next stage, would decrease values significantly to surrounding areas. I therefore argue that the socioeconomic impacts of exploratory drilling have larger impacts on values than was articulated in this EA. Value of property is based on perception and if the Solitario company is acting to build a large mine, that will likely impact the future condition of the area, and therefore impact present day values.