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Comments: I am writing in staunch opposition to the Solitario Golden Crest gold exploration project in Spearfish.

Where exploration occurs, mining will surely follow. Should this move forward, the citizens of Spearfish (and the Black Hills at large) will suffer

*toxic water contamination of watershed and local aquifers

*destruction of sacred land

*destruction of local hiking and biking trails--which not only affects the citizens of the Black Hills whose lives are connected to this land, but will also negatively affect local tourism--a substantial part of our economy.

*negative impacts on local wildlife, which we have a duty to protect

*large truck traffic on Tinton Road (without cost sharing from the company)

*reduced property value for Aspen Hills, Timbers, Mountain Plains, and other subdivisions

I will again emphasize the negative impacts on SD Tourism and the destruction of sacred land and sacred sites in the Black Hills.

Please do the right thing and protect our land, its water, its wildlife, and its residents.