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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Strong opposition to Solitario Zinc Gold Crest Project

Why? My husband and I have lived in SD for over 30 years and now own a home in the Aspen Hills housing development. Also, our family has vacationed in this area every year since moving to SD.

The following are reasons why we oppose this project:

1. Risk of toxic water contamination to the Spearfish Canyon watershed and local aquifers.
2. Permanent property value reduction with no upside for residents of Aspen Hills or another development in the area, The Timbers.
3. Increased large truck traffic (and wear and tear) on Tinton Road, without any cost sharing from Solitario.
4. Destruction of local recreation trails on Big Hill (one site is right off the connector from A loop to C/D loop, and the access to this location would definitely tear up a big section of A-loop.)
5. Impact to local wildlife patterns.
6. Solitario is a Colorado based company, and any jobs or local economy increases (if any) from the test drilling and/or subsequent mining would likely be dwarfed by negative economic impacts to tourism.
7. The project would take place in a specific area that feeds directly into Spearfish Canyon, a National Historic Byway.
8. Overall, mining in the Spearfish Canyon area would alter (and possibly destroy the natural environment) and have negative effects on property ownership and tourism.