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Comments: I understand and appreciate the need for the resources that can be dug out from beneath the Black Hills, but it breaks my heart to imagine our children and grandchildren looking at piles of rubble where the Black Hills' natural beauty has existed for millions of years. Please, look at the Wharf Mine next to Terry Peak and remember the natural beauty we lost when that operation was allowed to reduce its piece of the beautiful Black Hills to a barren gravel pit. Every time I ski Terry Peak, the Wharf Mine serves as a gut-wrenching reminder of our ability to ruin something beautiful for short-term profits.

Please learn from our mistakes and stop the Black Hills' next eyesore before it happens. The resources under the Black Hills can be dug out and sold once, but the resource we have on the surface will pay dividends to our tourism industry for as long as we take good care of them. Please make the right decision for the long-term health of our beautiful Black Hills.