

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2023 11:39:50 AM

First name: John

Last name: Alsup

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Top of the list motivating my action are: risk of toxic water contamination to the Spearfish Canyon watershed and local aquifers (especially if subsequent mining is pursued - there is no reason to waste money on the test drilling if they aren't planning to follow-up with the much more impactful mining); permanent property value reduction with no upside for residents of Aspen Hills or The Timbers; increased large truck traffic (and wear and tear) on Tinton Road, without any cost sharing from Solitario; 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); impact to local wildlife patterns (hunters beware).

Other factors to consider are that 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 (I haven't further researched or confirmed this, but it was mentioned at the meeting that a recent year's GDP in South Dakota put tourist revenue at \$4.2 Billion compared to only \$75 million for mining). And for anyone who might wonder if increasing the mining of gold will lower it's price (currently above \$2,000/oz), gold has the lowest price elasticity of supply for any commodity or monetary metal (meaning annual mining output is trivial to the metal's existing global stockpiles - not surprising since gold has been mined and accumulated for thousands of years).