Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2023 12:01:08 AM
First name: Eva
Last name: Michaels
Organization:
Title:
Comments: My family and I have owned a 1930s-era cabin at 21597 Highway 85 for over 25 years. We oppose exploration for gold or other metals in the northern Black Hills, and we would also oppose mining in the area of the Downpour prospect, as well as other places in the Northern Black Hills. As homeowners within a few hundred yards of the proposed Downpour well testing, we worry about the impact not only to our drinking water but also to the hydrologic system of Spearfish Creek overall. The proposed test wells create direct pathways for groundwater contamination to our shallow drinking water well less than one mile away (adjacent to Spearfish Creek).

Unless independent, scientifically-proven studies are submitted to demonstrate no ascertainable risk to the entire area and its surroundings (including the natural beauty, wildlife, plants, water sources, and resources), granting these test well permits could themselves lead to irreversible damage to the large, beautiful area, and should be refused at this early juncture.

Recreational opportunities continue to increase in the Northern Black Hills, and these provide societal and economic benefits to the region without the risk of detrimental environmental impact that mining could bring. We suggest that these recreational opportunities, as opposed to a mine, be the focus of any future efforts to provide benefits to the region.

Thank you.