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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the proposed Golden Crest exploration drilling project because of the potential danger of contamination of streams and aquifers that feed into Spearfish Creek. I am a property owner in Spearfish Canyon and a member of the Spearfish Canyon Owners Association. The purpose of the organization, as stated in its original charter from Homestake Mining Company, says that it "shall be to maintain the beauty, serenity and attractiveness of the Spearfish Canyon, and monitor and protect the water quality and flow of Spearfish Creek and its tributaries and to preserve in perpetuity the covenants and conditions placed upon said property by Homestake Mining Company of California."

When we property owners purchased land in Spearfish Canyon, we signed documents agreeing to the above stated purpose of preserving the Canyon and its water quality and beauty. My opposition to this project is consistent with honoring the pledge I signed.

Allowing the drilling of 25 or more exploration holes, many of which are in the Spearfish Canyon watershed, without adequate information about how this drilling may adversely affect the water quality in Spearfish Canyon and Spearfish Creek, flies in the face of that stated pledge of preservation of the Canyon and its water resources.

Therefore, before any drilling is allowed to begin, I would request that a full Environmental Impact Statement be required for this project in order to fully determine the actual risks to the water and surrounding environment.

The State of South Dakota designated the Spearfish Canyon watershed a "special and unique area" where mining should not be allowed. This designation must be adhered to as strongly as possible.