

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/14/2023 6:41:09 PM

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Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

The finding of "no significant impact" by the Environmental Impact Survey conducted for the proposed Goldencrest mining exploration project is as baffling as it is inadequate. Those who can't imagine the long-term impact of open-pit mining can simply take a drive up Lead main street, where you can visibly see a defunct open-pit mine in all of its impactful glory. If that isn't enough to convince anyone, simply keep driving to the Wharf mine site near Terry Peak, which has transformed a once-pristine, wooded, hilltop into something more reminiscent of the surface of the moon. Don't know which road to turn on to access Wharf? No problem, you can see damage from the highway.

To those who support this project, I would ask: are the promises of benefits like jobs and increased economic activity in the area as good as the promises that the Goldencrest operation won't significantly impact the area? Because there is visual, indisputable proof of the damage of the open pit and Wharf. And yet the city of Lead itself is reduced to a virtual ghost town. These broken promises, temporary as their benefits are - and the massive, irreparable damage sustained by our beautiful Black Hills - is the legacy of mining. The benefits are short-term, the damage is forever.