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Comments: As a native South Dakotan raised in Edgemont (Super Fund site) and an avid fly fisher who has spent many hours catching and releasing trout in Spearfish Creek, I stand in opposition to this project. The creek and this watershed should not be jeopardized. Regardless what the mining companies say, there is a long history of the companies creating a mess and then declaring bankruptcy leaving us, the taxpayers, to deal with the problem all the while leaving the water and land in a depleted and defiled condition. Allowing this drilling and subsequent mining will benefit very few but could negatively impact many. It's simply not worth the risk. Until the state and federal mining laws are updated to rectify the deficiencies that have allowed the mining industry to behave so irresponsibly, there is going to be little chance these projects will be endorsed by the thinking public that care about the long term health of our waters, lands, flora, fauna, and peoples.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel C Johnson, MD