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Comments: As a resident who lives near several of the proposed exploratory sites, I vehemently oppose the planned drilling and ensuing mining operations. Unfortunately, environmental impact studies to surface and ground water were limited only to similar areas located elsewhere in the Black Hills and not conducted directly at the sites proposed. As a consequence, the actual risks of environmental water contamination, including those risks to aquifers that provide clean drinking water to nearby residents, as well as wildlife, remain unknown. This is unacceptable. It is simply impossible to take the responsible actions necessary to avoid irreparable harm to the environment, if the attendant risks are not known with confidence. There must be a full environmental impact study for the sites near residents and all recreational areas.

Would anyone find it acceptable for drilling to occur within a mile of their residence without the most reasonable, thorough evaluation of the consequences? It seems cutting corners and putting people at risk, without due diligence, is the way forward. As a result, there will be no way to repair the damage to water resources, when the ultimate outcome is catastrophic for residents and/or wildlife.