

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/26/2024 7:40:52 PM

First name: Margaret

Last name: Torness

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposed area for exploration is an incredibly important area, both culturally and ecologically. This would be right above one of the most incredible waterways in the Black Hills, Little Spearfish Creek, that is pristine and rich with biodiversity. This needs to be left intact and protected by and for the public - not for the benefit of a private industry. Therefore, no mining should not be allowed in this area now or at anytime in the future, as the communities that are tied to this area value it more for its intact ecological communities than for the minerals that, if extracted, would hardly benefit communities here. We do not want to manage this land in a way that would pose a risk to the waterways, aquifers, and unique ecology of this area.

Additionally, due to the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 no company or person should benefit from resources extracted from this area without the full and endorsed consent of all tribes included in the Treaty of Fort Laramie (1868). The implications for further social injustices incurred by exploratory drilling in hopes to further extract resources from an area that the US Supreme Court recognizes as illegally seized and not rightfully theirs is against the moral and legal obligations of this nation and its people.

As a citizen of this country and resident of this community, I do not condone exploratory drilling anywhere in the Black Hills, and especially in the area of the Golden Crest Project, due to the risks it imposes on ecological, social, cultural, economic, and individual wellbeing of those who live here.