Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/26/2024 9:20:35 PM

First name: Stephen Last name: Barrett Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing this as a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation to object to the Gold Crest Gold Exploration Project. This project will destroy our land and hurt our local wildlife. This site project will directly impact spearfish creek and has the chance to pollute our drinking waters. It is also very important as a Lakota that I bring up that the entirety of the Black Hills is a sacred site and all of it should be protected from violent acts like mining. This project is an act of aggression against our nation and a violation of our treaties.

I would also like to take this time to say that it is incredibly wrong that the comments made by Indigenous people mentioning our treaty rights and sacred sites are hidden from the comment reading room. Using the excuse that it's protecting cultural knowledge and sacred sites is very disingenuous. We have a right to share information and inform people when our sacred lands are under attack and being destroyed. It is disrespectful to hide our comments without us asking for it.