Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2024 12:58:20 PM First name: Egon Last name: Dzintars Organization: Title:

Comments: I'll keep this brief: I am against AN Y exploratory drilling in the Rapid Creek watershed. This water source is too valuable to risk to mining pollution. The safety record of gold mines in the Black Hills has been dismal, and mining gold should be forbidden in this watershed. The mining companies say that they're only looking, not mining, But, if drilling was to reveal exploitable reserves of gold, it's inevitable that they would eventually convince politicians to let them start new mines. It's simple: no drilling means no mining, and no mining means that the main source of water for the Rapid City metro area remains pristine