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Comments: I am writing in favor of requiring mining companies to withdraw from the Black Hills headwaters to preserve water quality in this critical area. Hundreds of years of history have shown us that mining will pollute the water and damage the quality of the land. Current practice gives us no confidence that clean water can be ensured any time soon. Maybe someday new mining techniques will be developed, but at present we must protect the natural resources of the area by ceasing these operations.

If groundwater and aquifers are polluted, we will not be able to restore the land to health.