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Comments: Request-60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period and a big NO to the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project (not the former Rochford gold project, now called the Bella project). This Rochford project would involve exploration drilling for GRAPHITE, a mineral used in electric vehicle batteries, lubricants, other industrial purposes - and for pencils.

this even more troubling than some of the other projects we've opposed. Because it is immediately adjacent to - and some proposed drill pads might be at - Pe' Sla.

Pe' Sla is a sacred site or homeland to which Lakota people return ceremonially on an annual basis, as well as on other times throughout the year. The drilling has been proposed by Pete Lien & Sons, a Rapid City company known locally for its large gravel pit in the west part of Rapid City, the resulting poor air quality, and an iron ore mine at Nemo. Exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed, with some proposed drill pads very close to streams. And there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources.