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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed exploratory drilling project by Pete Lien & Sons within the protected boundaries of Pe'sla, a sacred site of immense cultural, spiritual, and ecological importance to the Lakota, Dakota, and other Indigenous nations.

Pe'sla has been a place of ceremonial gathering for thousands of years. It is not only culturally sacred, but also a critical part of the Black Hills ecosystem. The proposal to install 18 drill pads, with drilling depths up to 1,000 feet, poses a serious threat to the land, water, and communities who rely on this area. The process of vegetation removal, creation of toxic drilling mud pits, and the potential for water contamination in the Rapid Creek Watershed and underground aquifers is deeply concerning.

This land is not a commodity. It is a living, interconnected system with profound meaning and legacy. Drilling here would not only damage fragile ecological processes but also desecrate a site that holds deep spiritual significance for many.

I urge you to reject this proposal and uphold your responsibility to protect sacred Indigenous lands and the environmental integrity of the Black Hills. Furthermore, I request an extension of the public comment period to allow for broader community engagement.

Sincerely,

Erika Ristau