

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/17/2025 12:29:02 AM

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Comments: I oppose the Pete Lein and Sons Rochford Exploratory Drilling Project 67838 for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, the land that would be used is land in the Black Hills that is known as Pe'Sla and is Sacred to the Lakota, Dakota and Sioux people. It was historically used and continues to be used today for sacred indigenous ceremony. It is also unceded treaty land that cannot just be grabbed and destroyed.

The proposed project, eighteen exploratory drilling pads who utterly decimate the land and turn it into an ecologically dead, industrial site that could take generations to recover (if it ever recovered at all). The decimation would include the poisoning of both surface water and ground water and the poisoning could spread for great distances poisoning both wildlife and humans who drink it. All this destruction would occur at a time when climate change is rapidly worsening and when people all over the world are losing clean sources of drinking water due to both drought and contamination by toxic substances. At a time when nature all over the world is being destroyed at break-neck speed, it is imperative that the United States and other countries must stop approving still more projects that result in massive environmental destruction and loss of sources of clean water.

A full EIS must be done immediately before this dangerous project is allowed to proceed and there must also be full and informed consultation with every impacted indigenous tribe. I stand with the indigenous tribes in their effort to protect the sacred land they still have left including Pe'Sla