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Comments: I am writing to oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project. I live adjacent to Pe'Sla, around which, it seems, the drilling will primarily take place. Not only is Pe'Sla a sacred site for Indigenous people, but one that is cherished as a unique feature of the Black Hills. We have recently seen the disruption caused by the paving of a gravel road that runs through Pe'Sla, from Rochford to Deerfield Road. This road reconstruction affected not only those people who live along it, but the wildlife and landscape distinctive to the Black Hills.

The Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project has the potential to spoil the natural beauty of an extraordinary piece of the Black Hills, as well as the possible contamination of a watershed and underground water sources.

I hope we are not so shortsighted that we will ignore the environmental concerns and give up what is the irreplaceable scenic beauty of a remarkable spot, in order to mine for graphite to make batteries for electric vehicles.

I am requesting a minimum 60 day extension period for public comment and that the Forest Service do an Environmental Impact Statement to help communicate the direct effects of this project.