Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/19/2025 3:05:38 AM First name: Kathleen Last name: Markus Organization: Title: Comments: To whom it may concern,

The irrevocable devastation this project would have on the environment, the general population who live in the area with the risk to Rapid Creek and the groundwater, etc., should be enough to stop this project from moving forward.

No amount of "reclaiming" can ever restore the area to it's current state. The topography, the rare grasses and other fauna that encompass this area, as well as the precious water that ALL life needs, including humans, is not worth the risk. You would think that the years long drought would make it a top priority to protect streams and groundwater from any risk of contamination.

The risk is just too great, especially for an "exploratory" project. As always, the goal is for "money and wealth" for a few individuals (company owners), but the "majority" (citizens) will be left with unusable, raped land and resources long after the company moves on with total disregard to what the community has lost forever.

Adding in the cultural significance, not only to the Lakota, but to the citizens of the United States, who value the rich history of our nation, is even more of a tragedy and a moral capitulation of the land you have been entrusted to protect for ALL citizens. But, even more for the spiritual significance to the Lakota.

I hope that you will terminate this project, and keep this land and its resources, and bountiful history intact for future generations of Americans.

Thank you.