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First name: Jaime

Last name: Jimenez

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to oppose the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

The Pete Lien & Sons proposed project would involve exploratory drilling for minerals such as graphite within the protected boundaries of Pe'sla, a sacred site which has been used for ceremonial gatherings of Lakota, Dakota, and other nations for thousands of years.

The project would consist of 18 drill pads - each of which could see drilling up to 1,000 ft deep. Drill pad areas go through a process of vegetation removal, toxic drilling mud pits, and destruction or degradation of all other uses of the land. This project will threaten the Rapid Creek Watershed and the underground water sources in the area.

It has been shown that mining disproportionately impacts Indigenous communities in the United States. This project will have detrimental health impacts on the communities. Please review attached policy brief showcasing the impact of mining in New Mexico as a case study for future outcomes of this project.

<https://nabpi.unm.edu/assets/documents/research/health-impacts-uranium-mining-policy-brief-final.pdf>

Sincerely,

Jaime Jimenez