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Comments: I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed exploratory mining project by Pete Lien and Sons in the Black Hills. This project, which involves drilling up to 18 holes in search of graphite materials, poses a significant threat to the sacred land of the Lakota people and the environment. Additionally, the proposed exploration is near Deerfield lake and it's tributaries, to which the exploration would have negative effects to the wildlife and natural elements.

The Black Hills are not just a piece of land; they hold immense cultural and spiritual significance for the Native American communities, particularly the Lakota people. The proposed drilling near Pe' Sla, a high mountain prairie that is a sacred site, is a blatant disregard for the cultural heritage and spiritual beliefs of the Native American people. This sacred site should be preserved and respected, not exploited for commercial gain.

Furthermore, the environmental impact of such a project cannot be overlooked. The drilling will disrupt the natural habitat, potentially causing irreversible damage to the flora and fauna of the region. The Black Hills are a pristine environment that should be protected, not subjected to invasive and destructive mining activities.

It is deeply frustrating and concerning to see such a lack of respect for both the land and the people who hold it sacred coming from a local company. The proposal by Pete Lien and Sons reflects a disregard for the voices and rights of the Native American communities, as well as a lack of consideration for the environmental consequences.

You are urged to reconsider this proposal and to prioritize the preservation of the Black Hills and the respect for the Native American heritage. The land and its people deserve better than to be exploited for short-term gains.