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First name: Ronald

Last name: Conrad

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Ron Conrad, I am a lifetime Black Hills resident and owner of Stage Stop Properties LLC, one of the private properties bordering Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploration Project.

I honestly cannot believe that you are even thinking of allowing a company to even drill test holes 1,000' deep in an area that is part of the headwaters of Rapid Creek, Rapid City's municipal water source and a water source for many irrigators.

It's not if you are going to damage springs and creeks, it's how bad are you going to damage them. Before you even consider letting anyone drill 1,000' test sights there must be intensive study on the impact that is going to happen to the springs and water in the North Fork Castle Creek Basin and Rapid Creek watershed. That map that was provided by Pete Lien does not show even half of the Springs that are going to be affected by the test drilling let alone any future mining. That basin is not only part of the headwaters of Rapid Creek but home to elk, deer, turkey, mink, marmot, mountain lion and bobcat that will be affected by the drilling, again not to mention future mining. I am submitting further documentation on the extent of wildlife affected by the project area and hope you consider them, as well as the water sources not on the project map before moving forward with categorical exclusion or permitting this project to take place.