

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/13/2025 12:36:59 PM

First name: Craig

Last name: Maki

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project and keep the Black Hills Healthy!

Dear SD Forest service

My name is Craig Maki and I'm a concerned citizen from Marshall, Minnesota. I have traveled to the area in question multiple times. I'm writing to comment and express my opposition to the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Project that would be

located in the sacred Ȟe Sápa (Black Hills). I am specifically concerned about the desecration that this involves. The Black Hills are significant for being one of South Dakota's most biodiverse areas and are highly valued and respected by the Lakota people. The proposed site of this project is near Pe'Sla, which is a sacred site where the Lakota people do ceremonies annually.

This project, would further contaminate these sacred lands and strip the Lakota people of their rights to the land.

Therefore, I urge you to assure that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is followed precisely and a full environmental impact statement is conducted. Knowing that the NEPA process has been cut down to only 28 days, I also urge you to put a 60-day extension on the "scoping" public comment period, so that everyone has an opportunity to make a comment. We need to ensure that we have time to avoid impacts on the Rapid City drinking water, and preserving the unique archeological sites in the area. In addition the tribal sovereignty of the Oglala Sioux Tribe should be respected. We need to treat the land with the respect it deserves.

Thank you.