

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/13/2025 1:01:18 PM

First name: Carol

Last name: Goodwin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USDA National Forest Service Project Official:

As a US citizen gravely concerned about protecting the health and safety of all our residents as well as our natural environment and biodiversity, I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral exploratory graphite drilling project (Project #67838) for the following reasons:

1) The proposed project would create an 18-drill-pad, with drilling of up to 1000 feet per hole. This poses a significant threat to the water supply and public health and safety for Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base residents, by risking the contamination of both surface and underground water and threatening the biodiversity of the region.

2) The proposed drilling area directly impacts one of the Lakota people's most sacred sites in the Black Hills, Pe'Sla, that is used annually for important ceremonial purposes. This project, along with the others that have already been approved, would further contaminate these sacred lands and strip the Lakota people of their rights to the land. I strongly support honoring and respecting the significant cultural and sacred sites of this land's first inhabitants, and not perpetuating the moral crimes committed by US colonizers, including my ancestors.

3) The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has been reduced to only 28 days. I urge you to ensure that time is allotted for a full environmental impact statement to be conducted and to place a 60-day extension on the "scoping" public comment period, so that everyone has the opportunity to submit a comment.

Thank you.