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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Comment Opposing Mining at Pe' Sla

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any mining activities near Pe' Sla, including the Rochford Mineral (Graphite) Drilling Project and proposed uranium exploration near the rim of Craven Canyon.

Pe' Sla is one of the most sacred sites to the Lakota people and the Oceti Sakowin. It holds deep spiritual, historical, and cultural meaning for our Nation. This area is not just land, it is part of who we are. For thousands of years, our people have prayed, gathered, and honored the Creator at Pe' Sla. It is central to our ceremonies, our stories, and our responsibilities as Indigenous people to protect and preserve what was handed down to us.

There is no version of "safe mining" when it comes to a place like this. Graphite drilling and uranium exploration pose serious threats not only to Pe' Sla but to the water sources that serve Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and the surrounding ecosystems. Any disturbance to this sacred site jeopardizes the delicate balance of the land, the health of nearby communities, and the cultural continuity of our people.

We also know what comes with extractive projects: the introduction of man camps that put our communities at further risk. Wherever these camps are placed, we see an increase in violence, trafficking, and harm, especially toward Indigenous women and children. Our communities have lived through the consequences of unchecked resource extraction before, and we will not accept it again.

Pe' Sla sits in the heart of the Ȟe Sápa-the Black Hills-lands that were promised to our people by treaty and stolen in violation of federal law. The Black Hills were never for sale, and they are not available for exploitation. This land is still ours in every way that matters. Our ceremonies continue here. Our ancestors are buried here. Our identity is tied to this place, and we have a duty to protect it.

Mining at or near Pe' Sla would be an act of erasure, cultural, spiritual, and environmental. It would undermine every principle of Indigenous rights, ecological protection, and future sustainability. We call upon all agencies and decision-makers involved to listen to the voices of the Oceti Sakowin and allied tribal nations and to respect what has always been sacred.

We say NO to mining at Pe' Sla.

We say NO to uranium exploration near Craven Canyon.

We say YES to protecting sacred lands.

YES to clean water, and

YES to honoring the sovereignty and rights of Indigenous peoples.

Please stand with us and deny these mining proposals. Let Pe' Sla remain untouched, protected, and honored for the generations yet to come.

Respectfully,

Ailine