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First name: Paula

Last name: Antoine

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings, my name is Paula Antoine

I am providing my comments in response to the USDA Forest Service invitation for public comment for the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project. I am the Coordinator of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Sicangu Oyate Land Office and a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, traditionally the Sicangu Band of the Lakota Nation (the Great Sioux Nation). Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is a direct successor to the Brule Band of the Great Sioux Nation, a signatory tribe to the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie and the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

The proposed Project is located within and adjacent to the lands within the Treaty boundaries of the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie and the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. The tribal nations of the Great Sioux Nation, Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires) have retained aboriginal and treaty rights to those lands, including protection of grave sites and sacred sites, (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. Section 3001 et. seq., Pub. L. 101-601), protection of cultural, religious and historical sites, (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. Section 470 et. seq., Pub. L. 89-665). The lands are located within the areas of our inherent hunting and fishing rights solidifying our sovereign rights and pre-existing presence on the land, and these rights are further defined by the treaties stated earlier.

The proposed Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project in the Black Hills, home of our nation's most sacred sites and culturally sensitive areas. The Black Hills in entirety is considered sacred, being the origin, the birthplace of our Nation's people. The proposed project is in an area near Pe Sla, one of our sacred sites whose lands were recovered through a joint effort by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, working in cooperation with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Since our existence, we conduct traditional gatherings and hold ceremonies at Pe Sla and throughout the Black Hills to this very day.

I oppose the proposed Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838 due to

- *that the proposed project exploratory drilling on its mining claims on National Forest Lands is based upon the illegal taking of the Black Hills lands in violation of the 1851 and 1868 Treaties of Fort Laramie

- *the proposed project for the threatens and/or is in violation treaty and aboriginal rights of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to cultural, historic and burial sites that may be located within the boundaries of member Nations of the Great Sioux Nation

- *the proposed project in violation of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Protection Act

- *No proper, regular or meaningful consultation with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe regarding the project

- *there is a threat of toxic mining waste pollution into the water and environment surrounding Pe Sla and the Black Hills from the mining activities associated with the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project which directly impacts local communities and the marginalized tribal communities and members downstream

- *No prior informed consent with tribes concerning the project

- *the impacts from the proposed project would directly affect the members of Oceti Sakowin, my tribe, my family and my inherent rights, to conduct and participate in ceremonies, and will interfere with access to our traditional ceremonial lands and sacred sites

I want the USDA Forest Service to do an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

Thank you for your consideration for my concerns and the reasons I oppose the proposed Pete Lien and Sons

Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.