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Comments: Pe' Sla, is one of the most sacred places - located high in the Black Hills - to the Lakota People. In 2012, it returned to Indigenous care, but now it is threatened again by mining interests. This project is immediately adjacent to - and some proposed drill pads might encroach on - Pe' Sla. The project would involve 18 drill pads. Exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed, with some proposed drill pads very close to streams. And there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources. Therefore, this project poses potential negative environmental impacts and the disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for Lakotas.

Because of these issues, I request the following:

- 1) a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment;
- 2) that the Forest Service require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.