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Comments: The Black Hills have been sacred to the Lakota people for generations. The United States has taken so much away from the indigenous peoples of this land, and the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project (#67838) threatens once more to infringe on their sacred land. It is both the potential negative environmental impact (which we should care about for ALL lands in our country) and also the disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for the Lakota people that are so impactful and distressing. We would be outraged if there were a proposal to drill in the middle of St. John's Cathedral, and we should be no less outraged for this disruption of sacred land.

I request that you extend the period of public comment to allow more people to weigh in on this important issue. I also request that you require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

Thank you for your kind attention to this very important and sensitive issue.