

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 12:56:37 AM

First name: Jennifer

Last name: Coyne

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Officials,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project (#67838) and to respectfully request a 60-day extension of the public "scoping" comment period. It is essential that all community members, especially those directly impacted, are given adequate time and opportunity to voice their perspectives on this important issue.

I care deeply about this project because the Black Hills hold profound environmental, cultural, and spiritual significance. These lands are not only ecologically fragile but also sacred to the Lakota people, whose ceremonial practices and way of life risk being disrupted by such industrial activity. Traveling out west in 2021, I experienced the tranquil beauty of these sacred places that truly belong to native peoples.

I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project due to the potential for serious environmental harm, including water contamination, habitat disruption, and long-term ecosystem damage. In addition, the project threatens to violate sacred lands and disrupt traditional Lakota ceremonies, which should be respected and preserved.

Given the potential consequences of this project, I urge the Forest Service to require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A comprehensive EIS would ensure thorough analysis, transparency, and consideration of the cultural and environmental stakes involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for allowing public input. I hope you will take the necessary steps to protect the Black Hills for present and future generations.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Coyne