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Comments: I am writing regarding Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838

I ask that you extend the scoping period by 69 days to allow comments from concerned parties.

This exploratory project and any subsequent drilling are an encroachment on an environmentally sensitive and a very culturally important area to the Lakota people. Their careful use and stewardship over generations should far outweigh the profit motivation of graphite extraction. The drill pads have been deemed by the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance as too close to the sacred Pe'Sla area as well as potentially compromising water quality in the upper Rapid creek watershed.

It is time to respect this ecosystem for its cleanness, its beauty and its value to the Lakota. Over time, these things are much more important than the common and ultimately destructive view that the world around us is merely for resource extraction. It is not. It is home. And once it is damaged it cannot be made whole again.