

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 2:27:35 AM

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Comments: I am writing to object to mining in the Black Hills, in regard specifically to the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838. The Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA) has pointed out, this project is immediately adjacent to - and some proposed drill pads might encroach on - Pe' Sla. Maps are vague, but, in their words, "by any definition, the project is too close!"

BHCWA's research says that "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."

Considering the gravity of the environmental and cultural impact, it would be wise to extend the "scoping" public comment period for 60-days, so everyone has an opportunity to learn about the proposal and comment.

I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project, because of the grave danger to the water tables and system relied upon by so many tribes, and the certain negative environmental impacts. Ask yourself, has any mining operation ever left anything but environmental disaster in its wake? Additionally, there will be negative impacts in the form of destroying or harming sacred sites and at best complete disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for the Lakota.

Extending the "scoping" public comment period and insisting on the required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project will at least ensure a measure of transparency and justice for the peoples directly in its path.

Thank you.