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Organization:

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Comments: While I am from Maryland I have visited the Black Hills and enjoyed the splendor of the area. I have also been a supporter of St. Joseph's Indian School for many years. I am writing to express my deep concern about the potential negative effects if the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Mining Project #67838 is approved. It is my understanding the drilling will occur near the Rapid Creek watershed and in the area of the Black Hills. The environmental impacts of doing this could be disastrous and could impact the quality and safety of the watershed and, by extension, the people who live in and value that area.

The project apparently will impact land areas used by the Lakota for traditional, revered ceremonial practices. The Lakota treasure the land and, I'm sure, want to protect it as part of their heritage. The land and watershed area is also a national treasure which must be preserved.

I urge you to extend by another sixty days the timeframe to receive 'scoping' comments from the public as well as require an Environmental Impact Statement.