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First name: Sarah

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: May 13, 2025

RE: Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838

I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project. This Project will have negative environmental impacts, and it will disrupt traditional ceremonial practices for the Lakota People.

To quote the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, "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."

The Black Hills and Pe' Sla are pristine ecosystems and beautiful places. Therefore, I urge the Forest Service to protect this land and to respect this sacred ground of the Lakota People.

Finally, I urge the Forest Service to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this Project. In addition, I request a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period to allow everyone to have the opportunity to comment on the Project.

Sincerely,

Sarah Koolsbergen