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Comments: As our dear friends at the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA) have 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 tells us 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."

The name of the project (Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838) and We request for a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment.

Two Critical reasons why I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project are the high potential for negative environmental impacts and the disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for Lakotas. The contamination of the underground water sources would be a disaster. Clean drinking water is High Priority at all times.

The Forest Service should require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project, not only will this impact the peoples physical well being but This is an urgent request to protect sacred territory frequently used by many Lakota People for ceremonial practice. It is a pristine ecosystem and beautiful place. Please help us protect Pe' Sla.