

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 4:47:51 AM

First name: Diane

Last name: Adkin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This comment is on the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

Please protect the sacred site of the Lakota Nation in the beautiful Black Hills. It returned to their care in 2012, but this pristine ecosystem is now threatened again by mining.

This sacred ground must not be desecrated by allowing mining for graphite. The Lakota Nation must be able to continue their ceremonial practices on their own land.

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. There is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources.

Please extend the public comment period for another 60 days so everyone can comment, and require an Environmental Impact Statement on this project. Thank you.