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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

I am concerned about the proximity of this project in the Black Hills to Lakota land, both from an environmental standpoint as well as a cultural one. The Lakota have conducted traditional ceremonial practices in the vicinity for a long time, and an industrial facility in the area would likely disrupt those practices. Moreover, drilling in the area could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed.

Given these potential impacts, the Forest Service must consult with the local tribes to receive and consider their input on this project. In addition, the Forest Service should require an Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

Also please consider a 60-day extension of the scoping public comment period, to ensure that all who wish to can comment.

Thank you.