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First name: The Reverend Thomas

Last name: Carr

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write as a matter of urgency with deep concern over the proposed project - the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838. I care deeply about what this project would do to the Black Hills because of the potential negative environmental impacts for land, water and human health and the terrible disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for Lakotas. The project will involve 18 drill pads and exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed along with the possibility for contamination of underground water sources. This project is immediately adjacent to Pe' Sla, a sacred site for traditional ceremonial practices of the Lakotas, as some of the proposed drill pads may encroach on this area.

I request a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period to give ALL a chance to comment on this proposal.

As a person of faith and spirituality, this is a moral, ethical and spiritual issue along with the environmental and human impacts. This is a sacred site for Lakotas. Please, open the eyes of your heart and see the deeper and more profound concerns other than making money.

The Reverend Thomas Carr, American Baptist Churches, USA.

Spiritual Director, Creation Justice Advocate