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First name: EM Last name: Wilkinson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to implore you to not allow the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838 to proceed given the highly destructive impacts it would have on the land, streams, the fragile ecosystem, and the integrity of Pe' Sla, a place held sacred and stewarded by the Lakota people for thousands of years. A quest for graphite must not dictate the use of this area and be given a higher priority than the urgent need to protect the streams and habitat from the inevitable contamination and degradation that 18 drilling pads will bring to the area. I have family that live along the Lakota and I support their voices of protest of this project, and their request for an extended comment period so that others have time to add their voices as well. It is clear that the federal government under the new administration does not care about indigenous communities, the environment, or even the good people who work for the U.S. Forest Service who have lost their jobs en masse. Do the right thing, don't allow mining to encroach on Pe' Sla and devastate the waters above or underground from this ill-considered project.