

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 3:21:31 PM

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Comments: I am writing regarding the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838. Please make a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period. Everyone concerned should have ample time to input important information into this decision making process.

Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project has proposed drill pads which are too close to Pe' Sla and could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed. Some proposed drill pads are very close to streams, and there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources.

The potential environmental impacts on Pe' Sla would be impossible to reverse and desecrate sacred lands of the Lakota People. Please require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

The Black Hills should be protected from any further desecration. These lands are the living cathedrals of the Lakota, and should be respected beyond the standards of protection proffered to man-made temples and places of worship. They cannot be replicated or rebuilt.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Hessel