

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 3:50:20 PM

First name: Radiance

Last name: Sanneman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, my name is Radiance Sanneman. I live in Maryland currently but spent some time in the past living in South Dakota. The Black Hills were important to me as a beautiful natural area to explore via driving through and hiking on foot, when I lived in South Dakota as well as when I have visited and brought others to explore the natural beauty. I have also found great beauty and significance in Lakota traditions and spirituality. Further, I have found great importance as a mother in preserving the quality of our water for ourselves and future generations. I find myself greatly concerned by Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838 because I believe that despite best intentions or stated scope it is nevertheless likely there will be an impact to the local water quality, and in addition, to the quality of the grounds that are sacred to the Lakota, and even possibly to the natural beauty that is such a special and proud area of our country and that I have bragged about and been so happy to share with others. There is nowhere quite like the Black Hills. And, the entire place is sacred to the Lakota and already having been unjustly taken from them despite treaty history. To designate further areas for environmental contamination, especially so close to the Pe' Sla sacred grounds, is a further injustice in addition to the existing ones, and will likely disrupt their traditional ceremonial practices. Further, it is not an ethical conveyance of what the UN recognizes as the need for informed involvement of native peoples in changes to the land.

What I am asking for is this project to not move forward for the above reasons, but barring that, I request a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment, and I request that you the Forest Service require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. Thank you so much for your consideration and for all your work to preserve and highlight and safeguard the beauty and health of our national forests. Gratefully, Radiance Sanneman