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Comments: I'm writing to urge you to stop the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838 from going forward. Searching for graphite is not a valid reason to contaminate and destroy sacred and needed watershed lands.

The Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA) states this project is immediately adjacent to - and some proposed drill pads might encroach on - Pe' Sla and insist "by any definition, the project is too close!" Their research states "the project would involve 18 drill pads. Exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed, with some proposed drill pads very close to streams. And there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources."

Please grant a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment. This land is not only a significant place where Lakota people have held their traditional ceremonies for millennia, but it will contaminate water, the most important resource people need to survive. Please require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.