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The Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838

We must not let the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project tear up our sacred ground in its quest for graphite.

The Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA) has pointed out, this project is immediately adjacent to - and some proposed drill pads might encroach on - Pe' Sla. Maps are vague, but, in their words, "by any definition, the project is too close!"

BHCWA's research tells us that "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."

I request a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment

This project has potential negative environmental impacts and will disrupt traditional ceremonial practices for Lakotas, which is deeply disrespectful to the culture.

Please have Forest Service to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project as all projects should be required to have.

Thank you

Sandra K O'Connor