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First name: Larry

Last name: Sipe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support Indigenous ways, cultures, and sovereignty. My vision is one where all Peoples live and support each other while honoring the earth. That is why I care about this project and the Black Hills.

The name of the project I am commenting on is: Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project.

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

I respectfully OPPOSE the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project. This project is near by, even potentially at, the sacred Lakota homeland Pe' Sla. Lakota people return to this ceremonial site frequently as the place featured in traditional creation stories. Drilling and mining activity is unthinkable at such a sacred site. It is tantamount to drilling and mining at the Vatican, Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, or the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in the U.S.

All life forms are intrinsically interwoven into a web of interbeing. Therefore, understanding and compassion arise from this interconnectedness. To have understanding without compassion, is to feel no pain. Conversely, having compassion without understanding, is to be unaware. Together, engagement of understanding and compassion lead to insight of loving kindness for all life forms. Indigenous Peoples deeply revere nature. Their culture respects nature highly on a spiritual level. They have a spiritual connection to the land and water.

Present socio-economic conditions lend themselves to hate, greed, and cravings that cannot be satiated. These ever-hungry beings are cancerous, consuming the world's resources at a rapidly accelerating rate. Such rapaciousness includes potential for contamination of water, the bringer of all life. For example, the Pe' Sla's upper Rapid Creek watershed is threatened with some proposed drill pads very close to streams. Underground water sources are also threatened with potential contamination or cross-contamination. I respectfully OPPOSE the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project.

I want the Forest Service to do an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.