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Comments: I'm writing in strong opposition to the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project.

I'm extremely concerned about the potential negative environmental impacts. 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'm also very concerned about the disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for Lakotas. This land is sacred to them, and so it is rightfully under their care. They only got it back in 2012. The USA's failure to live up to promises made to Native American tribes is a national shame. I strongly believe that if the Lakota peoples oppose this project, it should be cancelled.

I think it is vital that the Forest Service require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. I also think it is essential to have a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment.

Thank you for considering my comments.