Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/15/2025 9:30:59 AM

First name: Clarice Last name: Bales Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am submitting a comment in regards to Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838 in the Black Hills.

I hope the Forest Service does a robust environmental impact statement to assess what could be lost if the mine goes through. Mining has irreversible effects on the environment and in this particular area, would also harm a sacred area for the Lakota people. Mines have historically disrespected the environment they alter, providing zero cleanup efforts should a toxic spill or disaster occur, and do not take into consideration tribes who hold areas sacred. Mining laws are already extremely lax in the U.S. and have not been updated since they were created in the 1800s.

Please do your due diligence with an EIS and say no to this mine.

Thank you, Clarice Bales