Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/15/2025 6:46:08 PM First name: Deborah Last name: Hawley Organization: Title:

Comments: I am writing to you about the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

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

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 believe that the potential to contaminate this sacred area and the water sources is too dangerous of a project to jeopardize these natural resources. It would be wrong, in my opinion, to do such damage that could never be undone.

Two other good reasons are the potential negative environmental impacts and the disruption of traditional ceremonial practices for Lakota people.

Please require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

Thank you for your time.