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First name: Walter

Last name: Pinkus

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Land in the Black Hills, totalling 6,000 square miles, was pledged to the Sioux Nation in the Treaty of Fort Laramie, but a few years later the United States illegally seized the land and nullified the treaty with the Indian Appropriations Bill of 1876, without the tribe's consent. The Sioux Nation has since won court cases acknowledging the illegitimacy of the treaty nullification. They succeeded in purchasing a 1900 acre tract of that land in 2012, that includes the sacred Pe' Sla site which is now involved in the present mining dispute. The Sioux say that maps presented to date do not show that the individual drilling sites are clearly and adequately separated from their sacred spaces.

I am concerned that the proposed "Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838" will (1) violate the spaces the Sioux hold sacred and interfere with traditional sacred rites, (2) will create negative environmental impacts to the sacred spaces, the general area water tables and lands downstream.

I respectfully request that the public comment period be extended for an additional 60 days and that the US Forest Service be required to research and develop an appropriate Environmental Impact Statement addressing all issues that may be voiced during this comment period.