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First name: Christopher

Last name: Lish

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mystic District Ranger Office

ATTN: Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project

8220 S. Mt Rushmore Rd.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Subject: Reject graphite mining project -- Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838

To Black Hills National Forest Supervisor Shawn Cochran:

I strongly oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838, which, in its quest for graphite, would tear up land that is sacred to the Lakota People. This project is immediately adjacent to-and some of the proposed 18 drill pads might encroach on-Pe' Sla. Pe' Sla is a sacred site or homeland to which the Lakota People return ceremonially multiple times throughout the year. Sixteen of the 18 drill pads are within two miles of Pe' Sla and this project would disrupt traditional ceremonial practices for the Lakota People.

Exploration could also contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed, given the proximity of some proposed drill pads to streams. And there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources.

The U.S. Forest Service should require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. At a minimum, please extend the scoping public comment period by 60 days to allow more concerned citizens the opportunity to comment on this project.

Please protect sacred territory frequently used by many Lakota People for ceremonial practice. It is a pristine ecosystem and beautiful place. Please protect Pe' Sla.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lish

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