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Comments: As a citizen of this country who believes in protecting the natural environment as well as honoring the sacred places of our Native Nations, I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project (#67838) that threatens the Lakota People's area known as Pe' Sla. As the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA) has pointed out, this project is immediately adjacent to this area and is a potential threat.

BHCWA's 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 understand and support the request for a 60-day extension of the comment period so people impacted by this plan have an ample opportunity to make their concerns heard. It is imperative that any potential negative impacts to the environment and disruption of traditional native use of this area be thoroughly investigated. The Forest Service should prepare an Environmental Impact Statement as well.