

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/16/2025 2:27:33 PM

First name: Margaret

Last name: Torness

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is a sacred area to the Lakota, various indigenous tribes, and to the people who live here in the Black Hills, and around the country/world. Pe'sla is incredibly culturally and ecologically significant and should be protected from all mining and mining exploration because of the disturbance and potential harm that this could bring to the land, water, and people of the region. For these reasons, please deny this project the ability to explore for mining purposes. Additionally, it is on the edge of what is currently technically considered tribal land, having been bought back by Lakota tribes years ago. The exploratory mining would directly impact this sacred site that was fought so hard to be bought back after the Treaty of Fort Laramie was broken and this land was originally stolen. Being that this is one of the most important sacred sites of the Oceti Sakowi, it would be a disgrace of this government, the USFS, and citizens of the US, to continue to this harm to land, people, and culture. Please deny this project to protect land, water, and culture.