

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/16/2025 3:19:06 PM

First name: John

Last name: Burckhard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to give my opposition to the proposed Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project.

My name is John Burckhard. I live directly adjacent to the proposed area. I am very concerned about the impact of drilling and mining in this area. This will affect the residence of this area by increasing commercial traffic, dust, lighting at night, noise, pollution. There is a large amount of wildlife that roams this area. Drilling and mining will chase the wildlife away. Drilling and mining will destroy the natural beauty of this special area.

The proposed area is directly in the shadow of Whitetail peak and Flag Mtn. Flag mountain is a historical sight.

Many local and out of state visitors go to the overlooks and view the beauty of our hills. This view will be destroyed by any type of drilling or mining.

The proposed area is also adjacent to an Elk and wildlife protected area. This area does not allow any motorized vehicle traffic in it. This is to ensure wildlife has a calm, quiet, unmolested area to thrive. I believe the noise, lighting and dust will greatly affect the animals.

The proposed area also is within the Rapid Creek watershed. These are the head waters of Rapid Creek. I know of many springs in and around the area. These springs all lead to Rapid Creek which ultimately feeds Pactola Reservoir and Rapid City.

I also believe there will be unintended exposure of heavy metals in this area once exposed to the atmosphere. Minerals like arsenic, lead and iron are in the area. The superfund sites in the black hills from previous mining alone warrants an impact study.

Also noted, we would have an annual rendezvous in this area. This consisted of setting up tents and camping. We would leave the area in pristine condition. We take the beauty of the area seriously. We would be very careful not to tear up roads. Our group was told this year that we cannot have it anymore because we were bringing in timothy grass, etc. I don't think I can overstate the hypocrisy of this.

I request a 60-day extension of the public comment period.

I also request an environmental impact study for the area.

Thank you