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First name: Kristen

Last name: Anderson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was born and raised in Rapid City, now living in Pennington County with well and septic for my water and sewage systems. This direct reliance on water from beneath my home, as well as knowledge of how I and my neighbors maintain its potability weighs directly on my day-to-day responsibility and awareness. My father, Don Thorson, a hydrologist, taught Pete Lien at Mines. The Liens should know better than to attempt to poison the very ground water that supplies their own homes in the area.

I oppose exploratory drilling under the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project for many reasons. The primary reason being the high potential of toxins seeping thru to the underground water systems. This is a threat, pure and simple, to Life in all its abundance in the area that cannot be taken back once it is released. Keystone already experienced this kind of seepage into their water aquifer from exploratory drilling for gold nearby and put a stop to the exploration. The spring that fed the water fountain at the switchbacks up to Sylvan Lake was contaminated by giardia seeping from surface waters from livestock free-ranging in the Hills. Waters that once were potable now lost; a rare treat on a hot summer drive thru the Hills.

Pe Sla is adjacent to the proposed drilling area. Poisonous dust, noise and pure desecration to the sacred Native lands which were hard-won back would be dangerous to lives, disruptive, and unforgiveable. Again, the Lien family's callous disregard for neighbors is despicable.

Add to that the proposed site is in the middle of a wide beautiful bowl in the National Forest. This land has been set aside primarily for providing homes for other species besides our predatory species. The drilling would be a violation of that very practical effort to spare our fragile planet we, too, call home. The Hills are ever more burdened with ATV's burgeoning in their destructive paths thru the area with noise, damage to all aspects of the ecosystem. That said, there still are tourists who come here who are capable of appreciating and enjoying the magnificent beauty and gift of the land. The slide down the slippery slope must be stopped; starting with requesting an EIR. Save our Planet; this Gem; our Home.