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Comments: My family stands in full opposition to the proposed graphite exploratory drilling project that would be located in the sacred ?e Sápa (Black Hills). I am specifically concerned about threats posed to Indigenous Rights and precious biodiversity.

The Black Hills are significant for many reasons. Among South Dakota's most biodiverse areas, they are essential to the Lakota people. The proposed site of this project is near Pe'Sla, a sacred site where Lakota people conduct important ceremonies. This project, along with the others that have already been approved, would only further contaminate these sacred lands and strip the Lakota people of their constitutionally-protected rights.

For these and other reasons, this project should be rejected outright. At minimum, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) should be followed precisely and a full environmental impact statement (EIS) should be conducted.

Knowing the NEPA process has been cut down to only 28 days, we also urge you to put a 60-day extension on the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to make a comment.

We must protect biodiversity and sacred places, before it is too late.