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First name: Janene

Last name: Yazzie

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am submitting this comment to formally object to " Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838" and to demand an extension of the public comment period to uphold the rights of impacted Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples, and the rights of other stakeholders impacted by this proposed project. The target area is located on lands sacred to the Lakota Peoples, and would irreversibly impact critical groundwater for Rapid City residents and surrounding homesteads. It would also irreversibly impact critical ecosystems.

The Black Hills, as a whole, belongs to the Lakota People, and it has been determined by the U.S. Supreme Court in United States vs. Sioux Nation (1980) that the lands were illegally taken in violation of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. The attempt to further exploit minerals within these sacred lands, especially in the area known as Pe'Sla, perpetuates these treaty violations. Clear opposition from Lakota Peoples, surrounding Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples make it clear that approval of this project violates their Free, Prior and Informed Consent and illegally circumvents required consultation processes, while also ignoring wide scale public opposition to this project.

The USFS must be held accountable for the violation of process and technical errors that have negatively impacted the ability of the public to be fully informed about this project and to register their position. For all these reasons I must reiterate that I oppose this project and support the demands for an extension of the public comment period so that the collective position of impacted rights holders and stakeholders are justly included in the public record.