

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/16/2025 10:38:43 PM

First name: Julian

Last name: Izac

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Pete Lien & Sons recently proposed a project that would involve exploratory drilling for graphite within the protected boundaries of Pe'sla, a sacred site which has been used for ceremonial gatherings of Lakota, Dakota, and other nations for thousands of years.

The project would consist of 18 drill pads - each of which could see drilling up to 1,000 ft deep. Drill pad areas go through a process of vegetation removal, toxic drilling mud pits, and destruction or degradation of all other uses of the land. This project will threaten the Rapid Creek Watershed and the underground water sources in the area.

This is a dangerous project that threatens the sanctity of the surrounding areas and communities, most notably Lakota and Dakota communities who have had an historic and ongoing relationship with this land. Pe'sla is not for sale--it is a part of the earth and must be protected.

I live in another part of the country, far from Pe'sla. My home sits on top of a proposed superfund site. The highways and towns where I live are littered with the husks of former factories and power plants. That land has been destroyed, and it is not promised to come back to what it was. We cannot continue to live and work in a way that violates our world as if tomorrow is guaranteed. I plead with the directors of this project to commune with their consciences, not their desires for money. MARK 10:24b-25--it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. The earth is God's creation, and those banking on its destruction are in violation of their contract to love and care for their fellow man, and for the future we all deserve. On these grounds I am voicing my strong objection to exploratory drilling project #67838.