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Title:

Comments: I am writing to adamantly oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

This project presents much too high a risk of contaminating nearby upper Rapid Creek watershed. Furthermore, the project will violate a site that is sacred ground for the ceremonial practices of the Lakota people. I have travelled to the Black Hills and have been a guest of the Lakota people.

Therefore, I request respectfully:

- 1) A 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so that all interested parties have an opportunity to comment
- 2) There should be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before this project can be approved.

This is an urgent request to protect sacred territory that is used by many Lakota People for ceremonial practice. The area is a pristine ecosystem which could be damaged or destroyed by this project.