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Comments: Since becoming aware of the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project, I have become increasingly concerned and alarmed at the blatant disregard for protected Indigenous sites and the drinking water of U.S. citizens.

Learning the graphite deposits Pete Lien and Sons intend to drill for are likely too small to even be profitable leads me to question the motives behind this project. Pete Lien is gambling with the drinking water of numerous communities across South Dakota as well as leading the charge for the potential destruction of protected Indigenous sites.

Pe'sla is a protected sacred site with Federal Indian Trust status yet is still at risk of mining. If the federal protection of one Indigenous site like Pe'sla can be violated for such an unprofitable project, every other protected ceremonial and historical site in this country is in jeopardy.

I strongly object to this project, and I demand an extension to the comment period. Due to technical errors by USFS, the public has been robbed of our chance to fully participate in this process. We as citizens deserve to have our voices heard when it comes to the safety of our drinking water and protected sacred sites that are treasured by both Native and non-Native communities alike.