

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2025 2:12:50 AM

First name: Carla

Last name: Marshall

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service;

I Object to the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838

I say no more mining in the Black Hills.

The Black Hills are treaty territory under the 1851/1865 Ft. Laramie Treaties, therefore tribal consultation must be done. Has that happened?

Our HeSapa (Black Hills) are very sacred to us Lakota people as they tell of our creation and hold stories of traditional teachings and historical events. The HeSapa also holds spaces for our spiritual ceremonies, and it provides us with our natural medicines and wildlife; which still hold true today. Since time immemorial, these lands have been our Churches, our Temples, and together, as a whole, are known as Wamaka Ognake Icante - "The Heart of Everything That Is." The HeSapa holds eons of memory in our DNA and Water is our main entity - Mni Wiconi; Water is Life. Water is Alive. Water is Sacred. Says so in the Bible also.

Pete Lien & Sons says on its website that it has a commitment to integrity, the health & safety of its employees, environmental stewardship, however from the scars they have left out at Nemo and west of Rapid, it is very concerning for yet another area of land, especially at one of our most Sacred Ceremonial Sites, PeSla.

The Black Hills provides water to the majority of Western South Dakota for drinking, for the wildlife, ranchers/farmers, and also for our Sacred Ceremonies held in many located throughout the Black Hills, including PeSla. There are many sacred sites throughout the Black Hills that have significant connections to the creeks and tributaries such as Castle Creek/Upper Rapid Creek Watershed.

This 24/7 project is in very close proximity to PeSla and will effect ceremonies with light and noise pollution. PeSla has unique and special ecosystems that are interconnected. Indigenous ecological knowledge recognizes that our natural world has life; the Water, the Earth, the four-legged, winged, aquatics and insect, and the plant nations.

Also, please take into consideration the effects that this project will have on the area; over use of the roads, plant disturbance, wildlife disturbances, and water contamination run-off.

thank you