

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2025 5:04:21 AM

First name: Joletta

Last name: Bird Bear

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the proposed Rochford Exploratory Drilling Project within or adjacent to the sacred Black Hills. The Black Hills have always held designation as place of spiritual gathering for many tribal nations predatong the formation of the state of SD and the U S. The decision making process must include participation of tribal nations and tribal members who are culturally and spiritually connected to the Black Hills which are the target of proposed exploratory drilling.

I request a public Scoping Hearing be held to record all the concerns, questions, and all recommendations from tribal nations and tribal members and the concerns of the general public.

I request that a science based Environmental Impact Study be conducted to analyze all the anticipated environmental impacts brought by this proposed project to the Black Hills and that science analysis be integral in the final decision because this projects brings many Environmental impacts which deserve study.

Due to extreme changes in climate weather patterns, the avsilability of water is critical to everyone's life whether it is for growing crops, raising stock, providing clean water in a delivery system to communities and families; however, this project will place additional demand upon the use of clean water and remove vast amounts of clean water from the water cycle. This project will produce toxic waste water in its process. How many gallons of water will be required on a daily basis in mining operation and how many gallons of waste water will be produced per day over projects lifetime. Where will waste water be stored? How will the exploratory drilling affect aquifers and private water wells.

If the proposed site were the basilica would you even contemplate destruction? The Black Hills hold the sanctiony of place of prayer for Native Americans. Respect our place of prayer.

Thank you.