

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/24/2025 2:19:07 PM

First name: Scott

Last name: Comer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed exploratory drilling project in the Ponderosa project, due to serious concerns regarding the potential contamination of groundwater resources and private wells in the area.

Groundwater is a vital resource for our community, serving as the primary source of drinking water for many households, farms, and businesses. The introduction of drilling operations-especially those involving the use of drilling fluids, chemicals, or high-pressure techniques-poses a significant risk of introducing contaminants into the aquifer system. Once groundwater is polluted, remediation is often costly, time-consuming, and in some cases, impossible.

Specifically, I am concerned about the following:

Risk of Aquifer Contamination: Drilling can create pathways for pollutants to enter previously protected groundwater zones, especially if proper casing and sealing procedures are not rigorously followed.

Impact on Private Wells: Many residents in the area rely on shallow wells. Even minor contamination could render these water sources unsafe, affecting health, property values, and quality of life.

Lack of Transparency and Monitoring: There is insufficient publicly available information about the chemicals and methods to be used, as well as the long-term monitoring plans to ensure water safety.

Precedents of Environmental Harm: Numerous documented cases across the country have shown that exploratory drilling can lead to unintended environmental consequences, including water contamination and ecosystem disruption.

Given these concerns, I urge the relevant authorities to:

Deny the permit for exploratory drilling until a comprehensive environmental impact assessment is conducted.

Require baseline water quality testing and ongoing monitoring of all wells within a defined radius of the drilling site.

Ensure full public disclosure of all chemicals and procedures involved in the drilling process.

Protecting our water resources must be a top priority. I respectfully request that this objection be entered into the public record and given full consideration during the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Comer