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Comments: I oppose this project! There needs to be a full impact study done and the results published before anything is done. There needs to be a full truthful disclosure to the public on what this will mean for the hills and canyon. The hills need to be protected! I spend a lot of time in the hills/canyon enjoying its beauty as do many of my friends. We live here because of the hills and canyon and what they mean to us. We have seen what the impact will be just by looking at Lead and the open cut along with the poisonous water running in the creeks and in the surrounding soil. There were teams that worked for years to clean up the poison left behind. If test drilling is allowing 3000 feet down or sideways at 400 spots so close the map doesn't even show all of the spots that alone will cause massive damage to the canyon. The large equipment used for this test drilling will create it's own massive damage, just take a look at the 385 project and what they have done to the surrounding area with equipment. If the beauty isn't enough, what about clean drinking water? Clean lakes and creeks?

I also think that having a 30 day commenting period is too short. The commenting period should be no less than 60 days.

We need to start protecting our lands, there are so many things that are more important than money. If gold is only 1% of the states income, why as a state even thinking about this? Tourism is a significant part of our states economy. Spearfish and the canyon are a huge part of that. How many tourists want to come to a gutted canyon? Tourists come here to experience the beauty of our hills. What would the cost of losing that be in our area?

This is about beauty, but it's also about preserving sacred land, wildlife, clean water and eco systems that will be destroyed. Once these things are destroyed they are not coming back. It is our duty as stewards of the canyon to save as much as we can for us and the generations to come.