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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my concern about the proposed Ponderosa gold drilling project. I voice my interests as a native South Dakotan, physician, parent to young children, and homeowner southwest of Cheyenne Crossing (Icebox Canyon). My primary concern is water quality, now and longterm. This project is located in an environmentally important area that channels water into Spearfish Canyon, Spearfish Creek and local aquifers that supply personal home wells for drinking water, such as ours.

In addition, with drilling proposed for 24 hours a day, up to seven days a week, vertically or at an angle to a depth of more than 3,000 feet, it will also impact and scar the topography and experience of the canyon. The project's increased lightning and noise pollution will disrupt wildlife, as well as local and tourist experience, of the current serenity and beauty of Spearfish Canyon. The project threatens social and physical health, but also the economic health of the area where outdoor recreation and tourism is vital to area economy. The recent collapse on July 5, 2025 of the Spearfish Canyon wall on Highway 14 A south of Victoria highlights the fragile vulnerability of the area.

Thank you,

Melody