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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Nevada resident whose mother grew up in a town called Minersville in Pennsylvania and I am writing to oppose the proposed Ponderosa Gold Drilling Project.

The project threatens the sacred Hesápa ceremonial grounds on Tribally held land. No further information or comment beyond that statement should be needed to decide against the proposed project.

The project is just a single mile from the sacred ceremonial grounds on Tribally held land. With the proposed 43 drill pads, over 400 drill holes, each over 3,000 feet deep, the project presents significant risk of toxic mud pits, permanent watershed pollution, and 24/7 noise and dust.

The short-sighted counter argument often put forward against these immemorial points is economic development. As a Nevadan with roots in Minersville, Pennsylvania however we know that this "development" in its extraction decimates the location in short order and at best ends up as a commonly termed ghost town.

In the process, laborers purported to benefit from the "development" suffer disproportionate impacts to their health and ultimately job insecurity. All the while, rates of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in the area rise.

<https://www.mining-technology.com/features/occupational-health-how-mining-impacts-workers-well-being/?cf-view>

<https://www.colorado.edu/program/tallgrass/2020/01/29/violence-extractive-industry-man-camps-endangers-indigenous-women-and-children>

All of these significant risks, plus the destruction of outdoor recreation and tourism, all for an industry that makes up just 1% of South Dakota's economy just doesn't make good sense.

Please consider these comments in opposition to the proposal - thank you.