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Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

The October Jinx seeks to extract uranium on Federal land, which rests on the edge of Craven Canyon. a sacred site to the Oceti Sakowin that contains 8,000-year-old ceremonial petroglyphs carved into the rock wall. The Oceti Sakowin and all Indigenous peoples should be able to exercise their right to freedom of religion, including the protection of all sacred sites. If this project goes through, the Oceti Sakowin, as well as all residents of the U.S., could lose an irreplaceable treasure forever.

Moreover, local water, ecosystems, and community health are at risk from this mining activity, which will inevitably have a knock-on effect on national waterways and ecosystems.

Please consider that:

Mining projects threaten to poison the water we all drink, while leaving us with a devastated landscape and economy; for example, toxic drilling mud pits are full of barium.

This project proposes 17 drill holes, with each hole plunging up to 500-700 feet deep into the aquifer, while installing each of the 17 drill pads would require clear-cutting trees and vegetation. And each hole is a potential conduit of pollution to the watershed-forever.

Work on the project will entail 24-hour lights, noise, and dust, five to seven days a week, disrupting the community's ability to live normally. In New York, this happens on a small basis every year between March and December-"construction season"-and even though work hours are strictly limited, it's still incredibly disruptive. I can't imagine the torture 24-hour-a-day mining work would be to a rural community.

The mine would cause irrevocable losses of recreational, historical, and ceremonial lands, violating Tribal treaty rights and right of religious freedom. To that end, the people of the ʔe Sápa have made their opposition to mining projects in their backyard clear.

Please take these important points into consideration when deliberating on the October Jinx project. It is a danger to the environment, infringes on Tribal land and rights, and should not be approved.

Sincerely,

Meave Gallagher