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Comments: While probably futile, I wanted to show my opposition to this project. There is no room for open pit mining on seemingly pristine federal public land. This is a sacred place for many people and has already gone through mass change within the last 100 years alone. I love our public lands and everything they stand for. Hunting in the black hills is an amazing experience. It's an integral part of what makes America an awesome place. If we seek rare minerals why don't we obtain them through private land deals with private land owners? We already do this for many other types of resource extraction. Mining is very invasive, I think that's well known. Other forms of public land use for industry (typically) are nowhere near as invasive. While I'm sure this isn't the first mine on public land, it's the first that I have the ability to comment on.

Find another place to make your mine. We have seen what mining has done to other ecosystems. I'm very dubious to the fact that this would be any different. But I'll confess I am no engineer or specialists in mining. Nonetheless my gut instinct tells me this is a net bad thing.

If we allow this to continue, eventually there will be nothing left for the populace to enjoy. When this land was allocated for all Americans some decades ago I do not think having an open pit mine was apart of the discussion. Hence why you are having to "ask" for permission. The people allowing this will not be remembered for being the champions of public land but rather the people who slowly allowed it to be developed. Please remember that when you render your decision. History will remember you for your vanity as opposed to your virtue.

Very respectfully,

Seth W.