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Comments: The proposed Rare Element Resources (RER) rare earths mining project in the Bear Lodge Mountain Range presents severe and unacceptable risks to the ecological, cultural, and economic integrity of the Black Hills region. Reopening this project threatens the vital water resources that serve as the lifeblood for downstream ranching communities and local residents who depend on clean water for agriculture, recreation, and daily survival. Furthermore, the Bear Lodge Mountains hold deep spiritual and cultural significance as sacred land to indigenous peoples. Industrializing this landscape with open-pit mining operations directly violates the preservation of these irreplaceable heritage sites, sacrificing long-term community health and sacred geography for short-term corporate gain. The secondary impacts of the project introduce further environmental and public safety hazards that have not been adequately mitigated. Transporting raw, unrefined ore via heavy trucks across 40 miles of public roads to the Upton processing plant introduces constant traffic, road degradation, and heightened accident risks for local commuters. Most alarming, however, is the long-term management of the resulting mining waste, which contains hazardous radioactive materials including thorium and uranium. Introducing these toxic, radioactive byproducts into the local watershed poses a multi-generational threat of contamination that outweighs any economic justification, necessitating a full rejection or severe restriction of the proposed project.