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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed mine.

The great size of the mine, its longevity, and the potential for pollution during and after its operation all argue for the need to have a thorough Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal. Short of that, the forest service should reject this project outright, as not worth the risk. The costs outweigh the benefits. The Black Hills have a sad history of pollution from past mines, toxic substances that contaminate water and soil locally and also far downstream. This affects many people who depend on downstream flows to be clean and useful.

The effects of this mine locally could be tremendous--land disturbance, wildlife disturbance, disruption for local people who use the area and drive the roads, other social disruptions--all in all, this shows a need for an EIS. With that process, citizens will be able examine in detail what this mine will entail, and we will have better opportunities for influencing your ultimate decision.