

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/29/2026 5:59:29 AM

First name: Sheelah

Last name: Bearfoot

Organization: Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal Bend

Title: Environmental Health Advocate

Comments: The neocolonialism that Rare Element Resources is attempting by building an over 100+ acre open pit mine near Mato Tipila (Bear Lodge) is an unacceptable act of corporate greed. This mine will irreversibly damage the land and water during a time of drought and increased natural disasters. The particularly invasive and dangerous process of pit mining causes a high likelihood of acid rock drainage and radiation risks. The damage to the ecosystem and multiple species alone should disqualify this mine from going forward. However, the harms this mine causes go beyond physical health and transcend into spiritual and cultural devastation, yet another violation of Indigenous peoples rights to practice their religious beliefs. The lives of humans, plants, and animals that will be lost or shortened are irreplaceable. Rare Element Resources has a terrible track record of mine safety, making these potential harms practically inevitable. There are no possible justifications for this mine that are based on science, this is purely profit-driven.