

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/27/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: George A

Last name: Mintle

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am a current resident of west of Custer on *redacted* Rd near where the proposed exploratory drilling is planned to happen.

I have a private well and am concerned with the water table being contaminated or depleted. There is also the concern of caverns and caves being disturbed by this drilling. This will damage the environment for livestock, wild animals and people who live in the area. This could very well damage the value of land and property of landowners in this area.

This is also a tourist attraction for many people. That is what drives the economy in this area. If the land is disturbed and mines are put in the attraction for the area will be gone. People are not stupid. When we are told this is just an exploratory project, there will be more projects coming if this is let through.

A categorical exclusion is Not appropriate for this project and an Environmental assessment should be done.

I am vehemently against this project and do not agree with the federal government allowing this without debate and further assessments being done prior to a decision being made. We all know that when land is disturbed it is never put back the way it was.

Sincerely,

George A Mintle

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