

## Hudson, Roberta

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**From:** DANR No Reply  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 8:18 PM  
**To:** DANR Mail; Duvall, Ron  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Notice Comments

RECEIVED  
APR 14 2023  
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**Public Notice Category:**

mm\_app

**Public Notice:**

Wharf Resources (USA) Inc  
Notice of Filing of Large Scale Mine Permit Application

**Comment Deadline:**

04/13/2023

**Date Comment Filed:**

04/13/2023 20:17:41

**Commenter Info:**

Donna Watson  
323 Mountain View Drive  
Lead SD, 57754  
**Email:** dnnwatson52@gmail.com **Phone:** 605-578-9770

**Comments :**

Enough damage has been done to the Black Hills in the past hundred years, but particularly in the last 25: destroyed landscape, loss of wildlife habitat, poisoning of waterways through spills and accidents. Please! Leave some portion of the northwestern Black Hills extant. Please! I strongly object to the proposed expansion. Donna Watson Lead, SD

## Hudson, Roberta

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**From:** DANR No Reply  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 8:50 PM  
**To:** DANR Mail; Duvall, Ron  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Notice Comments

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**Public Notice Category:**

mm\_app

**Public Notice:**

Wharf Resources (USA) Inc  
Notice of Filing of Large Scale Mine Permit Application

**Comment Deadline:**

04/13/2023

**Date Comment Filed:**

04/13/2023 20:50:29

**Commenter Info:**

Mary Zimmerman  
22435 Jim Creek Lane  
Deadwood SD, 57732  
**Email:** mwipf@ymail.com **Phone:** 605-342-2552

**Comments :**

Accidents/spills that poison our surface and ground waters have happened, and we can assume, will continue to happen. There is potential for contamination of major aquifers of the region. In the interest of human health and economic viability of the Black Hills region, I request that the state of South Dakota does not permit the expansion of this mine.

## Hudson, Roberta

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**From:** DANR No Reply  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:35 PM  
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**Public Notice Category:**

mm\_app

**Public Notice:**

Wharf Resources (USA) Inc  
Notice of Filing of Large Scale Mine Permit Application

**Comment Deadline:**

04/13/2023

**Date Comment Filed:**

04/13/2023 23:34:43

**Commenter Info:**

Nancy Hilding  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk SD, 57718  
**Email:** [nhilshat@rapidnet.com](mailto:nhilshat@rapidnet.com) **Phone:** 605-787-6466

**Comments :**

Nancy Hilding President Prairie Hills Audubon Society I attach comments as a PDF file

*Attachment missing- Roberta Hudson 4/17/23*

## Hudson, Roberta

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**Comment Deadline:**

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**Date Comment Filed:**

04/13/2023 23:34:47

**Commenter Info:**

Nancy Hilding  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk SD, 57718  
**Email:** [nhilshat@rapidnet.com](mailto:nhilshat@rapidnet.com) **Phone:** 605-787-6466

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**Attachments:** Wharf\_Mine\_Expand.PHAS\_comment4.13.23.pdf

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**Comment Deadline:**

04/13/2023

**Date Comment Filed:**

04/13/2023 23:35:01

**Commenter Info:**

Nancy Hilding  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk SD, 57718  
**Email:** [nhilshat@rapidnet.com](mailto:nhilshat@rapidnet.com) **Phone:** 605-787-6466

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Nancy Hilding President Prairie Hills Audubon Society I attach comments as a PDF file

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
[nhilshat@rapidnet.com](mailto:nhilshat@rapidnet.com),  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

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MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources,  
523 Capitol Ave,  
Pierre, SD 57501-3182

**RE: Wharf Boston Expansion Large-Scale Mine Permit Application**

Dear DANR staff,

Prairie Hills Audubon Society is opposed to expanding mines using heap leach mining with cyanide, until such time as SD's regulations of such are improved and the size of the bonds is increased.

Cyanide can break down into some harmless compounds. But that is just part of the story, as it can also break down into compounds that are toxic to fish and aquatic organisms. There is inadequate monitoring of the many cyanide related breakdown chemicals. We are concerned about cyanide derivatives found in mining related waters. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has water quality criterion for cyanide. But no criteria exist for cyanide-related compounds, including cyanate, thiocyanate, cyanogen chloride and the metal cyanide complexes.

We refer you to this paper "Cyanide Uncertainties - Observations on Chemistry, Toxicity, and Analysis of Cyanide in Mining-related Waters", Mineral Policy Center Issue Paper No. 1. , Robert Moran, Ph.D, 1998 - <https://earthworks.org/files/publications/cyanideuncertainties.pdf>

**Specific Comments:**

**Bats**

On page 46 of the Large-Scale Mine Permit Application the applicant states:

“Based on data from September and October 2021, 11 bat species were identified in the area based on data from the passive echolocation detectors. Of these species, 5 are listed by the SDNHP as species of concern: Townsend’s big-eared bat, silver-haired bat, long-eared myotis, fringe-tailed myotis, and northern long-eared bat. The northern long-eared bat is also a federally listed threatened species by the USFWS.” (*emphasis added*)

The applicant goes on to explain the communication in December 2021 with the USFWS on the Applicant’s bat research & future operations. Since then the northern long eared bat was listed as endangered on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 . When it was listed as threatened it had a 4D rule attached. 4D rules allow for loopholes in protections for threatened species.

We believe a new conversation with the USFWS is needed due to bat’s new endangered status. Applicant did not get this permit approved while the bat was still listed as threatened with a weak 4D rule attached.

We are concerned that sound, vibration or dust from mining activities could disturb bats nearby but off-site. It does not sound like the off-site but near-by area was inspected for bats. The mine should consider limiting time-of-year of activities if there is disturbance risk to nearby or on-site bats.

### **Require better reporting of spills.**

Carla Rae Marshall of Rapid City did a study and found that from 1983 to today (40 years) Wharf has had 181 spills. She says sometimes the unit of measurement are left off of the spill reports to DANR. If this application is approved it should require all spill reports to require disclosure of the units of measurement for the spill data.

### **Require better monitoring of downstream waters.**

Lilias Jarding sent you a letter documenting pollution in down stream waters. We will attach it and incorporate it by reference. If you approve this application, please increase your monitoring and regulation of downstream waters.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "N" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nancy Hilding

President

Prairie Hills Audubon Society

Signing for the Society and myself as an individual.

1 Attachment – Liliias Jarding letter to MS McFarling of DANR dated March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023



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ATTACHMENT COVER SHEET

Lilias Jarding's letter to MS McFarling of DANR dated March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023



March 31, 2023

Tina McFarling, P.E.  
Surface Water Discharge Permits Team Leader, Water Quality Program  
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
523 East Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
<http://danr.sd.gov/public>

Dear Ms. McFarling:

Our organization has been doing water testing in several areas in the Black Hills, including near the Wharf mine and downstream from the historic Homestake Mine. This testing indicates that surface waters are not being adequately protected. Surface water in these areas need to be more closely monitored by DANR, and regulations need to be tightly enforced.

We worked with Kathrin Schilling, PhD geochemist from Columbia University, and gathered samples in October 2021 and June 2022 using appropriate methodology. Compared to available standards and to Rapid Creek, where there has been no large-scale gold mining, we identified the following:

1. Elevated uranium in three samples from Fantail Creek
2. Elevated arsenic in three samples from Fantail Creek
3. Elevated arsenic in two samples from Whitewood Creek
4. Elevated arsenic in one sample from Annie Creek

These results should be considered in handling applications for Surface Water Discharge permits in these areas. We suggest that water be protected by closing down existing mining, such as at Wharf, where there have been 181 reported surface spills since 1983. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Liliias Jarding, PhD  
Executive Director

P.O. Box 591 – Rapid City, South Dakota 57709 – [www.bhcleanwateralliance.org](http://www.bhcleanwateralliance.org)

[edbhcwa@gmail.com](mailto:edbhcwa@gmail.com) – Facebook: Black Hills Clean Water Alliance

Twitter: @bhcleanwater -- Instagram: @bhcleanwateralliance

## Hudson, Roberta

---

**From:** DANR No Reply  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:52 PM  
**To:** DANR Mail; Duvall, Ron  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Notice Comments  
**Attachments:** No Wharf expansion-4-13-23.pdf

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**Public Notice Category:**

mm\_app

**Public Notice:**

Wharf Resources (USA) Inc  
Notice of Filing of Large Scale Mine Permit Application

**Comment Deadline:**

04/13/2023

**Date Comment Filed:**

04/13/2023 23:51:42

**Commenter Info:**

Carla  
P.O. Box 3184  
Rapid City SD, 57709  
**Email:** [tipistola@gmail.com](mailto:tipistola@gmail.com) **Phone:** 605-545-1430

**Comments :**

Attached is my comment on Wharf Resources' expansion in the Northern Black Hills. Thank you.

April 13, 2023,

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APR 14 2023  
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TinaMcFarling, P.E.  
Surface Water Discharge Permits Team Leader, Water Quality Program  
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
523 East Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
<http://danr.sd.gov/public>

Dear Ms. McFarling:

I am against the SD DANR/QA allowing Wharf Resources more land to destroy and more water to contaminate. Please deny their application for this expansion.

Since time immemorial, HESAPA (Black Hills) is known to us Lakota people as Wamaka Ognaka Icante - The Heart of Everything That Is. This "island" on the prairie provides us with our natural medicines, food, and healing waters, and is home to 1,000s of species of wildlife and plant nations. The HeSapa holds our creation story - our coming into being as human beings. They hold stories of our ancient traditional teachings and historical events. They hold eons of memory in our DNA and Water is our main entity - Mni Ki Wicozani; Water Gives Life. Water is Alive. Water is Sacred."

I, along with many others I know, love the Black Hills and want to preserve its natural beauty, its agricultural benefits, the recreation, and the tourism industry. South Dakota benefits greatly from the 14.4 million tourists who come to enjoy The Heart of Everything That Is. In 2022 tourism provided 56,000 jobs and a whopping \$7.6 BILLION. Places like Spearfish Canyon and those interconnected waterways such as Fantail, Annie, Cleopatra, Strawberry, and Grizzly Gulch all need to be protected from large-scale mining, such as Wharf Resources. These creeks have been so abused by toxic mining that they need to rest and heal, for the next 200 years. And remember - Dilution is not the Solution.

Also, the Black Hills is Treaty Territory under the 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaty and there must be meaningful Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation done. Have that been completed? Cultural sites must be taken into account in this impact area - under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - the free, prior, and informed consent of the area's indigenous peoples before any mining was approved.

We know that the Black Hills has unique and special ecosystems that are interconnected through caves, caverns, aquifers, watersheds and waterways. Any little contamination that gets into the natural water systems will travel to other areas and eventually end up in the Missouri River. Therefore, I ask that you deny this application submitted by Wharf Resources.

I want to thank the DANR for providing the interactive "Tanks, Spills, and Environmental Events Map" map. This has been very useful in gathering data to see a more accurate picture

of what happens at these large-scale mining operations, particularly with chemical/cyanide spills. It's actually very scary to see the entire State of South Dakota light up in yellow triangles. We must do better to protect our limited amount of clean water. We don't have until 2030 to wait and see what damage and contamination may occur again as an "accident."

I have gathered some toxic spill data on mining in the Northern Black Hills using the data from the DANR's interactive map. I am using Tableau to run my reports, graphs, and dashboards.

What I found is very alarming knowing that toxins and chemicals are "accidentally" being spilled with no real consequences to the company, "unless they don't do the clean-up." What will the citizens who use those water wells do if another

From what I have gathered, from 1983-2023 Wharf/Coeur Mining, including the Golden Reward Mine, filed 216 "Accident" reports. That is 5.4 too many per year. The total AMOUNT of these reports comes out to be 125,333, but that is not an accurate account as 9 or more of these reports filed with the State are void of AMOUNT and UNIT.

I have looked at some of the attached PDFs (when available on the State Spills map) and saw a few of the reporting forms where the boxes were left unchecked. Now, since some of this data is void of information it is hard to say how much was spilled and whether it was gallons, cubic yards, tons, or barrels.

There are nine reports with the data void. However, in the materials field, it lists Pond Water, Cyanide Solution, Solution 0.8 ppm CN, WAD Cyanide solution, Mine tailing, and so on.

In 2013 Wharf reported a Solution Release of 0.8ppm CN but the data fields for Unit and Amount are NULL. Why is that?

Some of the largest spills come from the Wharf area. But the largest spill recorded, that I found shocking was the 633,000.00 Gallons that was released in 2006 at the Homestake Tailing Pond at Grizzly Gulch.

The time is now to protect water. Especially with the Climate Crisis happening all around us, and even out on the plains, we are the drought taking hold. We must protect the water in the Black Hills, which also protects West River communities.

Cyanide Solution	Wharf Resources	Wharf Mine - Solution Release	Gallons	2009	2008	20,000.00
Cyanide Solution	Coeur Wharf	Cyanide Solution-Wharf	Gallons	2016	2016	15,000.00
Denitrified Water	Wharf Resources (USA...	Wharf - Denitrified Water Discharge	Gallons	2014	2014	10,000.00
NO3 water CN solution	Wharf Resources	Wharf Mine	<i>Null</i>	1992	1992	10,000.00
Cyanide Solution	Wharf Resources	Wharf Mine Pregnant Pond Solution	Gallons	2007	2000	8,000.00
Diesel	Wharf Resources	Wharf Mine - Tank Release	Gallons	1992	1991	6,500.00
Ditch Water	Wharf Resources	Wharf Mine - Impacted Water	Gallons	2013	2012	6,000.00
Neutral Soln & CN	Wharf Resources	Wharf Mine	Gallons	1993	1993	5,000.00

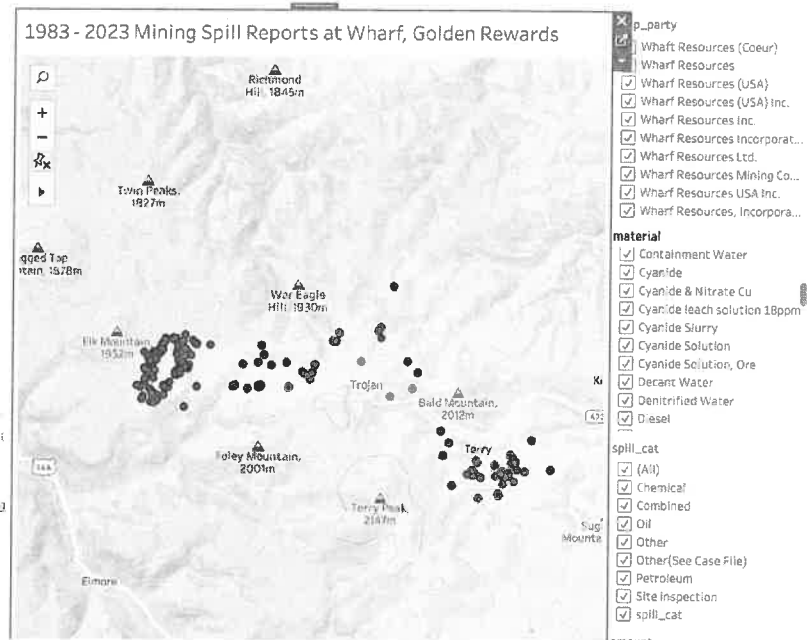
274 Reported Spill "Accidents" totaling 874,184 (gallons, tons, cubic yards - what?)

I would hope data from the NULL reports are updated and that future reporting is done in properly. We trust you to provide us with current and accurate information.

Here's a few more screenshots for your information. Tableau software is great.

Thank you for your time.

Carla Marshall  
tipistola@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 3184  
Rapid City, SD 57709



1983 - 2023 Mining Spill Reports in the Northern Black Hills.



**Hudson, Roberta**

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**From:** DANR No Reply  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:59 PM  
**To:** DANR Mail; Duvall, Ron  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Notice Comments  
**Attachments:** comment on Wharf Expansion by CRM.pdf

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mm\_app

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Wharf Resources (USA) Inc  
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**Comment Deadline:**

04/13/2023

**Date Comment Filed:**

04/13/2023 23:59:21

**Commenter Info:**

Carla  
P.O. Box 3184  
Rapid City SD, 57709  
**Email:** tipistola@gmail.com **Phone:** 605-545-1430

**Comments :**

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April 13, 2023,

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APR 14 2023

MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

TinaMcFarling, P.E.  
Surface Water Discharge Permits Team Leader, Water Quality Program  
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
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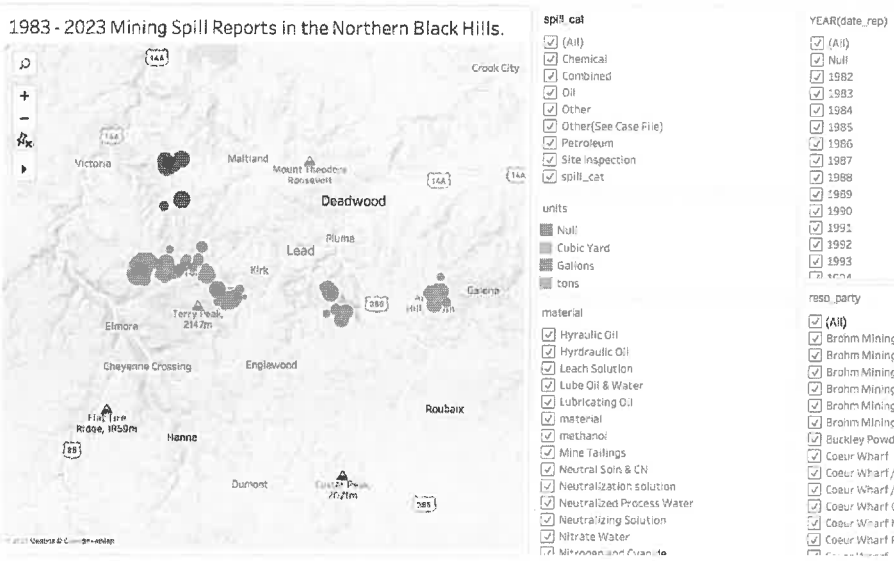
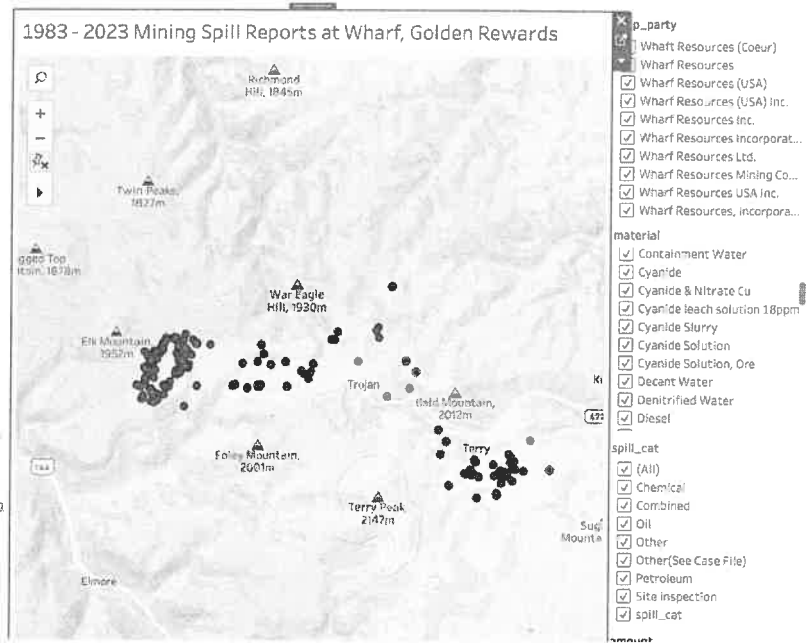
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Carla Marshall  
[tipistola@gmail.com](mailto:tipistola@gmail.com)  
 P.O. Box 3184  
 Rapid City, SD 57709



## Hudson, Roberta

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**From:** DANR No Reply  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:43 AM  
**To:** DANR Mail; Duvall, Ron  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Notice Comments

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mm\_app

**Public Notice:**

Wharf Resources (USA) Inc  
Notice of Filing of Large Scale Mine Permit Application

**Comment Deadline:**

04/13/2023

**Date Comment Filed:**

04/14/2023 04:42:35

**Commenter Info:**

Tatyaba Novikova  
11853 Acorn Ridge Rd  
Spearfish SD, 57783

**Email: Phone:**

**Comments :**

As a local residents of the Black Hills and citizen of the U.S. I strongly oppose to the expansion of the expansion of Wharf's gold mining operations in the Black Hills. This gold mining threatens both the existence of the unique Black Hills ecosystem and poses a threat to local small and large businesses for the following reasons. 1. Gold mining is carried out by the open pit method, which leads to the destruction of unique, iconic landscapes and ecosystems of the Black Hills. The method consists of processing huge amounts of rock with a low gold content using especially toxic chemicals. For the company, this is still of economic interest since it does not pay externalities for the destruction of unique landscapes and ecosystem services! 2. The ecosystems of the Black Hills have been formed for centuries; the mountain range is more than a million years old. They have both botanical, zoological, ecological, and tourist value. Mountain ranges provide a unique mechanism by which local residents, local farmers, who support food security in the state, and local tourism businesses have access to clean groundwater. Gold mining in an open pit leads to the destruction of landscapes, water pollution, and disruption of the natural mechanism of water circulation. Once the Black Hills ecosystem is destroyed by gold mining, it cannot be restored. 3. The Black Hills represent both state and nationwide value. In South Dakota and the United States, there is no other mountain range with such natural and climatic characteristics! That is why tourism and forestry businesses have traditionally been concentrated here. The expansion of gold mining will lead to the destruction of local tourism and small businesses, as well as the closure of timber processing enterprises that create jobs for residents and are their traditional businesses. Logging in the Black Hills can no longer be carried out in

the same volumes, and that is why the National Park has been forced to significantly reduce it. I demand an end to this destructive activity for the state and the Black Hills region, and the winding down of open pit gold mining as it is now being done!