



March 12, 2011

ND Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

To whom it may concern,

Maŕa glu ŕečaya. The earth is on loan to us from our children.

I am upset about the proposed mine that may be built near South Heart. When the PSC deemed the application complete for the South Heart Mine LLC, the Lakota saying above came to mind.

I live between the proposed mine and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and over the last few years have seen the landscape changing. Now this area is in the midst of an oil and gas boom more likely larger than the one of the 1980s. We already are experiencing an impact. There is a lack of affordable housing, owning or renting. Oil production is ramping up as we move into spring, and there is talk of 40 to 100 rigs right in this area. Some of them are likely to be around the proposed mining site. Traffic is due to increase, road infrastructure is due to worsen.

Emergency services in the surrounding areas are already seeing call volume increases of 80% to 90%. Our volunteer service here which covers the proposed mining site saw an increase of 60% in 2010. We are preparing for similar increases that the other services now have.

With this proposed mine site so close to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, mining trucks and other mining equipment will be apparent on the drive to the park. Then if a type of coal plant, whatever that may be, is added that will impact the park even more.

The permit application also calls for the use of a landfill where the company can dispose of hazardous materials and waste related to mining. It is uncertain what will be put in the landfill. Agricultural land will be taken out of production for generations.

The impact to water sources in the area especially shallow pasture aquifers that farmers and ranchers depend upon will be devastating. Aquifers near this proposed mine site will inevitably be depleted.

For these concerns and others, I am requesting a public hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Weiss".

Linda Weiss
PO Box 906
Belfield, ND 58622