



File Code: 2810; 1950
Date: January 6, 2020

Greetings from your Black Hills National Forest:

F3 Gold, LLC (F3) is proposing the Jenny Gulch Exploration Drilling project (project). The project involves exploratory drilling in up to 42 locations north of Silver City, Pennington County, South Dakota in Sections 19, 30, 31, T2N R5E and Sections 13, 14, 24, 25, T2N R4E (see attached map). Additional details regarding the proposed project are provided in F3's proposed Plan of Operations submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (FS) on November 30, 2018. The proposed Plan of Operation may be subject to changes based on the forthcoming environmental analysis. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this proposal and to solicit your comments on the project.

This project includes diamond core drilling at up to 42 drill sites, access road maintenance (as needed), drill pad clearing (as needed), and reclamation activities. Each drill site would have a maximum footprint of approximately 2,500 square feet (0.06 acres), where the drilling rig, rod tray, support vehicles, portable cutting tank, and water truck will be placed. Drill holes would range from 500 to 6,000 feet in depth dependent on the results of each hole. Depending on the results of preceding drill holes, some of the drill sites may not end up being required and would ultimately not be constructed. Two staging areas (0.25 acres each) would be used to store equipment and tools.

No mining, milling, or processing is proposed as part of this project. Any water used for the drilling would be sourced from an approved municipal or industrial source; no water would be sourced from Rapid Creek or other local surface waters.

Main access from the north would be from National Forest System Road (NFSR) 261 (Jenny Gulch Road) via county Highway 237 (Rochford Road). The primary access from the south would be from NFSR 671 (Sunnyside Gulch Road) or NFSR 261 (Jenny Gulch Road) via Silver City Road. Additional NFSRs that are anticipated to be used for access include NFSR 261, 720.2B, 671, 6207, 6209, 6210, 141.2B, and 261.2B. In addition approximately 4,700 linear feet of 8-foot wide temporary overland trails may be constructed for drill site access. These temporary overland trails would be obliterated and returned to natural conditions after project completion.

Our initial review proposes to evaluate this project as an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As a result, documentation of an EA will be prepared to facilitate planning, decision making and public disclosure.



If you wish to provide comments on the proposed activities, please submit your comments to me at 8221 S. Mount Rushmore Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702. You may also submit comments via email (comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-mystic@usda.gov) with "F3 Jenny Gulch Exploration Project" as the subject or by facsimile (605-343-7134). Comments are requested within 30-days of the date of this letter. Comments submitted, including names and addresses of commenters, are public information.

A public information meeting is scheduled for January 16 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Black Hills National Forest, Mystic Ranger District Office, at the address noted above. The meeting will be held as an open house style format with a brief presentation at approximately 6:00pm. The scoping document can be found on the Black Hills National Forest website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/blackhills/landmanagement/projects>.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jessica Eggers, Team Leader, or me at the Mystic Ranger District office in Rapid City, SD, at (605) 343-1567, Monday through Friday between 8:00AM and 4:30PM Mountain daylight time. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



JAMES GUBBELS
District Ranger

Enclosures: Project Location Map
Project Comment Form