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**(S.D.) - SD company plans gold mine near Spearfish Canyon**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/20/2012 10:47 AM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - A South Dakota company is proposing a new gold mining operation in the Black Hills.

The Deadwood Standard Project wants to extract gold six miles west of Lead (leed). The site is just east of Spearfish Canyon, but the conditional use permit being sought calls for a 500-foot buffer from the rim of the canyon.

General manager Don Silva says new technology and the high price of gold make the project feasible. He says it's expected to create 150 to 225 jobs during construction, with more than 40 full-time workers during the mine's operational life.

The project is seeking approval from Lawrence County and the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment.

The Action for the Environment group tells the Rapid City Journal it will fight the project.

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