

**NOTICE OF FILING
APPLICATION FOR LARGE SCALE MINE PERMIT
AMERICAN COLLOID COMPANY**

American Colloid Company, PO Box 2010, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717, hereby gives notice that an application for a permit to mine bentonite has been filed with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its proposed Stateline Project. The resident agent is CT Corporation System, 319 South Coteau Street, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. The legal location of the proposed operation is Portions of Sections 18, 19, and 20; T10N-R1E, Butte County.

The proposed project is along a ridgeline about 12 miles northwest of Belle Fourche and about 0.5 miles north of US Highway 212. A portion of the area was previously mined and reclaimed under American Colloid's Large Scale Mine Permit No. 6, with reclamation liability released in 1995. Approximately 346 acres of the 732-acre project area will be disturbed during the ten-year life of the permit. American Colloid will mine a series of pits using cut and fill mining methods in six separate mining sequences within the proposed permit boundary. At any one time there will be no more than three pits open with a maximum disturbance of around 155 acres. During the operation topsoil and overburden will be stripped and stockpiled or used to backfill and topsoil previously mined pits. The mined bentonite will be hauled on a road to be constructed in Wyoming to US Highway 212, and then to American Colloid's processing plant located about 10 miles to the northwest in Colony, Wyoming. The proposed postmine land uses are rangeland for livestock grazing and hay land.

The application is available for review at the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, or on the Minerals and Mining web page at <http://denr.sd.gov/des/mm/newminepermits.aspx>. The application is also available for public review at the Butte County Register of Deeds office in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Comments may be submitted in writing or online at <http://denr.sd.gov/public/comment.aspx>. Written objections to, statements in support of, or petitions to intervene and become party to the proceedings pursuant to ARSD 74:29:01:09 must be filed with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources no later than November 7, 2017. Information about the contents of a petition can be found in ARSD 74:09:01:01 at <http://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=74:09:01:01>.

The permit will be issued by the department if no petitions to intervene are received and if the department's recommendation is for approval or conditional approval. The department will issue its recommendation on December 19, 2017. If no petitions contesting the recommendation are received within seven days after the issuance of the recommendation, the department's recommendation will become effective December 26, 2017. The permit application will be approved, conditionally approved, or denied accordingly.

Persons desiring further information may contact Eric Holm, Minerals and Mining Program, at (605) 773-4201.