

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL,
EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL OR UNIQUE LANDS
AMERICAN COLLOID**

Notice is hereby given that American Colloid, PO Box 2010, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717, has submitted a Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical or Unique Lands and Notice of Intent to Operate to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for a bentonite mining operation. The legal description of the operation is Portions of Section 12; T9N-R1E and Portions of Sections 7 and 18; T9N-R2E; Butte County. American Colloid has submitted the Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical or Unique Lands and Notice of Intent to Operate for purposes of determining whether the lands potentially affected by the proposed mining operation are eligible for inclusion on the preliminary list of special, exceptional, critical, or unique lands.

The proposed operation involves construction of an access road between two permitted bentonite mines located approximately six miles northwest of Belle Fourche, SD. The road will be about 1.1 miles in length and constructed along an existing two-track trail. The road will only be used occasionally to move mine equipment at any time of the year. The road will be reclaimed unless the landowner wants it to remain as a two-track trail.

The Request is available for viewing at the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, or can be viewed on the Minerals and Mining web page at <http://denr.sd.gov/des/mm/newminepermits.aspx>. The Request is also available for public viewing 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/default.aspx>.

Any citizen, organization, or agency may nominate lands described in this Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical or Unique Lands and Notice of Intent to Operate for inclusion on the preliminary list of special, exceptional, critical or unique lands by submitting a nominating petition to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Information about the contents of a nominating petition can be found in ARSD 74:29:10:16 at <http://legis.state.sd.us/rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=74:29:10:16>. The deadline for submitting comments or a nominating petition is December 8, 2013. Persons desiring further information may contact Eric Holm, Minerals and Mining Program, at (605) 773-4201.