

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
RECOMMENDATION  
APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY CESSATION OF MINE PERMIT  
AMERICAN COLLOID COMPANY**

Notice is hereby given that the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources has received an application for temporary cessation of mining operations under Large Scale Mine Permit 475 from American Colloid Company, PO Box 2010, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717. The mining operation is located in portions of Sections 3, 4, 9, and 10; T11N-R2E, Butte County. The general location of the operation is approximately 17.5 miles north of Belle Fourche, South Dakota. The primary mineral being mined is bentonite.

American Colloid has temporarily ceased mining activities under Mine Permit 475 due to low demand for the grade of bentonite mined at the site and current economic conditions. Once demand increases for the grade of bentonite at this location and economic conditions improve, American Colloid will re-commence mining operations. American Colloid will perform site maintenance during the period of temporary cessation.

In accordance with SDCL 45-6B-3(8)(c), if the temporary cessation is approved, American Colloid must resume production within 5 years unless the Board of Minerals and Environment grants a 5-year extension. If production does not resume within the required time period, American Colloid must reclaim the area pursuant to the reclamation plan for Permit 475.

The temporary cessation 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/temporarycessation.aspx>. We welcome any comments you may have. Comments may be submitted in writing or online at <http://denr.sd.gov/public/default.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 June 3, 2014. Information about the contents of a petition can be found in ARSD 74:09:01:01 at <http://legis.state.sd.us/rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=74:09:01:01>. Petitions should be mailed to the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182.

The department recommends that the Board of Minerals and Environment approve the application for temporary cessation. In accordance with SDCL 45-6B, SDCL 1-26, and ARSD 74:29:09, the temporary cessation will be granted pursuant to the department's recommendation unless the applicant or any interested person files a petition to initiate a contested case hearing.

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

Steven M. Pirner  
Secretary  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Published twice at approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.