

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

Notice is hereby given that American Colloid Company, 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 3 and 4; T9N-R1E and Portions of Sections 33, 34, and 35; T10N-R1E; Butte County. American Colloid Company 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 the permitted Shear/Clarkson East and Shear/Clarkson West bentonite mines located approximately eight miles northwest of Belle Fourche, SD. The road will be about 1.5 miles in length, with a 0.75 mile long spur extending south to US Highway 212. It will be constructed along an existing two-track trail. Approximately 9.9 acres will be affected for the 35-foot wide road and associated topsoil stockpiles. The road will only be used occasionally to move mine equipment at any time of the year. The road will be reclaimed to rangeland unless the landowner wants it to remain as a two-track trail.

The Request 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 Request 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/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 September 28, 2014. Written comments or petitions should be mailed to the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182. Persons desiring further information may contact Eric Holm, Minerals and Mining Program, at (605) 773-4201.