

**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 Sections 18, 19, and 20; 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 mining of bentonite on a ridgeline located approximately 12 miles northwest of Belle Fourche, SD adjacent to the South Dakota/Wyoming border. Approximately 346 acres of the 732 acre project area will be disturbed during the project. American Colloid will mine a series of small pits using cut and fill mining methods. During the operation, topsoil and overburden will be stripped and stockpiled or used to backfill and topsoil previously mined pits. Bentonite will be hauled from each pit approximately 10 miles northwest to American Colloid's bentonite processing plant in Colony, Wyoming. Reclamation will be conducted concurrently with the mining operation.

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 January 1, 2017. 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.