

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL,
EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL OR UNIQUE LANDS
JAMES L. DEAN**

Notice is hereby given that James L. Dean, 23863 Palmer Gulch Road, Hill City, South Dakota 57745-6528, 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 slate mining operation. The legal description of the operation is NE1/4 Section 24; T1N-R3E; Pennington County. Mr. Dean 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 a slate mining operation located approximately 10 miles northwest of Hill City, South Dakota. After the slate is drilled and blasted, it will be loaded into trucks with a front end loader, backhoe, or excavator and hauled to Dakota Stone in Hill City. Approximately five acres could be affected during the course of mining. The mine is expected to last 15 to 20 years. Reclamation of the mine will be performed concurrently with mining.

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 Pennington County Register of Deeds office in Rapid City, 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 June 16, 2015. 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 Roberta Hudson, Minerals and Mining Program, at (605) 773-4201.