



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**
PMB 2020
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
www.state.sd.us/denr

June 6, 2017

Jim Anderson
GCC Dacotah
PO Box 360
Rapid City, SD 57709

Re: GCC Dacotah EXNI application

Dear Mr. Anderson;

The department is in receipt of the Exploration Notice of Intent (EXNI) that you filed with our office on May 1, 2017, with supplemental information submitted on May 11 and 17, 2017. The department has determined the Notice of Intent to be procedurally complete. Based on our review of your Notice, we determined the following restrictions are required:

1. To ensure optimal soil erosion protection, all affected lands shall have adequate sedimentation and erosion control measures applied pursuant to SDCL 45-6C-32 and according to Best Mineral Management Practices. These measures shall be in the form of waterbar construction on access roads where appropriate; revegetation of roads; road embankment slopes; and the installation of straw bale or silt fence type sediment filters wherever necessary.
2. All topsoil shall be salvaged and stockpiled whenever possible for use in reclamation.
3. If drilling fluids are used and/or when ground water is encountered during drilling, the fluids shall be sufficiently contained to prevent overland flow or discharge to any waters of the state.
4. During periods of active exploration drilling, GCC Dacotah shall provide, via email, a weekly schedule outlining when and where holes will be drilled so the department can plan inspections and witness plugging activities.
5. All test holes shall be capped, sealed and plugged according to ARSD 74:11:08 (Plugging Standards) immediately following drilling and probing.
6. If surface casing is used in exploration holes, the following requirement shall be met:

- a) Prior to removal of surface casing, the hole shall be plugged in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08 to a level just below the bottom of the surface casing.
 - b) Following step a), the casing will be removed (when possible) or cut off at least one foot below the ground surface.
 - c) The remainder of the hole will be plugged in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08.
7. GCC Dacotah shall notify the department, in writing, when exploration drilling penetrates an aquifer. Notification shall be provided as soon as possible, but not more than 90 days after penetration of the aquifer. Notification shall include the location of the test hole penetrating the aquifer.
8. The following seed mix shall be used for reclamation of the affected areas:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Blue Grama (Bad River) | 0.26 lbs. PLS/acre |
| Green Needlegrass (Lodorm) | 2.27 lbs. PLS/acre |
| Sideoats Grama (Butte) | 2.27 lbs. PLS/acre |
| Slender Wheatgrass (Common) | 1.70 lbs. PLS/acre |
| Western Wheatgrass (Rosana) | 3.50 lbs. PLS/acre |
- *Thickspike wheatgrass may be substituted for western wheatgrass if western wheatgrass is not available.
9. GCC Dacotah shall contact Michael Fosha of the SD Archaeological Research Center prior to drilling activities being performed in Sections 11 and 14; T2N-R7E to allow Mr. Fosha to inspect the drilling areas for archaeological or cultural resources. The phone number for the Archaeological Research Center is (605) 394-1936.

Please note that we have assigned your Notice of Intent the following number: **EXNI-428**. This Notice allows you to conduct only the type and amount of work which is hereby being approved. Any additional work must be covered by the submission of a new Notice to our office. GCC Dacotah may commence with the operation contingent upon compliance with the above restrictions.

Thank you for your interest in and consideration for the natural resources of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

\s/

Roberta Hudson
 Engineer III
 Minerals and Mining Program
 Telephone: (605) 773-4201
 E-mail: roberta.hudson@state.sd.us

cc: Stan Michals, Department of Game, Fish and Parks
 Michael Fosha, Archaeological Research Center
 Mark Keenihan, Rapid City Office