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OCT 20 2011

MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

October 18, 2011

South Dakota Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources
Attn: Mike Cepak – Minerals & Mining Program
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Wharf Expansion Project

Dear Mr. Cepak:

I am writing in support of Wharf Resources' application for expansion of their mining operations at the Wharf Mine near Terry Peak in Lawrence County in Western South Dakota.

Let me begin by telling you that Wharf Resources has been an excellent neighbor to the entire Terry Valley Development. Wharf has been very good for the Valley in all the things they have done including donating the water system, saving money for the area by providing gravel at their cost, and providing free use of the roads throughout the development.

Wharf has been good for the South Dakota economy in providing 150 high quality jobs. This not only keeps our young people in South Dakota but attracts them to the Black Hills. Wharf's expansion project will keep these people in those jobs for years to come. This is good for economic development in Western South Dakota. Furthermore, this expansion will allow Wharf to continue spending millions of dollars each year for goods and services, which also helps drive and grow our economy in South Dakota.

Wharf and its employees are good for the Lead/Deadwood community. They support the local businesses, schools, youth groups, and numerous community organizations.

Wharf has been a good partner to the Terry Peak Ski Area through their financial investment in the improvements to the ski lodge, snow making equipment, chair lifts, and parking lot. I believe these improvements have helped Terry Peak grow to be the premier ski area in the region. Wharf's commitment to continue improvements in the area will help to grow the property values of the residents.

Personally, I can tell you that we have owned a condominium in the area for over 30 years that is less than a half mile from the mine and we have never had any problems with any of Wharf's activities. Wharf does a great job of taking care of the land.

I urge you to approve Wharf's expansion project.

Sincerely,



Gilbert D. Moyle

South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Attn: Mike Cepak - Minerals and Mining Program
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Wharf Expansion Project.

Dear Mr. Cepak:

I am writing to support the application of Wharf Resources to expand mining operations at the Wharf Mine in Lawrence County.

Wharf is a conscientious operator and an excellent steward of the land. Mining at the Wharf Mine provides 150 high quality jobs for the area. Approval of Wharf's Expansion Project will allow these jobs to continue for an additional 7 to 8 years. In addition, Wharf will continue to spend millions of dollars each year, the majority of this in Lawrence County and South Dakota, to purchase supplies and services for the Mine.

Wharf and its employees are also valuable community members and good neighbors. They support our schools, youth groups, law enforcement, and numerous community organizations and activities.

I was born in Spearfish and have lived here all my life. I know how valuable these high paying jobs are for the area and the many employees that work here. I have been with Wharf for the past ten years and can tell you what a dramatic change it has made in my life. Going from a seasonal logging operation to a year-round structured work environment with a steady pay check has allowed me to stay in Spearfish rather than having to move in order to find work. I look forward to an extended mine life here in the hills.

I urge you to approve Wharf's Expansion Project.

Sincerely,



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RE: Wharf Expansion Project.

Dear Mr. Cepak:

I am writing in support of the Wharf Mine expansion in Lawrence County.

I am a resident of Lawrence County and have been involved with the Wharf mine for over 20 years as a supplier of equipment and services. I represent one of the many jobs that are made possible because of the Wharf mine.

I work for Butler Machinery Company. We are the Caterpillar dealer for North and South Dakota. We supply the Wharf mine with the equipment they need to do the mining. Along with the equipment we support the mine with skilled mechanics and parts service people from our Rapid City store. These are additional jobs made possible by the Wharf mine.

Over the years that I have been involved with Wharf, I have watched as they have continued to improve their operation. They have grown from a small mining company to one of the premier mining companies in the world today. They have the resources necessary to invest in the infrastructure to make this project a success. The management they have in place are highly qualified and have years of experience. The staff and employees of the Wharf mine are familiar with the character of the Black Hills and they are conscientious caretakers of the land and resources.

The additional improvements realized by the mine expansion will benefit many people not directly involved in the mining operation. The reconstruction of the Terry Peak Road will add additional jobs during the construction phase and a safer road for the public when completed. The reconstruction of the red chair lift at the Terry Peak Ski area will add more jobs and will result in an upgrade to the ski resort and greater recreational opportunities for all.

Wharf has been a Black Hills company for over 25 years. The people that work at the Wharf mine are our neighbors and friends. They are part of our community. They have a long history here. With your approval we can look forward to the future and begin our work.

Sincerely



Scott Gullickson