

**NOTICE OF FILING  
APPLICATION FOR LARGE SCALE MINING PERMIT**

Wharf Resources (USA), Inc., 10928 Wharf Road, Lead, South Dakota 57754, hereby gives notice that an application for a permit to mine gold and silver has been filed with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its proposed mine expansion project. The resident agent is CT Corporation System, 319 S. Coteau Street, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. The legal location of the operation is portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, and 12; T4N-R2E, Sections 6 and 7; T4N-R3E, and Sections 33 and 36; T5N-R2E, Lawrence County. The general location is approximately four miles west of Lead, South Dakota.

The proposed mine expansion project will involve open pit mining and disposal of overburden primarily to the south and west of the existing Wharf and Golden Reward Mines. A portion of the reclaimed Golden Reward Mine will be redisturbed during the project. Ore extracted from the expansion area will be hauled to the existing heap leach facility at the Wharf Mine for processing. As new mine areas are developed, waste rock and overburden will be used to backfill previously mined areas. A portion of State Highway 473 will be relocated during the project. Wharf Resources plans to disturb approximately 298 acres within the 528 acre expansion area, and total production is estimated to be about 175 million tons of material. The proposed expansion will extend the total life of the mine from 2012 to 2020. The proposed postmining land use is a mixture of rangeland or woodland grazing, home sites, and recreation and industrial or commercial development which will revolve around enhancements to the Terry Peak ski area.

A copy of the application may be reviewed at the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota, at the Lawrence County Register of Deeds office in Deadwood, South Dakota, or on the department's web page at <http://denr.sd.gov/des/mm/wharfminepermitapppage.aspx>. Written objections to, statements in support of, or petitions to intervene and become party to the proceedings pursuant to ARSD 74:29:01:09 must be filed with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources no later than August 18, 2011.

In accordance with the Administrative Rules of South Dakota 74:29:01:15, the department will make a recommendation on the application for approval, conditional approval, or denial. The recommendation is expected to be issued in October 2011 and a contested case hearing before the Board of Minerals and Environment is tentatively planned for November 2011.

Persons needing further information about this permit application may contact Eric Holm, Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501 (phone (605) 773-4201).