



October 25, 2011

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OCT 27 2011

MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

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 urge you to approve Wharf's Expansion Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gillas Stern' in a cursive script.

Gillas Stern, Pres.

**STERN OIL COMPANY INCORPORATED**

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523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

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Dear Mr. Cepak:

This letter is in regards to Wharf Resources' application to expand their mining operations at the Wharf Mine near Lead, SD.

Butler Machinery Company has had a professional working relationship with Wharf Resources since 1994. Wharf has an exemplary environmental and safety record. As a significant regional employer that provides over 150 high quality jobs in our area, the Wharf Resources management team fully understands the delicate balance that exists between economic development and environmental stewardship. Approval of Wharf's expansion project will ensure that these jobs will continue for the next 7 to 8 years.

The economic impact of this project on the many Wharf suppliers and, in particular, Butler Machinery Company is significant. With Wharf Resources being the largest customer of our Rapid City store, all of our 75+ associates are involved with some aspect of the Wharf Mine, on a daily basis. Since 1994, the economic impact of the Wharf Mine to Butler Machinery Company in payroll, taxes, and investments in machinery, tooling, training, parts and services has been in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

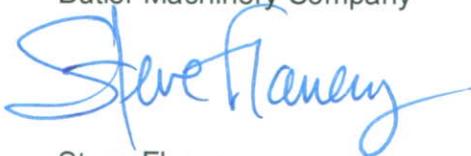
The Wharf mine is managed and operated by South Dakota citizens who live, work and recreate in our beautiful Black Hills. Wharf employees are involved in our local communities and they support our schools, youth groups, law enforcement and many non-profit organizations.

On behalf of the management and Associates of Butler Machinery Company and as a citizen of South Dakota, I urge you to approve Wharf's Expansion Project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Butler Machinery Company



Steve Flanery  
Operations Manager  
Rapid City, SD  
605-399-4001 – direct

SF/jk