

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL,
EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL, OR UNIQUE LANDS

Notice is hereby given that Bentonite Performance Minerals LLC, 554 US Highway 212, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717-4602, phone (307) 896-2596, 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. The legal description of the proposed Purple Mine is SW1/4 NE1/4 and portions of NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 23; T9N-R1E, Butte County. Bentonite Performance Minerals LLC 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 mining for bentonite on land located approximately 6 miles northwest of Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Bentonite Performance Minerals LLC will affect approximately 30 to 40 acres during the life of the Purple Mine. Several small pits will be mined using cut and fill mining methods. Topsoil, subsoil, and overburden will be stripped and stockpiled or used to backfill and topsoil previously mined pits. Bentonite will be hauled from each pit along existing haul roads to Bentonite Performance Minerals LLC's processing plants at Colony, Wyoming. Reclamation will be conducted concurrently with the mining operation. The land will be reclaimed to its present use of rangeland.

A copy of the Request may be reviewed at the Minerals and Mining Program, Joe Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota, or at the Butte County Register of

Deeds office in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. 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 pursuant to the requirements of ARSD 74:29:10:16 no later than December 3, 2012. Persons desiring further information may contact Eric Holm, Minerals and Mining Program, at (605) 773-4201.