

**NOTICE OF FILING
APPLICATION FOR LARGE SCALE MINE PERMIT
BENTONITE PERFORMANCE MINERALS, LLC**

Bentonite Performance Minerals, LLC, 554 US Highway 212, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717, hereby gives notice that an application for a permit to mine bentonite has been filed with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for its proposed Security Project. The resident agent is Capitol Corporate Services, Inc., 300 South Phillips Avenue, Suite 300, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. The legal location of the proposed operation is Portions of Sections 31 and 32; T9N-R2E, Butte County. The general location is approximately two miles northwest of Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

Bentonite Performance Minerals plans to use cut and fill mining procedures to mine bentonite from pits ranging in depth from zero to 40 feet and in size from two to ten acres. The bentonite will be hauled on Butte County 3 V Road (a.k.a. 3 View Road) and US Highway 212 to Bentonite Performance Minerals' processing plant in Colony, Wyoming. Each pit will be backfilled with overburden from other pits as mining is completed. About 57.3 acres will be mined and a total of approximately 83 acres of permitted affected land will be disturbed during the project. Mining is expected to start during the third or fourth quarter of 2024, or after the mine permit is issued, and will be completed by December 31, 2031. Reclamation will occur concurrently with the mining operation. The proposed future use of the affected area is rangeland for livestock grazing, which is the current use of the proposed mine area.

The application is available for review at the Minerals, Mining, and Superfund Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, or on the Minerals, Mining, and Superfund web page at <http://danr.sd.gov/Environment/MineralsMining/Exploration/NewMinePermits.aspx>. The application is also available for public review at the Butte County Register of Deeds office in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Comments may be submitted in writing or online at <http://danr.sd.gov/public/default.aspx>. Written objections to, statements in support of, or petitions to intervene and become a party to the proceedings pursuant to ARSD 74:29:01:09 must be filed with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources no later than June 4, 2024. Information about the contents of a petition can be found in ARSD 74:09:01:01 at <https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/26972>.

The permit will be issued by the department if no petitions to intervene are received and if the department's recommendation is for approval or conditional approval. The department will issue its recommendation on June 18, 2024. If no petitions contesting the recommendation are received within seven days after the issuance of the recommendation, the department's recommendation will become effective June 25, 2024. The permit application will be approved, conditionally approved, or denied accordingly.

Persons desiring further information may contact Eric Holm, Minerals, Mining, and Superfund Program, at (605) 773-4201.