

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RECOMMENDATION
APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY CESSATION OF MINE PERMIT
AMERICAN COLLOID COMPANY**

Notice is hereby given that the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has received an application for temporary cessation of mining operations under Large Scale Mine Permit 6 from American Colloid Company, PO Box 2010, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717-5010. The mining operation is located in portions of Sections 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, and 26; T9N-R1E, portions of Sections 18, 30, 31, and 32; T9N-R2E, and portions of Sections 28, 30, 31, 32, and 33; T10N-R1E, Butte County. The general location of the operation ranges from two miles to nine miles northwest of Belle Fourche, South Dakota. The primary mineral being mined is bentonite.

American Colloid has temporarily ceased mining operations under Mine Permit 6 due to the low demand for the grade of bentonite in this area. The company will resume production depending on increased demand and associate economics. American Colloid will perform concurrent reclamation and site maintenance during the period of temporary cessation.

In accordance with SDCL 45-6B-3(8)(c), if the temporary cessation is approved, American Colloid must resume production within 5 years unless the Board of Minerals and Environment grants a 5-year extension. If production does not resume within the required time period, American Colloid must reclaim the area pursuant to the reclamation plan for Permit 6.

The temporary cessation application is available for review at the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, or on the Minerals and Mining web page at <http://danr.sd.gov/Environment/MineralsMining/Exploration/NewMinePermitNoticesofTempCessation.aspx>.

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 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 November 30, 2022. Information about the contents of a petition can be found in ARSD

74:09:01:01 at <https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/26972>. Petitions should be mailed to the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182.

The department recommends that the Board of Minerals and Environment approve the application for temporary cessation. In accordance with SDCL 45-6B, SDCL 1-26, and ARSD 74:29:09, the temporary cessation will be granted pursuant to the department's recommendation unless the applicant or any interested person files a petition to initiate a contested case hearing.

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

Hunter Roberts
Secretary
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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