

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL,
EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL OR UNIQUE LANDS
BENTONITE PERFORMANCE MINERALS, LLC**

Notice is hereby given that Bentonite Performance Minerals, LLC, 554 U.S. Highway 212, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717, has submitted a Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical, or Unique Lands and Notice of Intent to Operate to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for a bentonite mining operation. The legal description of the operation is Portions of Sections 2, 3, and 11; 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 approximately seven miles northwest of Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Bentonite Performance Minerals, LLC will affect approximately 228 acres during the 15-year life of the Larsen Mine. Several pits will be mined during the project. 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 U.S. Highway 212 to Bentonite Performance Minerals LLC's processing plant in Colony, Wyoming. Reclamation will be conducted concurrently with the mining operation. The land will be reclaimed to its present use of rangeland.

The Request 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 Program's web page at <https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/MineralsMining/Exploration/NewMinePermits.aspx>. The Request 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 <https://danr.sd.gov/public/default.aspx>.

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 Agriculture and Natural Resources. Information about the contents of a nominating petition can be found in ARSD 74:29:10:16 at <https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/74:29:10:16>. The deadline for submitting comments or a nominating petition is October 22, 2024. Written comments or petitions should be mailed to the Minerals, Mining, and Superfund Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182. Persons desiring further information may contact Eric Holm, Minerals, Mining, and Superfund Program, at (605) 773-4201.