

April 13, 2022

Roberta Hudson
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Minerals and Mining Program
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3182

RECEIVED
APR 21 2022
MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

Dear Mrs. Hudson,

RE: DTRC LLC City Creek Exploration Notice of Intent

DTRC LLC is submitting this Exploration Notice of Intent (EXNI) for the City Creek Exploratory Drill Program. The program comprises drilling and coring from drill pads constructed exclusively on private land within Lawrence County.

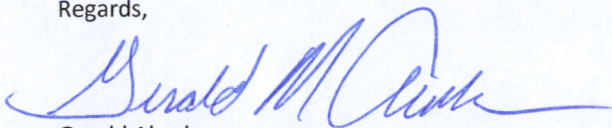
Included in this EXNI are the following:

- Notice of Intent to Conduct Mineral Exploration Operation Application Form
- A plan of reclamation pursuant to Section 8
- A topographic map pursuant to Section 9
- A fee of \$250 pursuant to Section 17 in check form
- Landowner lease agreement
- Cultural Resources Report (Confidential)

A Level 3 cultural resources report was completed for the majority of proposed drill holes and most of the new access road where the drill sites are within approximately 300 ft of one another. However, additional holes have been added to the City Creek exploration program since the cultural resource survey was completed. Therefore, Dakota Territory proposes to have an archaeologist monitor drill pad preparation/dirt work at proposed drilling locations that were not previously surveyed.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me. DTRC LLC is committed to working with SD DANR and meeting or exceeding all statutes and regulations.

Regards,



Gerald Aberle
DTRC LLC
106 Glendale Drive, Suite A
Lead, SD 57754
605.584.2834

Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Minerals and Mining Program
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182
605 773-4201; Fax: 605 773-5286

RECEIVED
APR 21 2022
MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT
MINERAL EXPLORATION OPERATION
(Excluding Uranium)
Pursuant to SDCL 45-6C

Operator's name: DTRC LLC

Mailing Address: 106 Glendale Drive, Suite A
Lead, South Dakota 57754

Telephone: 605.717.2640

Resident agent (if out-of-state corporation): Gerald M. Aberle

Resident agent address: 106 Glendale Drive, Suite A
Lead, South Dakota 57754

Telephone: 605.717.2640

Legal description of area to be explored by Section, Township, and Range:

Portions of Sections 9, 16, and 17,
Township 5 North, Range 3 East,
Black Hills Maridian

County: Lawrence

Give a brief description of the type of exploration to be conducted. Include a list of all minerals to be explored and a description of methods (e.g. drill rig type, number of holes to be drilled, number of drill pads to be constructed, proposed depth for each test hole, length of existing access roads and/or new access road construction).

DTRC LLC will explore for hardrock gold deposits in the project area. Drilling will be completed from existing roads and trails to the extent practicable. One new access road is required (approximately 1,500 ft). Of the existing access roads, one will need to be brushed and cleared (2,600 ft), one will need to be slightly widened and improved (1,130 ft), and other others will remain as is. It is anticipated that drilling will be completed using truck-mounted core and/or reverse circulation drilling methods/drill rigs. The project would include up to 17 drill pads. Ten pads will be drilled in a near line; these holes will be vertical and approximately 1,000 ft deep on a pad measuring roughly 100 ft x 100 ft.

The remaining seven holes will be deviated to a maximum depth/length of 10,000 ft; each of these drill pads may host multiple holes drilled at variable directions and inclinations. We intend to minimize the number of drill pads required by drilling fans of holes whose configuration will be based on results of the drilling operation but could be up to 5 holes per pad and may include wedged or directional drilled deflections down-hole. For the seven deviated hole pads, drilling will occur on a drill pad with 1-acre or less of disturbance per drill pad. We will always strive for the minimum size so as to reduce the reclamation requirement, though topography and the scope of drilling may affect size. See attached topographic and aerial photo map.

Date exploration will commence: Immediately following approval of this EXNI.

What legal authority does the operator have to conduct exploration on the above-described land? Include a copy if available.

☐ Deed ☒ Lease ☐ US Forest Service Permit ☐ Pending US Forest Service Permit ☒ Other

Will the operator conduct uranium exploration? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, a permit pursuant to SDCL 45-6D must be obtained.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please reference SDCL 45-6C. This Notice of Intent must be accompanied by:

1. A plan of reclamation pursuant to Section 8.
2. A topographic map pursuant to Section 9.
3. A fee of \$250 payable to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources pursuant to Section 17.
4. A surety in an amount to be determined by the department pursuant to Section 19.
5. Any written landowner consultations giving alternative preferences for the reclamation of the affected land pursuant to Section 16.

Applicant affirms that the surface owner has been notified of the proposed mineral development and that said surface owner is aware of his rights to compensation for damages to property pursuant to SDCL 45-5A. Applicant hereby affirms that the mineral exploration will be conducted pursuant and subject to the provisions of SDCL 45-6C, and all regulations promulgated thereunder, that he will grant access to the SD Board of Minerals and Environment or its agents to the area under notice from the date of the notice and thereafter to assure compliance with the provisions of SDCL 45-6C.

I declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that this claim (petition, application, information) has been examined by me, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, is in all things true and correct.

Gerald Aberle
Signature

Date: April 14, 2022

Title: Chief Operating Officer

STATE OF South Dakota

COUNTY OF Lawrence

On this 14 day of April, 2022, before me personally appeared Gerald Aberle, who acknowledged himself to be the COO (Title) for DTRC LLC (Operator) and that he is authorized to execute the Notice of Intent for the purposes contained therein.

Ronald Eneuth
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 11-18-2022

SEAL

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

DATE APPROVED: BOND AMOUNT: EXNI NUMBER:

Chairman, SD Board of Minerals & Environment

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COUNTY OF Lawrence

Page 1 of 2

consideration of the application may be suspended and the application may be rejected as provided for under this section.

Applications rejected pursuant to this section constitute final agency action upon that application and may be appealed to circuit court as provided for under chapter 1-26."

I certify pursuant to 1-41-20, that as an applicant, officer, director, partner, or resident general manager of the activity or facility for which the application has been made that I; a) have not intentionally misrepresented a material fact in applying for a permit; b) have not been convicted of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude; c) have not habitually and intentionally violated environmental laws of any state or the United States which have caused significant and material environmental damage; (d) have not had any permit revoked under the environmental laws of any state or the United States; or e) have not otherwise demonstrated through clear and convincing evidence of previous actions that I lack the necessary good character and competency to reliably carry out the obligations imposed by law upon me. I also certify that this application does not substantially duplicate an application by the same applicant denied within the past five years which denial has not been reversed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Further;

"I declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that this claim (petition, application, information) has been examined by me, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, is in all things true and correct."

Dated this 14 day of April, 2022

Applicant (print) Gerald M Aberte

Gerald M Aberte
Applicant (signature)

Subscribed and sworn before me this 14 day of April, 2022.

Ronald Emeeth
Notary Public (signature)

My commission expires: 11-18-2022

(SEAL)

**PLEASE ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DISCLOSE
ALL FACTS AND DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO
SDCL 1-41-20 (1) (a) THROUGH (e).
ALL VIOLATIONS MUST BE DISCLOSED, BUT WILL NOT
AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF AN APPLICATION**

In preparing this reclamation plan, please address each item in detail, referencing SDCL 45-6C-8 and 45-6D-9. Please refer to the reclamation standards outlined in SDCL 45-6C-27 through 45-6C-34, SDCL 45-6D-33 through 45-6D-39, and the state's hole plugging regulations as detailed in ARSD 74:11.

1. Describe the type of reclamation the operator proposes to achieve in the reclamation of the affected land.

DTRC LLC and its contractors will strive to minimize the surface impacts of the exploratory drilling program. The drilling operations would include removal and stockpiling of topsoil for regrading whenever possible. Topsoil stockpiles will be clearly located and marked. Sedimentation and erosion control best management practices will be implemented (e.g. berms, straw bale or silt fences) at all affected areas pursuant to SDCL 45-6C-32. Sumps will be located on the uphill side of the drill site when feasible and constructed with a liner suitable to retain liquids. Areas where drilling sites or exploration roads are constructed would be reclaimed using two methods. For drilling on existing roads, the area of the drill site would be regraded as necessary, the drill sump will be backfilled, and the area will be seeded. For areas where access roads and/or drill pad construction is necessary, the drill sump would be backfilled, affected areas would be regraded to approximate original contours using stockpiled topsoil, and the area would be seeded. Reclamation of one site will be conducted prior to drilling at another site, pending weather conditions. The post-mining land use for the exploration area will be woodland grazing, which would be accomplished by reclaiming to an open canopy area within the forested surroundings.

2. Provide a proposed timetable for seeding and replanting indicating when and how the reclamation plan will be implemented. Such timetable shall be developed in consultation with the County District Conservationist as to the nature of the soils and native vegetation in the area of the proposed operation. These recommendations shall be followed, if any are provided, and copies of all correspondence shall be provided to the Department.

Seeding will take place after recontouring and regrading of disturbed areas is completed. Seedings would be done on a clean, smooth, weed free seedbed before May 15th with a grass drill. DTRC LLC will control all noxious weeds on areas impacted by exploration drilling throughout operations and through 1-year post-reclamation. Weeds would be clipped before they compete against the seeding for moisture and light.

All reclamation processes, seed mixes, seasonal constraints and timing and guidance will be based on South Dakota NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Critical Area Planting Code 342 as suggested by the Lawrence County Conservation District and the local NRCS requirements and recommendations, per 45-6C-16; Consultation with surface owner--Preferences for reclamation and travel restrictions, as well as with the conservation district and NRCS offices. Fertilizer would be applied as necessary. Reseeding of the reclaimed sites would be conducted if the initial reclamation is not successful. The seed mix for reseeding drill pad sites and access roads consists of local native species and was developed based on recommendations by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. (Consultation with NRCS in Sept/Oct 2021 for the Maitland EXNI included drill sites at City Creek, hence the same seed mix is proposed.) The reclamation seed mixture attached on a NRCS Seeding Plan Tool Form.

3. Describe how the reclamation plan will rehabilitate the affected land.

The goal of the reclamation plan is to rehabilitate and restore the affected lands to woodland grazing habitat. Planting of grasses would control erosion and protect the soil. Numerous forb and shrub species are expected to volunteer on the reclaimed areas because ground disturbance associated with exploration activities would be limited as compared to surrounding areas of vegetation. A grass, forb, shrub, and subshrub community is expected to develop as reclamation matures, which would support woodland grazing and provide an edge effect to support the wildlife in the area.

4. Describe the anticipated temporary and permanent plugging and capping procedures to be used. Please refer to SDCL 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30, SDCL 45-6D-33 through 45-6D-35, and the state's hole plugging regulations as detailed in ARSD 74:11.

At a minimum DTRC LLC commits to following all South Dakota laws and statues concerning hole plugging and abandonment and alternatively would execute a full cement grout where needed, such as any instance where aquifer cross contamination is possible. All exploration drill holes would be plugged in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08 and SDCL 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30. The drill holes may penetrate the Deadwood Formation and the Precambrian, which are water-bearing units or aquifers in the Black Hills. If an aquifer is penetrated, the exploration drill holes will be plugged from bottom to top using bentonite grout, which complies with the requirements of ARSD 74:11:08:05 and ARSD 74:11:08:05:01 (i.e. requirements for plugging exploration drill holes that penetrate single unconfined aquifers and confined or multiple aquifers). In the event that a confined aquifer is penetrated, the weight of the bentonite grout column would be sufficient to overcome formation pressure or the hole would be plugged using cement grout. Records regarding aquifers encountered during drilling and plugging methods used would be retained for each exploration hole and those records would be provided to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) upon request. All exploration drill holes will be plugged immediately upon completion while the drill rig is still on the pad. In the event that a drill hole needs to remain open for more than 30 days, DTRC LLC will apply for an alternate plugging schedule to temporarily keep the hole open.

5. Provide the estimated cost of implementing and completing the proposed reclamation, and, the estimated cost of plugging and sealing each test hole.

Reclamation of each drill pad is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000. **Reclamation of access roads is expected to cost \$5,000 per linear mile.** Plugging and sealing drill holes is estimated to cost \$1,000 per hole. DTRC LLC has a statewide surety bond of \$20,000 in place with the State of South Dakota in lieu of drill program specific surety bonds (SDCL 45-6C-19).

I declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that this claim (petition, application, information) has been examined by me, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, is in all things true and correct.


Signature

Date: 4/14/22

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Instructions

SEEDING PLAN

MLRA

Producer **DTRC LLC** Conservation District: **Lawrence** **62**Program **CTA** Practice No. **342** Practice Name: **Critical Area Seeding**

CI or Referral No. Contract #

Resource Concern (CPPE Impact)

Purpose:

342- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water

PLANNED

Tract	NA	Seedbed Preparation
Field	NA	Clean, smooth, weed free seedbed will be prepared
Acres	1.00	
Group or Site	Critical Area Group	
Site	Loamy or Silty Texture	
Date to be Planted	Early Spring Prior to 5/15	Protection Provided
Alternative planting dates		
Alternative planting dates		Clip weeds before they compete for moisture and light
Seeding Equipment	Special Grass Drill	
Companion Crop	None	

PLANNED

Species * **	1/ Select Improved Variety (recommended) or select common seed (see note below)	Percent in Mixture	Pure Live Seeds (PLS) per square foot	Pure Live Seed (PLS) lbs/ac Needed	Acres to Seed	Pure Live Seed (PLS) lbs Required
		105	41.48			
Western wheatgrass		55.0	20.63	8.02	1.00	8.02
Big bluestem		15.0	6.75	1.67	1.00	1.67
Sideoats grama		5.0	2.25	0.54	1.00	0.54
Slender wheatgrass		20.0	7.50	2.11	1.00	2.11
Green needlegrass		5.0	2.25	0.54	1.00	0.54
Little bluestem		3.0	1.35	0.21	1.00	0.21
Western yarrow		1.0	0.38	0.01	1.00	0.01
Purple prairie clover		1.0	0.38	0.06	1.00	0.06

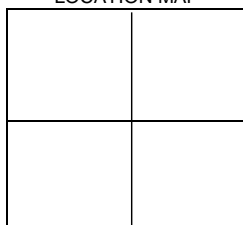
To meet SD NRCS

Standards Please Note:

- 1/ Improved varieties recommended above have no restrictions on their origin.
1/ Origin of Common grass seed must be ND, SD, NE, MT, WY, MN, or IA. Exception: Smooth Bromegrass any locale.
1/ Common Native forbs and legumes will originate or be grown in
(USA): ND, SD, NE, MT, IA, WY, ID, WA, OR, MN, WI, and (CAN): AB, BC, MB, ON, SK.
- Seed test must be completed according to SD Seed laws (see link below) and no more than 9 months prior to the date planted.
 - All legumes must be pre-inoculated. Producer will provide all seed tags to NRCS [Legume inoculants](#)
 - Tetrazolium (TZ) tests may be used as a substitute for germination tests ONLY for Green Needlegrass
 - For Alfalfa Salinity tolerance use F or G from the web site link ---> [Alfalfa Variety Ratings](#)
- * Pubescent wheatgrass and Intermediate wheatgrass are the same species and can be substituted for one another at any time.
** Thickspike wheatgrass may be substituted for western wheatgrass if the later is not available but only west of the Missouri River.
To calculate the amount needed multiply the western wheatgrass seeding rate by .72

SD Seed Laws [Codified Laws Statute 38-12A](#)Seed testing [SD state seed-lab](#)

LOCATION MAP



Tract

N

S.

T.

R.

Planning Assistance By:

Mitch Faulkner

11/1/2021

Name

Date)

Plan Meets SD Standards (if no explain)

Yes ☒No ☐

From: [Faulkner, Mitch - NRCS, Belle Fourche, SD](#)
To: [Crystal Hocking; Justin Krajewski](#)
Cc: [Tuschen, Victor - NRCS, Belle Fourche, SD](#)
Subject: RE: [External Email]Recommended seed mixes for Lawrence County?
Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 11:47:29 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[Seeding Tool2.pdf](#)
[Ecosites_AOI_3.pdf](#)
[Ecosites_AOI_2.pdf](#)
[Ecosites_AOI_1.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Exercise caution when viewing attachments, clicking links, or responding to requests.

Hello- I went through the three AOIs Justin sent in his email last week and I think the direction we started in is pretty good for a recommendation but I did make some tweaks. I see in the plan that 342 (critical area planting) will be used. I attached a modified version of the seeding tool plan based on that and some considerations outlined below. Also see in the attached plan the NRCS recommended varieties/sources. I used the primary consideration being a native seeding so I used Table 5 below as a guide for loamy textured sites, which is the predominate surface texture in the Black Hills. I also used the fact that this is in the northern Black Hills in my considerations. Also as forbs are used, any of the broadly-adapted forbs could be used. The soils are primarily mapped as "forest" soils with rangeland soils mixed in so the conventional wisdom indicates the sites would be loamy or likely shallow loamy which this seeding has some carryover between many sites. I attached the ecological site interpretations from web soil survey when I uploaded the shape files Justin sent.

Feel free to contact me if there are questions, etc.

Seeding of a critical area may take place at any time of the year as long as a reasonable expectation of a successful seeding establishment is expected.

A minimum of 75% of the mixture will be made up of sod forming species. Grass mixtures may include all native species, all introduced species, or a mixture of native and introduced species. Mixing smooth brome grass, Kentucky bluegrass, and/or crested wheatgrass with native species is not typically recommended.

When quick growth and/or protection of a critical area is needed, a quick establishing grass can be added in addition to the selected permanent seeding mixture. Use either slender wheatgrass or annual ryegrass. Slender wheatgrass can be used statewide and annual rye grass can be used in MLRAs 102A, 102B, 102C, 53B, 53C, 55B, 55C, 63B, 66, and 62. Add a maximum of three PLS lbs./ac of slender wheatgrass or a maximum of two PLS lbs./ac of annual ryegrass to the selected full seeding.

**TABLE 5. RANGE SEEDING RATES AND MIXTURES
MLRA 62**

MLRA 62	Maximum Percentage of Species per Ecological Site										
SD common name	CL	Cy	Ly	LyOv	Sb	SH	StOv	SwLy	TU	VL	WSb
Grasses											
Big bluestem	15	15	20	25	20	15		15	15	20	20
Blue grama	20					20		20	20		
Canada wildrye	10			10	10		10				10
Green needlegrass	10	25	20	10	10	10	30	10	20	30	10
Indiangrass										15	
Little bluestem	20	20	20			20		20	30		
Mountain brome				25	20		20			20	20
Prairie dropseed	15	5	15	5	20	15		15		20	20
Sideoats grama									20		
Slender wheatgrass ^{3/}	15	15	15	15	15	15	50	15	15	20	15
Switchgrass										20	
Virginia wildrye		10	10	10	10						10
Western wheatgrass ^{2/}	5	20	20	10	10	20		20	20	20	10
Forbs^{1/}											
American vetch	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	
Canada milkvetch	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Prairie aster	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5		5
Purple prairieclover	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	
Stiff goldenrod	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Stiff sunflower	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5
Western yarrow	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
White prairieclover	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	
Wild bergamot				5	5		5				5
Shrubs											
Chokecherry				5	5						5
Golden currant				5	5		5	5	5		5
Juneberry				5	5				5		5
Leadplant	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	
Redosier dogwood				5	5						5
Rubber rabbitbrush		5									
Western snowberry			5	5	5				5	5	5

1/ Non-native legumes may comprise up to 10 percent of a Range Seeding (550). See Section 15 for more details.

2/ Thickspike or slender wheatgrass may be substituted if western wheatgrass is unavailable.

Note – If the species is not on the above table, refer to the ESD for species suitability

Note- See Table 9 for more information on acronyms for ES.

Mitch Faulkner
Area Rangeland Management Specialist
USDA-NRCS
Belle Fourche, SD
Cell: (605) 519-1446

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