



**DAKOTA GOLD**

30 September 2024

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Sep 30, 2024

MINERALS, MINING, &  
SUPERFUND PROGRAM

Roberta Hudson  
Engineering Manager I  
South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Minerals and Mining Program  
Joe Foss Building  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota, 57501

**RE: DTRC LLC Richmond Hill VI Exploration Notice of Intent (Revised – Signature/Legal Description)**

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

Dakota Gold Corp. herein submits on behalf of DTRC LLC this Exploration Notice of Intent (EXNI) for Richmond Hill VI Exploratory Drill Program. The program comprises exploration test hole drilling from exploration 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, and
- Landowner Ownership documentation (Confidential).

Dakota Gold Corp. is committed to working with DANR and meeting or exceeding all statutes and regulations.

Thank you for your time as it pertains to this matter. Should you have any question or comments, please contact Timm Comer at (605) 717-2590, (719) 203-0567 or [tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com](mailto:tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com)

Regards,

Gerald M. Aberle  
Chief Operating Officer

Attachment: Complete EXNI Application Package (Previously submitted on 19 September 2024)  
Enclosures: Check No. 1528 for \$250 (Previously submitted on 19 September 2024)

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info@dakotagoldcorp.com  
www.dakotagoldcorp.com

Lead Office

106 Glendale Drive, Suite A,  
Lead, South Dakota,  
57754, USA

Vancouver Office

1588 609 Granville Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7Y 1G5, Canada

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

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**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):

**Gerold 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 Section 23 and 24  
Township 5 North, Range 2 East  
Black Hills Meridian**

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 potential hardrock gold deposits within the proposed project area. It is anticipated that exploration test hole drilling will be completed using skid-mounted core and/or truck-mounted or track-mounted reverse circulation drilling methods/drill rigs. The project would include up to new 38 exploration test hole drill pad sites (drill pads). There is no new drill trail development proposed as part of this project on previously undisturbed and reclaimed lands. There are approximately 11,800 feet of existing roads that are on existing EXNIs permitted by DTRC LLC. There are other existing roads (approximately 19,800 feet) within the project areas. There are approximately 4,500 feet on new roads development proposed as part of this project. This network of roads would be utilized for access to the proposed drill pads in the project area. Exploration test hole drilling from these 38 drill pads will be drilled both azimuth and vertical and up to a depth of approximate 5,000 feet in vertical depth, with the possibility of multiple (up to 10) exploration test holes drilled from each drill pad. The drill pads that are constructed will measure approximately 100 ft x 100 ft (approximately 0.23 acres). Exploration drilling activities proposed near the historic Richmond Hill Leach Pads and backfilled mine area will be protective and not compromise the historic liner system beneath the material and/or liner systems placed over the surface of the material.

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.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: September 30, 2024

Title: Chief Operating Officer

STATE OF South Dakota

COUNTY OF Lawrence

On this 30 day of September, 2024, before me personally appeared Gerold M. Aberle, who acknowledged himself to be the Chief Operating Officer

(Title)  
for DTRC LLC and that he is authorized to execute the Notice of Intent for the  
(Operator)  
purposes contained therein.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: November 18, 2027

SEAL



**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

DATE APPROVED: BOND AMOUNT: EXNI NUMBER:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, SD Board of Minerals & Environment



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Sep 30, 2024

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION OF

DTRC LLC

STATE OF South Dakota

COUNTY OF Lawrence

CERTIFICATION OF

APPLICANT

I, Gerold M Aberle, the applicant in the above matter after being duly sworn upon oath hereby certify the following information in regard to this application:

I have read and understand South Dakota Codified Law Section 1-41-20 which provides:

*"The secretary may reject an application for any permit filed pursuant to Titles 34A or 45, including any application by any concentrated swine feeding operation for authorization to operate under a general permit, upon making a specific finding that:*

*(1) The applicant is unsuited or unqualified to perform the obligations of a permit holder based upon a finding that the applicant, any officer, director, partner, or resident general manager of the facility for which application has been made:*

*(a) Has intentionally misrepresented a material fact in applying for a permit;*

*(b) Has been convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude;*

*(c) Has habitually and intentionally violated environmental laws of any state or the United States which have caused significant and material environmental damage;*

*(d) Has had any permit revoked under the environmental laws of any state or the United States; or*

*(e) Has otherwise demonstrated through clear and convincing evidence of previous actions that the applicant lacks the necessary good character and competency to reliably carry out the obligations imposed by law upon the permit holder; or*

*(2) The application substantially duplicates an application by the same applicant denied within the past five years which denial has not been reversed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this subdivision may be construed to prohibit an applicant from submitting a new application for a permit previously denied, if the new application represents a good faith attempt by the applicant to correct the deficiencies that served as the basis for the denial in the original application.*

*All applications filed pursuant to Titles 34A and 45 shall include a certification, sworn to under oath and signed by the applicant, that he is not disqualified by reason of this section from obtaining a permit. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, that certification shall constitute a prima facie showing of the suitability and qualification of the applicant. If at any point in the application review, recommendation or hearing process, the secretary finds the applicant has intentionally made any material misrepresentation of fact in regard to this certification,*

*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."*

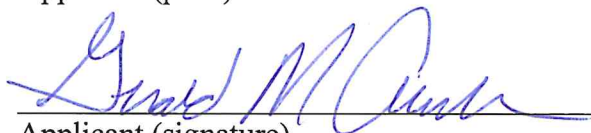
I certify pursuant to 1-41-20, that as an applicant, officer, director, partner, or resident general manager of the activity or facility for which the application has been made that I; a) have not intentionally misrepresented a material fact in applying for a permit; b) have not been convicted of a felony 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 30 day of September, 20 24

**Gerold M. Aberle**

Applicant (print)



Applicant (signature)

Subscribed and sworn before me this 30 day of September, 20 24.



Notary Public (signature)

My commission expires: 18 November 2027



**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 exploration drilling contractors strive to minimize the potential surface impacts of the exploratory drilling program. The exploration drilling operations would include removal of existing growth media (topsoil) when feasible, then stockpiling, reshaping, and interim reseeded of the topsoil, which would then be utilized for future reclamation activities at the project site. Topsoil stockpiles would be clearly located and appropriately marked as such. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for potential sedimentation and erosion control would be implemented at the project site for areas of new disturbance. These BMP (e.g. ditches, sumps, berms, wattles, straw bales or silt fences) at potential affected area pursuant to SDCL 45-6C-32. Exploration drill pad sump (sumps) would be located on the uphill side of the exploration drill pad site when feasible and construction may include installation of a liner system, if needed to retain liquids at the drill pad site. Safety fencing would be implemented around the sumps for safety purposes and to prevent the potential of small wildlife from entering the sumps. In addition, means will be implemented in the sump to allow any wildlife to exit from the sump if needed. Areas where exploration drilling pads (up to 38 [approximately 8.7 acres]) that would be constructed would be reclaimed following completion of exploration drilling activities. For exploration drilling activities on new and existing roads, no reclamation activities would occur on the new (up to approximately 4,500 feet [approximately 1.6 acres]) and existing roads (up to approximately 36,100 feet [approximately 13.2 acres]). The newly disturbed area of the exploration drill pads would be recontoured and regraded as necessary, the exploration drill pad sump liner system (if installed) would be folded in place and punctured and then the entire sump area backfilled with native materials to the area. The entire exploration drill pad area, including sump area would be reclaimed. Reclamation activities would include recontouring, regraded, placement of topsoil and seeding with reclamation seed mixture. For areas exploration drill pad construction are necessary, the newly disturbed affected area would be regraded to approximate original contours where feasible using native materials to the area. Once these regrading activities are completed, the area of the exploration drill pads will be reclaimed. Reclamation of one site would be conducted concurrent while exploration drilling activities continue at another site, when feasible and pending weather conditions. The post-mining land use for the exploration project area would 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.

Reclamation seeding will take place after recontouring and regrading of disturbed areas is completed. Seedings would be done on a clean, semi-smooth, weed free seedbed with effective seeding methods. DTRC LLC would control potential noxious weeds on newly disturbed areas impacted by exploration drilling activities throughout operations of the project and for 1-year post-reclamation. Weeds would be clipped and/or sprayed by licensed applicator before they compete against the seeding for moisture and light. All reclamation processes, seed mixtures, 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 mixture or reseeded exploration drill pad sites and exploration access roads/trails consists of local native species and was developed based on recommendations following consultation by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Consultation with NRCS was completed on 29 August 2024 for this project. Previously recommended reclamation seed mixtures approved for DTRC LLC existing Exploration Notice of Intent (EXNIs) is again recommended as the seed mixture for this project based on that consultation. A copy of that recommended reclamation seed mixture by NRCS is attached to this EXNI.

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

The goal of the reclamation plan is to rehabilitate and restore the newly affected lands to woodland grazing habitat. Planting of grasses would control erosion and protect the topsoil. 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

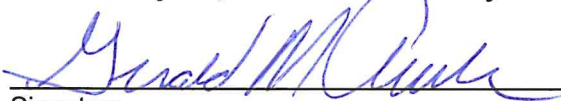
4. Describe the anticipated temporary and permanent plugging and capping procedures to be used. Please refer to SDCL 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30, SDCL 45-6D-33 through 45-6D-35, and the state's hole plugging regulations as detailed in ARSD 74:11.

At a minimum DTRC LLC commits to following all South Dakota laws and statutes concerning hole plugging and abandonment and alternatively would execute a full cement grout where needed, such as any instance where aquifer cross contamination is feasible. All exploration drill holes would be plugged in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08 and SDCL 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30. Additionally, DTRC LLC would utilize, if required, the *General Alternate Plugging Plan* that was submitted on 11 August 2022 to DANR and approved by DANR on 05 October 2022 for all DTRC LLC EXNI permits. 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 exploration drill 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 exploration access roads and trails is expected to cost approximately \$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 \$100,000 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: September 30, 2024

Title: Chief Operating Officer