DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

November 17, 2026

Matt Albrecht
DTRC LLC
106 Glendale Drive
Suite A
Lead, SD 57754

Re: **EXNI 472 for DTRC LLC Exploration Drilling in Portions of Sections 15, 22, and 23; T5N-R2E, Lawrence County**

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

The department is in receipt of the Exploration Notice of Intent (EXNI) filed with our office on September 29, 2026. The department has determined the Notice of Intent to be procedurally complete. Based on our review of your Notice, we determined the following restrictions are required:

1. This project shall be conducted and reclaimed in such a manner as to prevent any violation of the beneficial uses of specified water quality criteria of any water resources in the area. In accordance with Chapter 74:51, all surface waters of the state have been assigned the following beneficial uses:

   9) Wildlife propagation, recreation, and stock watering waters; and
   10) Irrigation waters.

2. Any discharge from the site will shall be directed to a settling pond or flat vegetated area to allow suspended solids to settle out. For any discharge into a dry draw or gulch, a South Dakota Surface Water Discharge Permit may be required prior to discharge.

3. To ensure optimal soil erosion protection, all affected lands shall have adequate sedimentation and erosion control measures applied pursuant to SDCL 45-6C-32 and according to Best Mineral Management Practices. These measures shall be in the form of waterbar construction on access roads where appropriate; revegetation of roads; road embankment slopes; and the installation of straw bale or silt fence type sediment filters wherever necessary. DTRC LLC shall inspect, clean out, repair, or upgrade the sediment controls as necessary to prevent degradation of surface waters of the state.

4. All topsoil shall be salvaged and stockpiled whenever possible for use in reclamation.

5. When drilling fluids are used and/or when ground water is encountered during drilling, the drilling fluids shall be sufficiently contained to prevent overland flow or discharge to any waters of the state. If water tanks are used in lieu of mud pits, they shall also be sufficiently contained.

6. When mud pits are being utilized in drilling a hole, these pits shall be constructed on the uphill side of the drill pad where possible.

7. DTRC LLC shall spray weeds up to 50 feet from all disturbed and surrounding areas, including along access roads within the exploration area. Weed control on all disturbed or reclaimed areas is required until this EXNI is released of reclamation liability by the Board of Minerals and Environment.

8. During periods of active exploration drilling, DTRC LLC shall provide, via email, a weekly schedule outlining when and where holes will be drilled so the department can plan inspections and witness plugging activities.

9. Prior to construction of a new access trail to Drill Pad 472_001, DTRC LLC shall consult with Homestake Mining Company and obtain written approval of any construction access plans and remedial activities across the north edge of the disturbance area surrounding the Pit Impoundment.

10. In the instance sulfate minerals are encountered during drilling activities, DTRC LLC shall perform paste pH analyses on mud pits and report the findings to DANR prior to reclamation. If deemed necessary by DANR, DTRC LLC shall amend the pit with lime or other buffer material and provide a report outlining reclamation performed at the drill site.

11. All test holes shall be capped, sealed and plugged according to ARSD 74:11:08 (Plugging Standards) immediately following drilling and probing.

12. No drilling shall impact any facilities at the Richmond Hill Mine that are designed to control, maintain, or prevent acid generation such as the capped pit impoundment and leach pads. These facilities have been designed to minimize oxygen and water inflows, and any breech of the caps on these facilities may accelerate acid generation at the site.

13. If surface casing is used in exploration holes, the following requirement shall be met:

    a) Prior to removal of surface casing, the hole shall be plugged in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08 to a level just below the bottom of the surface casing.
    b) Following step a), the casing will be removed (when possible) or cut off at least one foot below the ground surface.
    c) The remainder of the hole will be plugged in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08.

14. DTRC LLC shall notify the department, in writing, when exploration drilling penetrates an aquifer. Notification shall be provided as soon as possible, but not more than 90 days after

penetration of the aquifer. Notification shall include the location of the test hole penetrating the aquifer.

15. Where affected roads and drill pad areas are no longer necessary for further exploration purposes, reclamation must be completed on these disturbed areas within 12 months. If DTRC LLC plans to continue exploration in disturbed areas, but must temporarily cease exploration activities, reclamation must be completed within 24 months. DTRC LLC may submit a request to extend these deadlines as necessary to the department.

16. Reclamation must be completed on all affected acreages within 12 months following completion of all exploration activities allowed under this Notice.

17. The following seed mix shall be used for reclamation of the affected areas:

Western wheatgrass	8.02 PLS/acre
Big bluestem	1.67 PLS/acre
Sideoats grama	0.54 PLS/acre
Slender wheatgrass	2.11 PLS/acre
Green needlegrass	0.54 PLS/acre
Little bluestem	0.21 PLS/acre
Western yarrow	0.01 PLS/acre
Purple prairie clover	0.06 PLS/acre

18. DTRC LLC shall have a qualified biologist survey the project area and surrounding vicinity for active and inactive bird nests, with a focus on raptor nests. Document species, nest status, and distance to proposed exploration. Submit active nest data to SDGFP to determine appropriate buffer distances. Surveys should be conducted immediately prior to exploration activities to ensure they accurately reflect nesting status at the time the activities occur.

19. DTRC LLC shall have a qualified biologist survey all live or dead trees (DBH $\geq$ 3 inches) and geological features (e.g., rock crevices, caves, mine openings) within the project area, particularly within 300 feet of drill pads or other disturbance zones, for potential bat roosts. Potential roosts shall not be removed during the active bat season (May 1– September 30). If any active roosts are located within 300 feet of exploratory activities, DTRC LLC must notify SDGFP as soon as possible to discuss potential buffers. Submit all roost locations, observations, and survey results to SDGFP.

20. DTRC LLC shall have a qualified biologist conduct rare plant surveys in areas of proposed disturbance if a recent inventory does not already exist. When possible, rare plants should be avoided. If avoidance is not possible, rare plant regeneration efforts should be implemented when feasible.

21. DTRC LLC shall place wildlife escape materials that provide a climb-out surface (e.g., an escape ramp, sturdy branch/log, large stabilized rock/boulder) in all sump pits to ensure

that any wildlife that fall in can exit safely. When feasible, perimeter fencing should also be installed to prevent wildlife from entering sump pits.

22. Please follow the restrictions outlined in Dustin Lloyd's October 30, 2026, letter from the Archaeological Research Center for archaeological survey requirements. A map was provided with this letter outlining areas in red as areas requiring additional survey.

23. During the conduct of its exploration activities, DTRC LLC shall avoid bones, artifacts, foundation remains, or other evidence of previously unrecorded past human use. For specific direction regarding avoidance of these sites, please contact the SD Archaeological Research Center.

24. If any artifacts or other archaeological or cultural resources are discovered during exploration activities, the activities shall be halted and the State Archaeologist notified at once.

Please note that we have assigned your Notice of Intent the following number: **EXNI-472**. This Notice allows you to conduct only the type and amount of work which is hereby being approved. Any additional work must be covered by the submission of a new Notice to our office. DTRC LLC may commence with the operation contingent upon compliance with the above restrictions.

Thank you for your interest in and consideration for the natural resources of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

\s/

Roberta Hudson
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cc: Mandy Pearson, Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Dustin Lloyd, Archaeological Research Center
Matt Carreiro, Rapid City Office