



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE  
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING  
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**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF  
SPECIAL, EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL, OR UNIQUE LANDS  
SIMON CONTRACTORS OF SD, INC.**

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has made its determination regarding a Notice of Intent to Operate and Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical, or Unique Lands from Simon Contractors of SD, Inc., 3975 Sturgis Road, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702. The Notice of Intent to Operate was submitted as required under ARSD 74:29:10 for purposes of requesting the department to determine whether the lands potentially affected by the mining operation are eligible for inclusion on the preliminary list of special, exceptional, critical, or unique lands.

The proposed operation involves the expansion of the Loring Limestone Quarry located approximately four miles southwest of Pringle, South Dakota which is currently mined under Simon Contractors' mine license. The mine permit will allow Simon Contractors to mine limestone for uses other than construction aggregate and cement, such as agricultural applications, including, but not limited to feed and soil supplements and food processing. Topsoil and overburden will be stripped from portions of the expansion area every one to three years to match production. The stripped area will be drilled and blasted, and limestone will be removed and hauled to an on-site crusher where it will be sized into different products. After the limestone is processed, it will be stockpiled until it is loaded onto trucks and shipped to customers. Reclamation will occur concurrently with the mining operation.

In accordance with ARSD 74:29:10:08 and 74:29:10:09, the department has determined that the lands described in the Notice of Intent to Operate do not constitute special, exceptional, critical, or unique lands. This determination is based on the on-site inspection of the proposed lands to be affected, examination of the established preliminary list, consultation with other agencies, and evaluating information provided with the Notice of Intent to Operate. In addition, no nominating petitions pertaining to the lands described in the Notice of Intent were filed with the department.

The lands described in the Notice of Intent to Operate are considered cleared from special, exceptional, critical, or unique characteristics in accordance with ARSD 74:29:10:15. This clearance will remain in effect for seven years. If a mine permit application is not submitted within the seven-year period, the Board of Minerals and Environment may declare the clearance void and the lands may be reevaluated.

Simon Contractors of SD, Inc. may appeal the department's determination by filing a petition for a contested case hearing pursuant to SDCL 1:26 within seven days after receipt of the determination. The hearing on the appeal shall be confined to the determination of the lands as special exceptional, critical, or unique and whether an environmental impact statement and socioeconomic study will be required.

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

July 14, 2021