

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL,
EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL OR UNIQUE LANDS
VMC LLC**

Notice is hereby given that VMC LLC, 1110 Crestridge Ct., Rapid City, South Dakota 57701, has submitted a Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical or Unique Lands and Notice of Intent to Operate to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for a gold mining operation. The legal description of the operation is Portions of Sections 32 and 33; T5N-R2E, Lawrence County. VMC 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 the upgrade of an existing access road between VMC LLC's gold mining operation permitted under Large Scale Mine Permit 416 and Wharf Resources' access road approximately four miles west of Lead, SD. The road is approximately 1.8 miles in length and varies from 50 to 75 feet in width. The road will be upgraded to improve access to haul equipment to the Permit 416 area and for the possible use as a haul road for small trucks and/or a conveyor system to remove ore from the mine. A portion of the hillside adjacent to a 1/2-mile section of the road will be excavated and used to backfill and repair damaged sections of the road.

The Request is available for review at the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, or on the Minerals and Mining web page at <http://denr.sd.gov/des/mm/newminepermits.aspx>. The Request is also available for public review at the Lawrence County Register of Deeds office in Deadwood, South Dakota. Comments may be submitted in writing or online at <http://denr.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 Environment and Natural Resources. Information about the contents of a nominating petition can be found in ARSD 74:29:10:16 at <http://sdlegislature.gov/rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=74:29:10:16>. The deadline for submitting comments or a nominating petition is March 29, 2020. Written comments or petitions should be mailed to the Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182. Persons desiring further information may contact Eric Holm, Minerals and Mining Program, at (605) 773-4201.