

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL,
EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL OR UNIQUE LANDS
KENNETH L. AND NANCY DENKE**

Notice is hereby given that Kenneth L. and Nancy Denke, 21150 Creighton Road, Creighton, South Dakota 57790-6411, have 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 proposed gold mining operation. The legal description of the operation is Portions of Sections 22, 23, 26, and 27; T1N-R4E; Pennington County. Kenneth L. and Nancy Denke have 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 surface and underground mining for gold approximately 6.5 miles northwest of Hill City, South Dakota. A rock outcrop above the old Queen Bee Mine entrance, ore from the underground mine, and tailings piles will be removed and hauled to a process building. After the ore is crushed, it will be processed through a trommel and shaker table to remove gold and other valuable minerals. Surface disturbance will be backfilled and recontoured prior to topsoil placement and seeding.

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 Pennington County Register of Deeds office in Rapid City, 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://legis.state.sd.us/rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=74:29:10:16>. The deadline for submitting comments or a nominating petition is June 16, 2015. 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.