



In Reply Refer To:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
South Dakota Field Office
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, SD 57717-1698
www.blm.gov/mt



3809 (MTC040)
SDM 103180

April 17, 2012

Dear Reader:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for Wharf Resources (U.S.A.) Inc. proposal to surface mine gold located approximately 2.5 miles west of Lead, Lawrence County, South Dakota is now available for a 30 day public comment period. Wharf Resources submitted a Plan of Operations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the purpose of surface mining about 0.74 acres of federal mining claims. The proposal is to mine and reclaim 0.12 acre of the 0.74 acre of BLM administered surface located within the 528 acre Wharf Mine Expansion Project.

The private lands in the Wharf's Mine Expansion Project application was approved by the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment in November 2011 and the Lawrence County Office of Planning and Zoning in June 2011 [Wharf Resources, 2011b]. The state LSMP application and associated baseline environmental reports are available online (<http://denr.sd.gov/des/mm/wharfpage.aspx>) through the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR).

The regulations at 43 CFR 3809.411 directs BLM to prepare an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a new Plan of Operations or a substantial modification to an existing plan. This environmental assessment was prepared by a third-party contractor following guidance from the BLM National Environmental Policy Handbook (H-1790-1).

We are seeking public review and comment on the EA and proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The BLM will accept comments on the EA during a 30 day time period ending on May 17, 2012. You may request the EA and FONSI from our BLM SD Field Office. Written comments must be postmarked by May 17, 2012 to be considered. The Miles City Office is assisting the South Dakota Field Office on this project. Comments/Questions may be submitted to:

Bureau of Land Management
Miles City Field Office – Natural Resource Specialist
Attn: Jon David
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301-7000
(406) 233-3665
jdavid@blm.gov

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information - will be available for public review. If you wish to withhold

personal identifying information from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you must clearly state, in the first line of your written comment, “CONFIDENTIALITY REQUESTED.” While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations, from businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, will be available for public review.

Upon review and consideration of public comments, the EA will be updated as needed. Following the 30 day comment period, BLM will make a decision whether or not to approve the proposal.

Sincerely,

Marian Atkins
Field Manager
South Dakota Field Office