

Initial plan for underground SD lab gets \$29M

By Blak Nicholson
Associated Press Writer

The National Science Foundation has authorized about \$29 million to develop a preliminary plan to turn a 1 1/2-mile-deep former gold mine in western South Dakota into the world's deepest laboratory.

The foundation says the plan will be a major tool in the decision whether to proceed with the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory at the former Homestake site at Lead.

Physical preparations also have hit a critical point: Water removal inside the 8,000-foot-deep mine has surpassed the 5,000-foot level.

"It is a milestone in that the 5,000-foot level ... when we get it cleaned up, that is where we install the deep-level pumping system," Sanford Underground Lab spokesman Bill Harlan said.

About two years ago, the National Science Foundation chose the former mine to house the \$550 million Deep Underground Science and Engineering

Laboratory because its depth shields experiments from cosmic radiation.

Meanwhile, the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority is building the interim Sanford Lab at the 4,850-foot level, while the NSF is spearheading development of the deeper lab.

The money will be given over two years to the University of California, Berkeley, which will work with several subcontractors including the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to develop the preliminary plan.

The design money, which is to be doled out beginning Nov. 1, brings the total NSF commitment so far to more than \$70 million. The state of South Dakota has approved about \$34 million to reopen the mine, which was donated by Barrick Corp., and Sioux Falls banker T. Danny Sanford is donating \$70 million for the Sanford Lab, which also has received a \$10 million federal grant.

The NSF-funded design eventually will be brought to the National Science Board, a group of 24 people that establishes foundation policy and will decide

whether to take the deep lab to Congress for funding.

"We're supporting the preliminary design in order to enable the foundation and board to make as informed a decision as possible (on) if and how to move forward," John Kotcher, program director for the National Science Foundation's physics division, said Monday.

That is likely to happen in the spring of 2011. If the lab is approved and funded, construction likely would begin in the fall of 2012.

Water has to be removed before any construction work can be done. The 125-year-old gold mine was shut down in 2001, and water filled the shafts after the pumps were shut off in 2003. That water is being brought to the surface through a series of pumps in a process Harlan calls a "reverse cascade." The pump to be installed at the 5,000-foot level will be the last in the process.

"Re-establishing the 5,000-foot level is an important step in strengthening the whole underground pumping infrastructure," he said.

Johnson seeks spring intern applicants

As students plan their spring semester, U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) is accepting applications for spring internship positions in his Washington, DC, Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen offices.

"This is an excellent opportunity for college students to experience the United States Senate," Johnson said. "An internship in my Washington, DC office or any of my state offices will provide students with a chance to serve South Dakota and gain first-hand knowledge of the federal government."

The Washington, DC internship program matches interns' interests to South Dakota and federal issues, providing a first-hand opportunity to experience a wide-range of office duties. Interns may attend hearings, research issues for projects, and work with the office administrative staff. Students may also apply to intern in the press shop for Johnson. Press interns work on tracking media coverage, organizing clips, writing releases, and other various press shop activities, as needed.

Internships in Johnson's state offices will provide students with in-depth knowledge of current issues affecting the state and the oppor-

tunity to work directly with South Dakotans. An intern in a state office will assist staff with special events, constituent casework, and administrative functions.

Johnson is a member of the following committees: Appropriations; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Energy and Natural Resources; and Indian Affairs. In addition to these committees, Johnson also is involved in issue areas that include economic development, health care and education.

College sophomores, juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply for Johnson's spring or summer internship program. College credits or a stipend are available. To apply for a state office internship, please call toll-free at 1-800-537-0025. To apply for a Washington, DC internship, interested students should submit a cover letter, resume and a 3-5 page writing sample to:

Senator Tim Johnson
ATTN: Intern Coordinator
or Todd Deusch, Press Intern
Coordinator
136 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

By Fax to: 202-228-5765
Or by Email to:
Intern_Coordinator@johnson.senate.gov or
Todd_Deusch@johnson.senate.gov

AAA's ten best Halloween safety tips

While Halloween is one of the most festive nights of the year for children, it also ranks among the most dangerous for young pedestrians. The Centers for Disease Control says children are four times more likely to be hit by a motor vehicle on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Motorists need to be extra cautious and watch out for spooky vampires, giggling princesses and mighty superheroes who are out trick-or-treating on neighborhood streets.

Parents can reduce the risk to their children Halloween night by following AAA's ten best Halloween safety tips:

1. Trick-or-treat while it is still light outside.
2. Wear a costume that makes it easier to walk, see and be seen.
3. If your kids do go out after dark, have them wear a costume that is light in color.
4. Children should carry a flashlight so they can see and be seen easily.
5. For additional visibility, use retro-reflective tape on costumes.
6. Use makeup instead of a mask.
7. Trick-or-treat in groups.
8. Remind your kids to cross streets only at corners and to never cross between parked cars or mid-block.
9. Have your children tell you which streets they'll be trick-or-treating.



10. If there are no sidewalks, tell your kids to always walk facing traffic and as far off the roadway as possible.

While driving through residential areas on Halloween, motorists should slow down and watch carefully for children crossing the street. Little trick-or-treaters may not be paying attention to traffic and might cross mid-block or between parked cars. Even though South Dakota will still be on Daylight Saving Time Oct. 31, the sun will set about 6:30 p.m.

Sobriety checkpoints planned for november around state

PIERRE — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has sobriety checkpoints scheduled in November in the following counties: Bennett, Brown, Brule, Campbell, Codington, Davison, Day, Hughes, Jerauld, Lake, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Sanborn, Spink, Pennington, Roberts, and Union.

For sobriety checkpoint text message alerts, visit civilized.com.

Wakonda Heritage Manor hosts annual festival Nov. 8

WAKONDA — Wakonda Heritage Manor will host its annual Fall Festival on Sunday, Nov. 8, running from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lunch will be available with a free will donation. Vendor and craft booths will be on hand. The event will also feature a bake sale, raffle drawing for handmade quilt and a \$100 beef bundle drawing. Raffle tickets may be purchased from Manor employees or the activity office.

For more information, contact Kim Slemm at 605-267-2081 or kslemm@shhservices.com.

Now is the time to rein in federal spending

By Senator John Thune

A year ago our country was in the midst of a serious crisis. There was a very real danger credit markets would freeze and the economy would grind to a halt, affecting families and businesses across South Dakota and the country. Faced with this threat, Congress passed the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), which was designed and proposed as a measure to help failing banks get toxic assets off their books while they regained their financial footing. Unfortunately, TARP was subsequently used by the Treasury Department to acquire extensive ownership interests in private businesses. While \$700 billion was provided by Congress over a year ago for TARP, roughly \$300 remains unspent.

Earlier this week, the President announced a new program to inject TARP funds into healthy, smaller banks. Eligible banks must satisfy Treasury officials with their plan to extend credit to small businesses before receiving any funding. While

expanding access to credit for small businesses is important, a growing number of individuals and organizations are echoing my call to allow TARP authority to expire on Dec. 31 versus being extended by the Obama Administration until next fall.

While this new proposal to use billions in unspent TARP money may sound like a good deal for small banks and small businesses, we witnessed how injecting capital into healthy banks through the Capital Purchase Program did not translate into more lending. Without more details on the program, it is difficult to see how Treasury will force banks to lend TARP funds rather than holding those funds to strengthen their books. There's also the risk that if Treasury is indeed dictating lending requirements, their stipulations may be politically motivated rather than financially motivated.

A recent report by the

GUEST COMMENTARY

Government Accountability Office (GAO) raised issues regarding the effectiveness of TARP. In fact, the GAO auditors concluded that any stabilization in the financial markets that could be attributed to TARP may have been due to a number of other factors unrelated to this program. Additionally of concern to the American taxpayer is the fact that the TARP Inspector General has stated that it is unlikely that the taxpayer will even see half of what has been invested through TARP.

With an all time record \$1.4 trillion budget shortfall that the federal government recorded this past year, not to mention the staggering \$9 trillion that is expected to be added to our national debt over the next 10 years, we should be looking for every possible way to reduce spending and the dangerous amount of borrowing that is being passed along to future generations. In addition to

pursing common sense cost saving when it comes to the continued increases in federal spending, we should allow TARP authority to expire on December 31st and use the roughly \$300 billion in remaining funds to reduce our ballooning debt. Once the Administration has allowed the TARP authority to expire, it should lay out a plan to sell its stake in these private companies. The plan should allow some flexibility so the Treasury Department can divest these assets prudently. But there needs to be an aggressive timeline so that we can get out of these businesses as soon as possible.

In addition to legislation that I introduced earlier this year, the "Government Ownership Exit Plan", which would ensure that the federal government sells its ownership stake within a reasonable time frame — I am also pursuing other ways to reduce federal spending out of concern for the very real problems that we face when it comes to our nation's economic outlook.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Beginning November 1, 2009, and continuing through April 15, 2010, the odd/even parking regulations will be in effect on all north and south streets between Plum and Dakota and on east and west streets between Main and Clark.

On odd days of the month, no parking is allowed on north and south streets between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. On even days of the month, no parking is allowed on east and west streets between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.

For more information, please call 677-7078.

Water Rules Hearing Slated For Pierre Nov. 6

PIERRE — A public hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at the Matthew's Training Center, Foss Building in Pierre, at 523 East Capitol Ave., adjacent to the Capitol Building to consider amendments to administrative rules 74:05:05:16 and 74:05:05:20.

The effect of the rules will be to amend the director areas of the East Dakota Water Development District and the James River Water Development District.

The reasons for amending the rules are to reflect the changes to the districts approved during the 2008 and 2009 Legislative Sessions.

Persons interested in commenting on the proposed amendments may do so by appearing in person or by presenting written comments at the hearing. Written comments may be mailed to the Board of Water and Natural Resources,

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501. Written comments mailed to the Board must be received by close of business on Nov. 5.

After the hearing, the board will consider all written and oral comments received on the proposed rules. The board may modify or amend a proposed rule at that time to include or exclude matters that are described in this notice.

The proposed rules may be accessed on the DENR Web page at: <http://denr.sd.gov/dfta/wp/wdrulesrevision09rev.pdf>, or copies may be obtained without charge from the following address: South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501-3181.

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