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(S.D.)-Company Says It Has Secured Silica Mine Claims



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/20/2013 07:01 AM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - A South Dakota-based company says it has secured silica sand mining claims in three Black Hills counties.

Cambrian Enterprises' claims are mined, South Dakota will be the westernmost producer of silica sands in the U.S. It would also be the closest to the nation's largest silica sand consumers, the Bakken and Three Forks oil fields.

Silica sands are used in hydraulic fracturing, in which combinations of water, minerals and chemicals are pumped into shale oil and gas formations at high pressure.

Cambrian Enterprises says it has secured more than 600 acres of claims in Custer, Lawrence and Pennington counties.

Co-owner David Ganje says the company has been researching and reviewing the potential in western South Dakota for roughly a year.