

RESOLUTION 2020-01

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of South Dakota has declared a state of emergency within the State of South Dakota due to the COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, numerous governmental entities and business organizations in the Black Hills region of South Dakota, including the City of Rapid City, the Butte County Commission and the Deadwood Gaming Association, have mandated or adopted recommendations for business closure, travel restrictions and other practices intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, SDSTA management has adopted a multi-level preparedness plan to address weather and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, until recently, a large majority of COVID-19 cases detected in South Dakota were traced back to persons who had recently traveled out of state; and

WHEREAS, as of the morning of March 24, 2020, there are no active reported COVID-19 cases in the Black Hills region of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the experimental and construction activities currently underway at Sanford Underground Research Facility involve significant numbers of persons coming from outside South Dakota on a steady basis, including some persons coming from areas with significant numbers of COVID-19 cases, thus increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in an Executive Order issued on March 23, 2020, the Governor of South Dakota encouraged employers to “implement the recommended CDC hygiene practices and other business strategies designed to reduce the likelihood of spreading [COVID-19]”; and

WHEREAS, given the nature of the activities underway at Sanford Underground Research Facility, including but not limited to the significant number of persons coming from outside of the local area, including from areas with significant outbreaks of COVID-19, management and the Board of Directors believe the best means to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19 is to reduce operations at Sanford Underground Research Facility to a minimum essential level consistent with Level 3 of the SDSTA emergency preparedness plan; and

WHEREAS, the safety of all persons visiting or working at Sanford Underground Research Facility and the surrounding community is of the utmost importance;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to immediately implement an orderly and prompt transition to minimal essential operations at Sanford Underground

Research Facility, with the state of minimal essential operations to continue a minimum of two calendar weeks from the date of this Resolution;

2. Upon expiration of the minimum two-week period of minimal essential operations, the Executive Director is authorized, as circumstances warrant, to continue or modify the state of minimal essential operations or to transition to a return to normal operations; and
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted at a meeting held on March 25, 2020, at which at least four members of the Board of Directors were present by the following vote: Ayes: _____; Nays: _____

Secretary