

January 17, 2017

Kyle Wendtland, Administrator  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Land Quality Division  
200 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: Objection to Brook Mining Co., LLC Permit

Mr. Wendtland,

My name is Anton Bocek and I own property and live in the area that will be affected by the Ramaco Brook Mine. I am also a partner in my family farm that is adjacent to my home. While I am not opposed to coal mines, as my father was a coal miner as well as myself, I do have concerns and unanswered questions about the proposed mine.

First and foremost are my concerns of the two aforementioned properties. My domestic water well and building foundations as well as the well and foundations on the family farm, including a barn with a rock foundation of close to 100 years old, could certainly be affected by mine blasting operations. Previous mining at Big Horn Coal resulted in foundation and well damage resulting in the drilling of new water wells. Other areas of immediate concern would be the affects on air quality, noise, pollution, and light problems from night mining.

Other questions, some of which have not been addressed in the mine plan are:

- Where is the coal going to be processed?
- Who is the coal being shipped to?

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- Where is the load out facility?
- If State Highways are being used by haul trucks, who will pay for the added damage caused by the additional weight, pounding the pavement? We, as taxpayers, don't need an additional cost out of our pockets caused by mining operations.

The area in the proposed mine sight is also very readily used for family outings. What will happen to the Kleenburn Recreation Area? What impact will mining have on this reclaimed recreation area? There are large sections of walk in areas that are in the mine plan. What effects will there be to these popular areas for family outings? When wetlands are destroyed due to construction or "progress", new ones are developed. Will new walk in recreation areas be developed somewhere else?

What problems are we going to see in the water quality in the Tongue River and Big Goose Rivers? Drainage from Slater Creek and the Hidden Water area can be quite severe during Spring runoff and any sudden summer down pours. Is the mine plan prepared for such events so that our water quality for irrigation, stock water, aquatic life, and recreation is not severely affected? Where will all of the water be pumped to out of the new mine shafts?

At present the land being offered for reclamation or subsidence is a little more than \$300,000.00, hardly enough to begin any major reclamation projects. Subsidence is still an ongoing problem after mining stopped 70 to 80 years ago. How is this mining going to guarantee nonexistence of subsidence? Every year new sinkholes appear in the old mining areas.

Does the mine plan include fire suppression for the coal being stockpiled outside as well as fires that will arise when mining activities cut into the old mine shafts, many of which are still smoldering underground?

With these concerns and many unanswered questions, I would like to reserve my right to request an informal conference with the DEQ Director to address these issues. It seems that anew company would indulge all plans and not have those of

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us in the mine area wondering why we don't know what is in store for the area in which we and our families live and enjoy the quality of life we now have.

Thank you,

Anton Bocek



11 Slater Creek Lane

Ranchester, Wyoming 82839

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