

Jan. 14, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Wendtland

I am writing in regards to the public notice concerning the proposed permit for the Ramaco Brook Coal Mine; and more specifically, I am writing in opposition to the entire proposal, mine plan, permitting, and any sort of subsequent Ramaco development in the area. As a person who enjoys the public state land access and floats and fishes the stretch of the Tongue River that runs directly through the proposed mining grounds, I am concerned about the impacts this mine will have to air, water, wildlife, landowners, the aesthetic beauty and environmental health of the area. I believe this mine would be both a public nuisance and pose a hazard to the health and safety of landowners and users.

Additionally, having read the mine plan, I think more questions are raised than answered throughout about the development and reclamation of the mine. Where exactly and how many structures and facilities will be built in the area? How and where will the trenches be placed along the mine? Will they be visible from the interstate? How will coal be removed and transported from the mine and what sort of structures or cleared areas must be constructed in order for that to be possible? How much production is going to be financially viable while maintaining the integrity of labor- and environmentally-conscious practices? Is the reclamation bond of \$300,000 really enough to reclaim almost 10 miles of mining and its other effects? According to the mine plan, the hope is to work up from 500,000 short tons of production per year starting in 2017, and I'm struggling to imagine the impact of mining and trucking millions of tons of coal EVERY YEAR from the mine along the Sheridan County public roads. (The mine applicant claims its maximum production capacity is 8 million s/t per year according to a September 2016 article in S&P Global online). The noise, light, and air pollution alone from the mining operation and trucks would frankly be appalling. This is a serious impact to public health and safety and also represents a public nuisance those living and travelling through the area.

Secondly, if you've ever been to this area in the spring, you know that about a 2 mile stretch in between Monarch and Acme along the Tongue River turns into a giant, swampy floodplain every year. During the first years of development of the mine, it virtually comes into contact with both the Tongue and Goose Rivers in that area and I do not believe the effects on the surface water have been adequately addressed in the mine plan. "The impacts to surface water at the Brook Mine will be considerably less than those of a conventional surface, or strip, mine in the Powder River Basin" – from my own research into Powder River Basin mining, that is not saying much nor is this statement supported by any data regarding runoff, sediment and particulate pollution, or chemical analysis of either area (MP-41). Also, if you've spent time roaming the old mining areas near Acme and Monarch, you'll notice significance subsidence from these historical

mining quests, as well as old coal seams exposed to air that continually burn. The impacts of these mines are in some cases 60, 70, or 80 years old – I find it worrying to think of the effects of the Brook Mine 60 years down the line. Subsidence, flooding and chemical runoff, and coal seam exposure caused by mining operations pose threat to public health and safety; pollute and misshape the natural habitat, air, and water in the area; and leave lasting effects that many times are unable to be addressed through reclamation or are simply ignored by mining companies and regulatory agencies.

In conclusion, coal mines are unsustainable and becoming obsolete. They're dirty; they're ugly to look at; they're noisy; they're dangerous; and they have a limited lifespan. They are a threat to human safety and well-being on a global scale. We live in a world where climate change caused through the use of fossil fuels is a huge looming threat to my generation and is one that my generation will undoubtedly have to deal with. I urge you to look for economic opportunities instead in renewable energy and in appreciation of the undisturbed land, water, and air. I request an informal conference to address my concerns about the Brook Mine because it creates a public nuisance to citizens and visitors to Sheridan County and poses a threat to human health and safety of those who live in and use the area. Thank you for your attention and consideration of my comments. I look forward to your response.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sadie Clarendon".

Sadie Clarendon  
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