

8 July 2006

Department of Environmental Quality  
Rick Chancellor, Administrator of Land Quality  
Herschler Building  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002



Re: Proposed Mining Permit at Wyute Pit, Section 14, Township 21 North, Range 88 West, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming.

Adjacent property owners: Andrew and Sonja Sparks

Description of property: W1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, Township 21 North, Range 88 West

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

As land owners adjacent to this proposed mine, we are very concerned about the environmental and economic impact on our land.

**Water Availability:**

WWC Engineering has conducted water testing at our home. We do not know the results of this testing. We do know that our water already depletes rapidly (within ½ hour of outdoor watering) and then takes some time to recover. If further, deeper blasting is allowed to access the limestone, and it affects the aquifer that our well is tapped in to, how will we be compensated? Will someone be responsible for supplying us water? Additionally, the permit request calls for the drilling of a water well. They plan to remove enough water for day to day operations including dust control. An average water truck used on road construction for dust suppression holds approximately 3.2 mega-gallons of water. How will that affect our water availability?

**Seismic Activity:**

We received a letter of notice from McMurry Ready Mix that they would be blasting. The letter stated that seismic tests were conducted and that they deemed that anyone outside ½ mile of the blasting area would not be affected. They, therefore, feel that foundation inspections are not necessary. We are feeling the vibrations of their current blasting. This blasting is close to the surface, and is for sand and gravel. The proposed permit (for limestone) will require stronger blasting material and will penetrate deeper. Will this affect a larger perimeter? How extensive was the seismic testing? If foundation inspections are not done, what recourse will we have if we find damage later?

**Air and Water Quality:**

We understand that some testing was done regarding this. There is already a large amount of dust accumulation in our home. McMurry is doing some watering and some of the dust is settled for the current traffic level, BUT what about higher volumes of traffic? What about dust from blasting? What about chemicals getting into the air and water from the blasting material? How will we be protected if our water gets contaminated? How are we protected from the airborne contaminants?

**Aesthetics and Land Valuation:**

Right now, McMurry has minimal operations going. Last winter they conducted a much larger operation, with several trailers, several large pieces of equipment, and large lights to illuminate early morning and evening work. If they are allowed a full mining permit, how much of this will we be subjected to? Additionally, if they start taking out large areas of the hill, we will be looking at a rock quarry, not a hillside. They say that reclamation will be done. When? In fifty years, when mining operations cease? The Wyute Pit was mined in the past. No reclamation has yet been done in that area.

**Wind Protection:**

We live in a very windy area. We get a small amount of protection from the hills. What will happen when those hills are gone?

**Wildlife, Livestock, and Pets:**

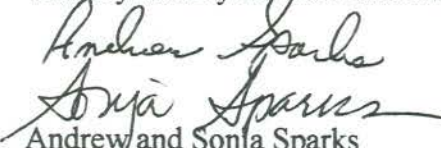
What about the protection of our livestock, pets, and the pronghorn and other wildlife that live in and wander through this area?

We have spoken to representatives from McMurry Ready Mix and feel that they are not being completely forthcoming regarding their intent. They say that they will most likely not mine the limestone and that they will not mine as far east as their permit request shows. If this is true, why do they need a full mining permit and why are they including such a large area?

How can they predict/ensure that their operations will not affect our water, air, and in general, our quality of life?

We want to ensure that we and our property are protected and that we have recourse if adversely affected in any way by these operations, should they be allowed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

  
Andrew and Sonja Sparks  
PO Box 1391  
Rawlins, WY 82301



pc: McMurry Ready Mix, Mr. Ron McMurry, Owner/Principal  
WWC Engineering, Ms. Beth Heesen, P.G.  
Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, Mr. Mark Storzer, Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, Mr. Mark Newman