



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

Wyoming Department of Transportation

"Providing a safe, high quality, and efficient transportation system"



John F. Cox
Director

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BLM Cody Field Office
1002 Blackburn Street
Cody, WY. 82414

RE: Wilson Brothers Construction Proposed Mining Plan

Dear Ms. Hurley:

Wyoming Department of Transportation would like to respond to Wilson Brothers Construction's proposed plan for mining bentonite in the south fork area. The Department of Transportation has concerns with the added truck traffic that the mine will generate and how this will impact highway WYO 291. This highway is built to our secondary standards and is not built to handle commercial truck traffic. Part of the time that the trucks will be running will be during the winter when the roadway and subgrade are frozen and this should not create a lot of issues but during the fall and especially during the spring thaw the department fears the roadway may not be able to handle the truck traffic. The department feels that we need to plan on adding some additional surfacing thickness to the section of WYO 291 that will have this additional truck traffic on it. It will take 2 to 3 years to get a project into our improvement program.

If Wilson Brothers proposal is approved WYDOT will need to closely monitor the roadway condition and we may have to institute load limits until such time as WYDOT can get a project designed and constructed to carry this additional truck traffic. Thank you for allowing the Department of Transportation a chance to comment on this proposal .

Sincerely:

Ronald R. Huff, P.E.
District Maintenance Engineer

Cc: Road Section File