

EXHIBIT E

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
STATE OF WYOMING

In re Brook Mining Co., LLC coal mine)	
permit – PT0841)	
)	EQC Docket No. 20-4802
)	
)	

DECLARATION OF JOANNE WESTBROOK

I, Joanne Westbrook, declare as follows:

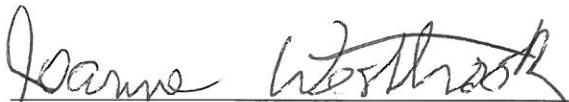
1. I am a member of the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC). I have been a member of PRBRC since 2016. As a member, I give a donation to the organization each year to renew my membership.
2. I joined PRBRC and am a member because of the organization’s work to address impacts from the Brook Mine. I appreciate being represented by the organization because I personally do not have the money, time, or expertise to personally get involved in legal proceedings like this one.
3. My family owns a ranch up on Slater Creek Road, which is one of the roads in the permit area. My family moved to the ranch in the 1940s and have been here ever since. We travel the road basically every day all year around.
4. It is my understanding that normally there is a buffer around roads like Slater Creek in the permit or there is a plan to re-locate the road. This is concerning to me because I have raised questions about this and no one has answered my questions. There’s nothing written out in the permit application or DEQ’s decision on the permit that's specified as to what might

happen with that road, who would pay for it, anything about the conditions of the road, or anything of that sort.

5. Since this is the road I take practically every day because it is the road I have to take to get to my family's place, I have a right to be a part of the conversation about what will happen to the road, especially if it gets re-located later on when the company starts mining in that area.
6. I'm also concerned about the proposed water usage of the mine, around 300,000 gallons a day, as it is not specified where they're going to get that water. How it's going to be provided is not specified in that permit. It's very important that usage not be allowed to affect the stock water or the wells in the area, like the wells on our family ranch, or the quality of the water in the Tongue River.
7. And I'm concerned about the recreation areas, how would they be replaced if they're affected. Would they be replaced? Would we just lose those? Based on what I have seen of the maps provided by the mine, most of the recreation areas overlap with the highwall mining areas. Why permit those highwall mining areas now when there isn't enough information about subsidence? Why not wait until we have the information and that will help keep those recreation areas open.
8. In reading DEQ's response to the comments I brought up at the informal conference and the comments of other landowners and PRBRC, DEQ said they will require information later on from the mine to analyze subsidence. But then DEQ says there won't be a public comment opportunity to give comments about that new information. As I've been talking about, if there is subsidence on or near Slater Creek Road, that would likely prevent me from getting to my family's place. Subsidence could also create other damage to the land or water resources of the area, impacting me and my family.

9. I back PRBRC's efforts to raise this challenge before the EQC. I especially support the organization's efforts to get more information in the permit application about the traffic plan and use of the roads. We really need to see it spelled out in a way that's decent for the environment and decent for the people and fair.
10. I also back any efforts by PRBRC to protect the rights of landowners like me to comment on future information provided by the mine, especially something as important as how to prevent subsidence.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that this declaration was executed in Sheridan County, Wyoming on Oct 15, 2020, 2020.


Joanne Westbook