

**Comments by Margaret Rogers on Dave's mining permit.  
Before the Enviromental Quality Council of Wyoming. Docket no. 04-4800**

To whom it may concern,

We are here today to look at the merits of a permit for Dave Long to operate a gravel pit on his land that starts at a junction of Smith Road and Park Street and runs North. This doesn't seem like such a big thing on the surface. That is until you look at all the things that go into making up a community.

First we have Dave wanting to use his land in any manner he wishes to make a living and to leave a business and a legacy to his children. Very admirable one would say.

On the other hand we have all the families living and owning land in the area adjacent to Dave's land. Most of them have lived there far longer than Dave has owned his land. These people may also wish to leave something to their children or maybe use the increased value of their property to help pay for their own care in their old age in order that they not become burdens to their children or have to go on welfare. This is also very admirable.

These people object to the noise and dust from the crusher. People who sleep days and work nights find their rest interrupted. This makes them less productive and safe on the job and off. Houses don't stay as clean, people with respiratory problems have serious problems breathing. The perpetual pounding noise of the crusher slowly eats away at the calm that previously made their homes havens against the pressures of the outside world.

House lined rural roads and city streets that are too narrow and not built for heavy truck traffic are a danger to pedestrians and other vehicles. Do we have to have a child die before anyone considers that the children on bikes, going too and from the ball parks on Smith Road, lack the experience to judge the speed of these vehicles? They also get to visiting with friends and fail to be as careful as they should be. They have no concept of the distance it takes to stop a large heavily loaded vehicle even at lower speeds.

Once a gravel pit in this area was not a problem as there were few residences in the area and none down wind from the operation. This is now not the case. There are over a hundred homes affected and one housing development down wind complete with domestic wells that are quite shallow and vulnerable to contamination.

It would not be fair to tell Dave he cannot operate at all but by the same time it is unthinkable to expect the residents in the area to give up everything either.

There is a true health and safety issue here as well as a monetary impact for all persons concerned. We must work together to keep this a true community and I mean the whole town and the County as part of that community rather than small factions fighting and pointing fingers at one another.

Each needs to be able to use their land as they wish up to the point that it starts to impact the health, safety and financial assets of their neighbors. When this happens then it is time to rethink the whole process. Does the offender need to change the mode of operation, which can be prohibitively costly? Or if they are the last one to enter this area of the community should they be asked to change the way they use the land completely?

What about shorter working hours for the crusher with additional noise and dirt suppressing modifications, monitoring water wells east of Smith Road and no truck traffic on Park Street? What about planting large spruce and pine tree wind breaks as a dirt and sound barrier on the east and west sides of this acreage. Would the county be willing to start widening and increasing the weight bearing limits of Smith and Webbwood Roads in order to make them safer?

I now have a question of the commissioners who will make the final decision on this issue. Have any of you visited this area, driven the roads and really seen what has been developed here. Or have you just read one firms application, glad it isn't in your back yard, and given no consideration to what kind of impact it will have on the health and welfare of the other people in the area?

Respectfully,  
Margaret Rogers