

ARRIVED AFTER COMMENT PERIOD ENDED. CB 2/21/2014

Department of Environmental Quality
Land Quality Division

To whom it may concern,

As the adjacent neighbor directly to the west of the proposed gravel pit located between 2 AB and 2ABN in Cody Wyoming, I would like to address some concerns before the final OK is given by the DEQ. \

I have a chronic case of asthma which is severely exacerbated by dust. There are no plans to ameliorate the dust coming from an east wind by planting a wind break to protect the property to the west of the proposed gravel pit. Also some sort of barrier needs to be established to block the sound coming from both rock separation and rock crushing. There has been an illegally operating small gravel pit about three times the distance from my house which when the digging and separating was going on made it impossible to read or hear normal conversation. That is certainly an environmental issue that needs to be addressed that hasn't been to this point.

Secondly for 65 years this property has been used as productive farmland. We can ill afford to take agricultural land out of production when it is so difficult in this state to find land to replace it.

Usage of irrigation water must be prohibited for usage by this gravel mining effort since insufficient water is always an issue in the heart mountain irrigation district. Though it is now illegal to use that water, there are efforts afoot to allow that to take place. Wells must be the source of water to try and keep the dust down, although dust abatement can't come for watering alone.

We have ducks and Canadian geese as well as sand hill cranes who use the property when it is now being used as agricultural land. If it is converted to gravel mining those birds will have to find other places to use. There is also a herd of about 50 deer who are using the property for winter feed who will be displaced by this proposed gravel mine.

The noise and dust from this gravel pit located at the beginning of this business and industrial park along Road 2 AB will have a negative impact on the new pharmaceutical building (funded by a loan from the State of Wyoming) as well as other businesses who might otherwise be attracted to this area. We can hear band music from town, since the town of Cody and the gravel pit location are in a canyon. A better location is a must unless they can wall off the sound.

Finally, this gravel pit will be placed on land that is near the road that welcomes all tourist travel from the North East Entrance to Yellowstone park via the Chief Joseph Highway. What an environmental statement that is for our money that is being spent to bring the visitors to our beautiful state. For all these reasons we urge you not too allow this gravel mine to open.

Sincerely,

David and Helen Robretson,
32 Rd 2 ABN, Cody, WY 82414