

200 Main  
Hanna, Wyoming  
March 16, 1982



Land Quality Div. of Environmental Quality  
Equality State Bank Bldg.  
401 West 19th St.  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Sir:

In regard to making a complaint on the proposed new strip mine west of Hanna, it should be obvious to anyone but the most calloused that mining operations within one-half mile of people's doorsteps should be completely off limits. It is not necessary with all the coal in the Hanna Basin and the state of Wyoming and with 46 million tons of reserve coal in their laid off mine. It would violate all human standards to allow this.

The Energy Development has demonstrated a complete disregard for the people living in old Hanna. Most of their workers were located away from the dust they created and we old timers whose roots go back to 1890, the very beginning of Hanna and Wyoming as a state, have taken the brunt. We own our home and land and have lived here for 68 years.

We have a prevailing west and southwest wind here and they located a cement plant and loading dump for their coal on the west limits of town with all the dust blowing in this direction. In January of 1981 they started hauling coal from Walden and for the past 15 months we have endured their 27-ton trucks passing ten feet from the side of our house causing cracks in our walls, killing our trees and turning our home into a gas and dust chamber. The noise is nerve shattering. The diesel fumes and dust did not settle before another truck appeared, and when wet, splattering the house and fence with mud.

Surely you have some compassion for the like of us. The explosive blasts are horrendous. We watched a blast a short distance from Hanna - the burning debris from the blast was scattered in all directions for a half mile or more setting fire to the surrounding sagebrush - just think what that could do to a town. The proposed mine will be located west of Hanna and all the debris would be in this direction.

If they are allowed to mine anywhere near Hanna, they should not be allowed to use the Hanna streets for their coal haulage operations.

"Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you". The people who make this decision would never allow this operation by their own homes. We are being asked to say, "By all means, you have our permission to destroy our home and pollute the air so we can scarcely breathe". Our answer is, "No, we strenuously object to this operation". We have endured this for 12 years. Our golden years have been turned into a nightmare.

Sincerely yours,

*Carl H. Erickson*

*Mr. Carl H. Erickson*

P.S. The notice from the company states, "The proposed operation is scheduled to begin April 1982." Is this a foregone conclusion, that calling for objections is just a formality, and that we are already considered expendable?