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April 6, 2015

Administrator, DEQ/AQD  
Herschler Building 2-E  
122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002



Via fax: 307-777-5616 and U.S. Mail

Dear Administrator:

Please accept my comments in support of the proposed changes to Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, Chapter 8, governing oil and gas operations in the Upper Green River Basin. As a retired Wyoming physician and resident of the state, I strongly urge you to adopt the proposed changes. The changes are needed to protect human health from harmful air pollutants, particularly ozone.

As you know, air quality in the Basin, particularly around Pinedale, has deteriorated from expanded oil and gas development. Emissions from oil and gas operations have caused the area to experience high levels of ozone pollution. In fact, exceedances of federal health-based air pollution standards for ozone have led to a “nonattainment” designation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ozone pollution is a major risk to human health. Ozone causes respiratory harm, is linked to cardiovascular harm and premature death, and may cause central nervous system and reproductive and developmental harm. Ozone is also associated with increased incidence of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for asthma and respiratory disease, which finding has been replicated in Sublette County. *See, Pride, K., Peel, J., Robinson, B., Busacker, A., Grandpre, J., Yip, F., Murphy, T. Associations of Short-Term Exposure to Ground-Level Ozone and Respiratory Outpatient Clinic Visits in a Rural*

Location — Sublette County, Wyoming, 2008–2011. *Environmental Research* 137(2015)1–7.

While even healthy adults experience adverse symptoms from ozone pollution, certain groups of people are particularly vulnerable, including children and teens, anyone 65 and older, people with existing lung diseases and cardiovascular disease, and people who work or exercise outdoors. Reducing ozone pollution is an important public health issue. The stronger and more comprehensive these rules are in achieving the desired emissions reductions, the more human health will benefit.

I close by observing that oil and gas development is expanding throughout the state, yet the sort of reasonable protections under consideration for the Upper Green River Basin do not apply elsewhere in the state. To better protect the health of all Wyoming citizens, I urge you to build on the strengths of the Pinedale rulemaking by developing air quality protections for oil and gas development statewide.

Thank you for your efforts to address this very important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric J. Wedell".

Eric Wedell, MD, FACP, FACE  
Retired Endocrinologist  
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