January 13, 2017

Kyle Wendtland, Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

Land Quality Division

200 West 17th Street

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: Objections to Brook Mining Co., LLC Permit

Mr. Wendtland,

I am part owner of property consisting of farm land, including a rock foundation barn, out buildings, a root cellar and a residence located nearby the proposed site of the Ramaco Brook Mine. This property has been in the family for 97 years. My father was a coal miner for 42 years, both underground and in the strip mines. I am not opposed to mining, coal, etc., but I am concerned that there are no answers to questions the landowners have.

I am concerned about the impacts of this mine to our property, specifically the foundation of the home and the rock foundation of the 97 year old barn. The change in the air quality and overall quality of life concerns me and my family. I am concerned about the surface and groundwater, not only the private wells, but also the irrigation water that could be contaminated by contaminating the streams and the Tongue River. Slater Creek does empty into the Tongue River and especially in the spring with all of the runoff or during a heavy rain storm.

My main concern is that a permit, if issued, will be incomplete due to the following reasons:

- Lack of maps showing where facilities, roads and other infrastructure will be located in relation to the permit boundary and surrounding property.

- Blasting concerns me as to what the impacts on our property, water wells, and especially the building foundations might be. Historically, blasting in the area for coal mining has damaged water wells that the mine doing the blasting had to replace.

- The proposed site is not only located along a historic route, but is near I-90, an interstate highway. I believe the blasting could pose problems for the interstate foundation and for the structures, such as the concrete-steel bridges. How will the blasting dust affect the interstate and the secondary highway? What affect on air quality and the health of the residents has been taken into consideration?

- There is no definition on how or where the coal is to be loaded. If trucks will be used, how many are planned? Where will the coal be shipped to? Who are the customers? Will trains be involved? What is the company doing to mitigate impacts to neighboring landowners from the added noise and lights?

- What route will the coal be hauled on once loaded if trucks are used? Will it be the secondary highway paralleling the interstate? How will this affect the pavement and who will be responsible to keep the repairs up. Historically trucks were used at a mine on a paved road going to the Ash Creek mines and the roads were left in horrible condition. Huge chuck holes were in abundance with no one claiming responsibility and part of the road was the county road. As we use the area roads to get to and from our ranch, we are concerned that some of the main traffic avenues will be impacted.

- Due to the amount of trucks, which is not identified, what kind of impact will that have on the traffic on the secondary road?

- The proposed bond of $371,957 is extremely low in comparison to similar bonds for mining operations which vary but start around $20 million. This low bond

concerns me because it wouldn't cover reclamation or remediating damage from subsidence, much less landowner concerns. What guarantee is in place to make sure reclamation takes place? What guarantee is there that a claim of bankruptcy won't happen and risk those of us taxpayers left holding the bill especially with such a low bond proposed? I am especially concerned about this risk given the company's unproven history and the down market conditions the coal industry is facing.

- The site of the proposed mine is along a historical route. There are already historic areas of subsidence from the historic coal mining. Some areas still have underground burning. Areas of subsidence have been detrimental to ranchers, cattle and other animals as well as farm equipment. I do not believe the permit has procedures identified to prevent a public nuisance or to prevent endangering public health or public safety.

- State lands and some landowners offer walk in hunting for various game birds and animals. Safety for the animals and the hunters does not seem to be a concern as the proposed site borders state land as well. The mining operation will also likely curtail the public's access to these areas.

- Water rights were established many years ago. What impact will this proposed mine have on water or irrigation? What dangerous contaminants will be flowing into the Tongue River and its creeks that feed into it? The contaminants will have an affect on wildlife including fish, cattle, irrigation and recreational use.

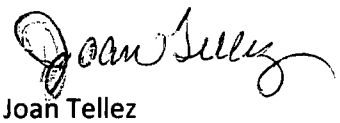
- Who is the mine operator? Who is the main contact person for the mine?

- What is the history of the mine or its owner/owners?

- I feel as a landowner I have a right to an informal conference with the DEQ Director in an effort to address and and resolve my concerns. I would like to meet with Director, Todd Parfitt, to have an opportunity to air my concerns.

Please let me know when you will be in Sheridan so that we can meet. I look forward to our meeting.

Sincerely,



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