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Kyle Wendtland, Administrator
Department of Environment Quality
Land Quality Division
200 West 17th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

24 Jan 2017

Re: Ramaco Brook Mine

Mr. Wendtland,

I am writing regarding my concerns about Ramaco's proposed Brook Mine in Sheridan County. I live nearby in the old Saint Thomas Catholic Church in Monarch, and I do not feel that Ramaco's permit adequately addresses the impact that the mine will have on this area.

If you are not familiar with the old stone church, it was built in 1923 as a response to two other Catholic churches in the mining area which were intentionally burned to the ground. If you are interested in more history, I would gladly expound. I am the fifth generation of my family to live in Monarch, and I have delighted in learning as much as I can about the stone building and the community of Monarch.

In addition, I worked in a coal mine for over a decade. This makes me appreciate the history of this "Black Diamond" area that may be effected by the Brook Mine. It also makes me knowledgeable about the impact that the mine will have on me and my neighbors.

With that background, I join my neighbors in expressing concerns about the impact that blasting will have on our structures. Rather than just cracking foundations, blasting may well cause this entire stone structure to crumble. I have spent a great deal of time and money making improvements to it, and I am not aware of anything in Ramaco's proposal that addresses how they will monitor, control, or remedy such catastrophic consequences. In addition to being my residence, this building is a historic and stalward icon of the valley's heritage.

Of no less concern, Ramaco's proposal does not address various water issues. Dewatering plans, impact on the water shed's quality and quantity, impact on nearby wells and bodies of water are ignored. As caretaker of the Long property, I am concerned about how irrigation and livestock watering could be effected on their property as well. Again, monitoring, controlling, and remediating these issues must be confronted by Ramaco before the permit is granted.

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We also know nothing about how operations will be organized so as to clearly understand how we may be effected. What light and noise pollution will we need to endure and from where? Where will the roads be located? What types of equipment will be operated on those roads? How will dust suppression be handled? Will there be conveyor belts, load-outs, crushers, or other equipment that will cause exposure to coal dust? What are our risks for silicosis, Black Lung, and other diseases? These specifics must be communicated prior to initiating operations so that precautions can be taken to ensure our health and safety. Ramaco should demonstrate that they are aware of the dangers to the people, property, and ecosystems that will be effected. Ramaco should also prove they can provide prevention or surely it will not be able to act curatively.

These and other issues are ignored by Ramaco and cause me to object to the permit. I would like to request an informal conference with the Director of DEQ to address the incompleteness of Ramaco's permit.

Regards,



Brooke Collins

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