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Opposition slows permit process for new Wyoming coal mine

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Opposition from local landowners and a competing company is slowing down permitting for what would be the first major new coal mine in Wyoming in decades.

Lexington, Kentucky-based Ramaco plans to mine up to 8 million tons a year from the Brook Mine north of Sheridan. That's small for a Wyoming coal mine but a bold move considering U.S. coal production slumped to an almost 40-year low last year.

Some local landowners worry the Brook Mine could cause their wells to run dry and that blasting could destabilize their homes. Meanwhile, another company claims rights to mine the area.

Wyoming officials say they're weighing those concerns as they consider a permit for the mine.

Ramaco CEO Randall Atkins says activists are using a delay tactic to stall the project.

### WYOMING WEATHER-THE LATEST

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — Jackson Hole Mountain Resort will be closed through the weekend because of a power outage in the area and because of another winter storm that is expected Wednesday night.

Resort spokeswoman Anna Cole said Wednesday that all events scheduled at the resort this weekend are canceled, including Skijoring and Special Olympics competitions. The Jackson Hole News & Guide reports power could be out for a week.

A wind storm is suspected of downing 17 utility poles along the Moose-Wilson Road on Tuesday night, causing a major power outage in Teton County.

The resort's heavy equipment and some staff will be helping to clear snow so repair crews can put up temporary wooden poles.

Teton Village is not officially evacuated, but sheriff's Sgt. Matt Carr says it "is turning into a ghost town right now."

### CASPER ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — Officials in Casper have voted to end the city's electronic waste recycling program.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports that the City Council on Tuesday turned down a five-year contract with Colorado-based Electronic Recyclers International. Councilors cited costs and the availability of cheap space at the landfill where toxic materials are buried in their decision.

They say the city would spend about \$57,000 a year to dump electronics in the landfill, but solid waste division manager Cynthia Langston has estimated the cost to be significantly lower. She says the recycling program's cost was already covered by about \$28,000 in annual fees paid by residents for recycling electronics.

Ending the program will also affect other cities, such as Rawlins, that pay Casper to dispose of their residents' waste.

### YELLOWSTONE BISON SLAUGHTER

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Yellowstone National Park has started shipping hundreds of wild bison to slaughter for disease control as a quarantine facility that could help spare many of the animals sits empty because of a political dispute.