

August 19, 2017

Administrator, Land Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
Herschler Building, 122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Sirs,

I am herewith objecting to your issuance of a 20 year mining permit to Mullinax Concrete Service Co, Inc. on lands 11 miles west of Sheridan, Wyoming covered by the County's Gravel Quarry Permit Q-16-006.

Three matters are improper. First, the public notice concerning this permit is inaccurate and misleading. It gives no indication whatever that the term of your mining permit is to be 20 years. Interested persons who objected to the issuance by the County of a long-term Quarry permit in a heavily residential area were deprived of adequate information for an informed response. Carefully worded misinformation is not a permissible substitute for proper notice.

Secondly, your legal jurisdiction is separate from that of the County (the issuer of the Quarry permit), so your considerations should be addressed to the matters under your purview, specifically the environmental impact of the mine on the area. Naturally, environmental impacts include those on land, air, water and the people who use those resources. At the same rate of extraction that Mullinax is using in other gravel extraction operations, the entirety of the gravel in this Quarry can easily be extracted by them in a period of less than three (3) years. With an allowance for start-up and reclamation, their mining operations can be completed in a period of less than five (5) years. Given the highly residential and recreational character of the area, all of the environmental impacts are minimized by restricting the duration of mining operations in this particular location. Environmental considerations alone dictate that this permit have a term of no more than 4-5 years.

Thirdly, it is unacceptable for you to issue a permit under terms which are materially more burdensome on the neighbors and the environment than the terms of the underlying Quarry permit. A 20 year term is unacceptable and environmentally inexcusable.

In the event there remains additional material to be mined after the 4-5 year period, and if the public interest and environmental considerations at the time warrant it, then it will be an easy matter for Mullinax to obtain new permits or extensions from both entities (DEQ and County) for appropriate additional mining activities. Mullinax also has unlimited capability to store the extracted gravel in another location where the environmental and human impact is less severe.

While it is appropriate that more than one entity review the impacts of a quarry and mine, it is inappropriate to allow the use of those entities to subvert the primary responsibility of both of you which is to protect the interests of the public you serve and work for. The term of your permit should be shorter than that of the County, not longer.

Respectfully,



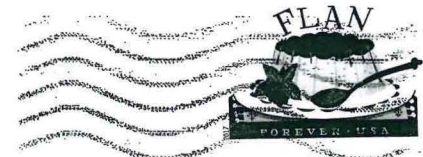
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