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



July 6, 2006

Subject: **FORMAL WRITTEN OBJECTION**
Regarding: McMurry Ready Mix Co. of Casper, WY
Proposed Mining in Carbon County

Dear Administrator,

Please consider this letter as my **Formal Written Objection** to the proposed mining in Carbon County by McMurry Ready Mix Co. of Casper, WY. Please consider this matter a contested case and I respectfully request a public hearing be held on the matter according to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act, W.S. ss.16-3-101 through ss. 16-3-115, and subsequent judicial review if required.

Our home is in the area west of the City of Rawlins city limits and east of the proposed mining site. We are in the wind pattern and on the downhill side of the mining area. This area will be greatly impacted by this mining operation. It is even likely that we will be shaken from our beds at night from the blasting.

There is so much open land area in WY, why does McMurry feel they need to put a gravel mine so close to a highly populated area? There is an abundance of gravel in WY. How about north of Rawlins where mining was done to extract the mineral / pigmentation needed for the color on the Golden Gate Bridge? How about anywhere further away from residential areas?

We would like to know why not ALL residents in the affected area were notified? We understand that notices were sent out to the residents within a one mile radius of the proposed mining operation only. However, as the wind carries the noise and the dust, and the water flows far underground, how is it that only people within a mile should be notified? Where did the one mile radius start or exist? We see the potential mining and blasting area from our windows, and we hear sounds from the west from miles away, not just one.

Many of the issues of great concern to local residents are:

The quality of our drinking water. This is an area of private wells. What will the mining, and the blasting do to our water quality? We have all heard the horror stories of what nearby mining has done to water qualities. Example, Gillette, WY.

The quantity of our water supplies. We are concerned that this mining and blasting will greatly affect the quantity of water we have available to us. It is not an endless supply. Residents of the area have had to go to varying depths to obtain potable or even useable water.

They are mining coal bed methane to the west of Rawlins. This affects the aquifers of our water tables in the region. Now what else happens to our aquifers if there is gravel mining and blasting right in our backyards? Will this affect the levels of the aquifers or the quality of our water? If so, will this mining company supply us with water....for as long and as much as we need? Will they build us water supply tanks and supply them with enough to drink, bathe, do laundry, water our lawns & trees, our livestock, etc?

Destruction of our air quality. We already have major dust problems in this area, and a gravel mine in our backyard will produce even more. How much can we breathe in and still have a healthy life?

Will the DEQ have dust monitors on the east side, of this operation? Or has it even been a concern to the BLM and have they asked the residents on the downwind side of this operation how they feel about more dust in the air we must breathe? Citizens of Rawlins have already expressed major discontent with the amount of dust blowing into Rawlins from the truck stops and interstate 80 traffic. How will they feel when they realize that dust particles produced by an additional mining operation will infiltrate even our hospital, which is only a few miles from the blasting sites? This is the only hospital in Carbon County and we are going to cover it with more dust?

Deflated property values. The residents of this area have worked very hard to set up our properties and make them as livable as possible in this land of dirt and sagebrush. If we add to this, nearby mining and noise blasting. We moved into the country, away from town, for peace, quiet, tranquility. We dug our wells, paid huge fees to obtain electricity, we built and we maintain our roads. Now McMurry wants to take our peace and quiet away from us? And tear down the hills and ridge that afford us just a little protection from the nasty west - southwest wind? We are indeed fortunate to have afforded to have our own little pieces of land, but what happens to our values when there are gravel mines next door?

These are just some of our concerns and we are sure that a public hearing will detail even further concerns. Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider this and the many other letters of concern you are or will receive and grant us at least the opportunity to be heard.

Thank You,



Gary and Carol Davis

