

EXHIBIT C

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
STATE OF WYOMING

In re Brook Mining Co., LLC coal mine)	
permit – PT0841)	
)	EQC Docket No. 20-4802
)	
)	

DECLARATION OF JOHN BUYOK

I, John Buyok, declare as follows:

1. My wife, Vanessa, and I are active members of the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC). We have been members of PRBRC since 2007. In spite of what Brook says, we give money every year to PRBRC to renew our membership. I attend the annual membership meeting when I can, which is limited to members in good standing.
2. My wife and I are members of PRBRC because the organization represents our interests in having a clean and healthful environment in northeastern Wyoming, including my interests in protecting our air quality, healthy soils and rangeland, and wildlife habitat. I support PRBRC efforts to protect Wyoming’s air, land, and water quality.
3. My wife and I are also members of PRBRC because the organization helps people like us raise our voice in complicated legal processes like this one. We can’t afford to hire a lawyer and experts and get involved directly ourselves, so we join and participate in PRBRC so we can band together with other members and represent our interests together.
4. I live at 86 Monarch Rd. in Sheridan County, Wyoming. Along with my wife Vanessa, I have lived at this property on and off and operated the ranch for over thirty-six years. My

grandfather moved to the land in 1919, so our family has been on the property for over a hundred years. My grandparents' farmhouse is still on the property.

5. My wife and I have made several improvements and investments in the property over the years, including building the current home we live in nineteen years ago, and our home and property is our primary family asset.
6. In addition to the monetary value of our property, my wife and I get tremendous personal value from our land. Our property is located in a really nice area. We really like it because it's scenic and it has a lot of wildlife resources. That's one of the reasons we put it in the land trust with the Sheridan Community Land Trust because we want to preserve the wildlife habitat.
7. My property neighbors Ramaco Carbon's iCam facility, and I can see the building that is being built from my property. I understand the iCam facility to be connected with the Brook Mine since from what I have read in the press and have heard at meetings, the Brook Mine is the sole source of coal for the iCam facility.
8. My property is on top of and adjacent to numerous old mine sites, including the Monarch Mines, Acme Mine, and the Armstrong Mine. I'm very familiar with coal mining because I used to work as a consultant for most of the mines in the Powder River Basin and Rock Springs area.
9. I personally have spent hundreds of hours looking through the mine permit, the maps, and other information over the years. The plans have changed, but I am still very concerned about the potential impacts to our quality of life if the mine goes forward.
10. I regularly travel on and move farm machinery on the state highway to and from Ranchester, and I am concerned that Brook hasn't included that road in its traffic plan. It doesn't seem

like the company has an agreement with WYDOT to use the road or to repair it if the heavy trucks cause damage. It also becomes much more dangerous to move slow farm machinery on the highway if there is heavy truck traffic.

11. I am also concerned about the blasting that will be done at the mine. One of the new trenches that's going to be opened up isn't very far away across the valley. It's less than a mile from my house and less than a half mile from my property. The alluvium in the Tongue River Valley transmits vibrations very well so I'm afraid that even if the blasting is relatively light because it's a smaller mine, there will be vibrations that cause more subsidence on the north side of the river. When the Big Horn Mine was in operation, we would occasionally have flyrock on our property from their blasting. This mine is three to three and a half miles closer than the Big Horn Mine was and so physical damage from blasting is also a concern.
12. Our property and our farming operations depend on water resources, including surface, underground and alluvial as we live on the Tongue River. Over the years, our family has spent thousands of dollars investing in our water supply systems for the home and farm. My wife and I worry that the mine could dewater our aquifers or impact our water wells because of blasting.
13. Blasting is also a concern for me because we have subsidence going on, basically continually because of all of the old mines in the area. We have new subsidence holes opening up every year, and I'm concerned that more vibration from blasting could cause more of those holes to open up. If they do, it's definitely a safety hazard for us, and it's also a safety hazard for the people that come out and use our conservation easement and walk-in area. We have a walk-in agreement with the Game & Fish Department, and so we have people out here hunting and it's open year-round for prairie dog hunting and other recreation activities. We have a lot of


people that come out here and walk their dogs or cross-country ski, bicycle ride, or other activities like that. We probably have hundreds of people come out every year. My wife and I are concerned about the safety of those people too. We would really hate to have to shut down the access if it became too unsafe to have people here.

14. As mentioned, subsidence is a real concern for me because I have lived with the impacts that it can cause to the land and to public safety. I'm concerned not only about the mine opening up historic subsidence areas, but also creating new ones. I've read Dr. Marino's reports throughout this proceeding and during the last hearing and it really concerns me that DEQ is letting Brook get a permit without doing the right subsidence evaluation before-hand.
15. What's worse, through its permit conditions, DEQ took away my right to comment and to work with PRBRC and any experts hired by the organization to comment on the subsidence analysis information that will be submitted later on. I would definitely want an ability to comment on this information because it is critical to how the company will be protecting public safety and the land in and around the permit area, which happens to include a lot of acreage used by the public for hunting and recreation.
16. The mine also concerns me because as I said above my wife and I live in the area for its scenic beauty. A big coal mine, haul trucks, and industrial buildings will detract from that beauty. Every day, I will live in a place less beautiful and my use and enjoyment of my property, my conservation easement area, and other recreation areas in the Valley will be affected.
17. I'm also concerned that the mine plan is still really vague and doesn't say what Brook is going to do, or even who is going to do be doing the mining. I've worked on and written parts of dozens of coal mine permit documents and this is the most incomplete document and

plan that I've ever seen. The application should give the people in the area a good idea of exactly what's going to be happening so we can assess what the impacts are going to be on our property. But this application seems to be to be more of a plan to make a plan. Some key details are missing.

18. I support PRBRC's challenge of the DEQ's decision to approve the coal mine permit for the Brook Mine. I believe that if PRBRC is successful in this case, my public participation rights will be upheld, and impacts to my property and the area I call home won't be as bad.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that this declaration was executed in Sheridan County, Wyoming on October 14, 2020.


John Buyok

