

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Land Quality Division
200 W. 17th Street. Suite 10
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Citizen Comments on Financial Assurance Rulemaking

February 8, 2019

These public comments have been compiled for submittal to the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council (EQC) for the Financial Assurance Rulemaking hearing on February 19, 2019.

First
Name: Sue

Last
Name: Spencer

Address: 9 State Highway 10

City: Jelm

Email: saspencer1910@gmail.com

Message: Dear EQC

I am writing to express my strong support for the new proposed rule that would promote strong and effective reclamation bond standards. We, the taxpayers, have been left holding the bag for too many industries that aren't finishing the job as they promised. They should not be allowed to reap all of the profits and walk away without cleaning up after themselves. Please help fix this problem!

First
Name: Norman

Last
Name: Lutter

Address: 1500 North Star Loop

City: Cheyenne, WY

Email: normlutter@gmail.com

Message: Thank you for accepting comments on the coal bonding program. I am very concerned about the potential liability for taxpayers from self-bonded coal companies (particularly the State of Wyoming). I ask that "self bonding" be removed from the options as big companies markets disappear and result in bankruptcy or near it. Their promise is worthless when they are filing for bankruptcy and management is only concerned with protecting their retirement benefits, buyouts, etc.

First Name: Alex
Last Name: Bowler
Address: P.O. Box 21097
City: Cheyenne
Email: nabowler@aol.com

Message: Given the recent past and probable bankruptcy occurring within the coal mining industry, and the scope of the funding required to reclaim surface mines, it is no longer acceptable for any coal mining company to self bond to cover the costs associated with reclamation. As a member of the Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition, as a landowner, and as a resident tax payer of Wyoming I support your efforts to eliminate self bonding as an option for coal mining companies.

First Name: Robert
Last Name: Strayer
Address: 719 so 22nd st
City: laramie
Email: strayer@q.com

Message: Thank you for accepting comments on the coal bonding program. It is and outrage that Wyoming Citizens should be left with the Billion dollar cost of reclaiming these coal mines. The Coal companies agreed to the contract with the state of Wyoming and should be held responsible for what they agreed to .

First Name: Emily
Last Name: Parsons
Address: 2124 Rainbow Ave
City: Laramie
Email: emily@tigertreeinc.com

Message: The too big to fail model needs updated. Thank you for taking on this valuable work to update the self-bonding rules. As a business owner in Wyoming I too wish I could self bond. As a citizen I'd prefer an agency to look farther into the future than the longevity of one company. Thanks!

First Name: Christy

Last Name: Gerrits

Address: 2410 Knollwood Dr

City: Gillette

Email: christygerrits@gmail.com

Message: I live in Gillette, Wy. The problem of Climate Change is an overarching problem for our world, our habitats, our wildlife and our health. We must work to bring the CO2 emissions down right now. That obviously spells the demise of the coal mines. Please help ensure that the reclamation bonds are secure to ensure reclamation of the mines. The reclamation work itself would provide work for our miners for at least a decade and help provide a transition to a world after coal mining.

First Name: Emily

Last Name: Nelson

Address: 825 Big Horn Ave

City: Sheridan

Email: enelson4@bresnan.net

Message: Thank you for taking comments. I am concerned that these self-bonded companies will leave the state holding the responsibility for cleaning up the messes they leave. I support the DEQ improving its regulations by closing loopholes to better protect the taxpayers.

First Name: Maria

Last Name: Katherman

Address: 797 Inez Rd

City: Inez

Email: redjacket12@hotmail.com

Message: I strongly support the proposed rules to eliminate "self-bonding" in the coal industry (& indeed all industries!) in Wyoming. I live in Converse County and we stand to be last in line in bankruptcy & never paid if these regulations are not adopted without being watered down!

It is also important that this money be paid upfront so that as the mining slows down there will be funds to pay for reclamation jobs, these will be vital for our community.

First Name: Joanna

Last Name: Taylor

Address: 601 Hemlock St

City: Buffalo

Email: jotaylr@tribcsp.com

Message: I support DEQ improving its regulations to close loopholes and better protect Wyoming taxpayers

First Name: Donna

Last Name: Angel

Address: 110 Ponderosa Trail

City: Cheyenne

Email: deangel43@yahoo.com

Message: Wyoming taxpayers need to be protected from the added costs of reclaiming the land due to coal mining companies and their unscrupulous use of loopholes in the regulations requiring reclamation. Please act to improve regulations regarding this matter. Thank you.

First Name: Edith

Last Name: Heyward

Address: 719 Emerson St

City: Sheridan

Email: EJHEYWARD@HOTMAIL.COM

Message: Reclamation is a key factor in diversifying and stabilizing Wyoming's economy. To fully reclaim all of the eligible disturbed acres will require many years of work, which will keep miners working right in their communities during downturns. Adequate bonding helps ensure that reclamation happens even if a company declares bankruptcy. The state should move forward with strong and effective reclamation bond standards.

First
Name: Zack

Last
Name: Houck

Address: P.O. Box 397

City: Story

Email: zkhatlas@yahoo.com

Message: This is a no brained, companies need to be responsible for the messes they make and need to be legally responsible for mine site cleanup! I support DEQ improving regulations to close loop holes and protect taxpayers