

## Comments to DEQ regarding Ramaco

- Data collected in the alluvial valley of the Tongue River was collected by WWC. DEQ mentioned they hadn't collected the data themselves but were checking on the collection sites.
- Ramaco made big promises of employing 3,000-3,500 people in the mine and research center in 2015. This company has not been very transparent to the landowners or the public. This company claims to be a good neighbor, yet would not meet with members of the neighborhood, LANDOWNERS. There are questions unanswered and Ramaco has refused meetings as well as the DEQ. Who is looking after the public, lands, water, air quality if DEQ wouldn't meet with the very people who will be affected?
- The newly projected number is 2,00-2,500 by the year of 2035, one example of the pure speculation and lack of planning by Ramaco.
- Ramaco does not have answers to many questions in their permit proposal. Every time a new proposal has been made, the data changes. It is a plan as you go plan. No answers to major components of the permit have any information, it is kind of "when we get to that we will know what to do or how we will proceed" which seems to be lacking in critical information.
- It is my understanding that requests made by the EQC and suggested by the experts have not been addressed or fulfilled in the permit.
- Ramaco has no idea who will work at the mine, employees or contractors. The mine plan states "RAMACO will either directly hire personnel for the movement of overburden, or will hire an independent contractor who will operate under a license to mine."
- It is interesting that Ramaco refers to its Ground Control Plan being approved by MSHA. However MSHA found that no ground control plan has ever been filed. MSHA's responsibility is mine safety, especially subsidence. It appears from the expert that there was not enough testing to determine the subsidence possibilities.

- They have no customers in need of coal.
- If they do get customers, where will they load the coal, will it be trucked or will they need the railroad?
- During a meeting in 2017 when they requested a zoning change, the idea of changing roads was mentioned. Have the county commissioners or state been approached with this future plan? Who will be notified and who will be the ones approving this process? (MP-7)
- What arrangements have been made to maintain the highways and county roads?
- What safety measures are planned for the trucks hauling coal on the MSHA's roads? There are older residents and slow moving agricultural equipment who use the roads daily.
- Why should we sacrifice our water, agriculture, walk in areas, and recreation for speculation of a few jobs?
- This company has failed to produce what it has proposed including the iCam facility which they told the Minerals Committee during the legislative session a year ago that it would be ready last February or March of 2019. It still is not ready.
- This company looks for government funding and grants, taking dollars not adding, especially to the Sheridan economy.
- How does Sheridan County benefit from this new mine?
- With the amount of estimated usage of water how will that affect the aquifers with long-term mining? Over one hundred wells in the area could be impacted. Where will the water come from if the aquifers are pumped dry?
- The mine's proposal of using surface water rights would need the approval of the Wyoming State Engineer. I don't believe the permit has any details about how this will be done or what alternative methods might be used. If surface water is not permitted, they would need to use more groundwater which would impact the wells. Their estimate was 300,000 gallons of use per day.
- An average household uses about 144 gallons per day.

- How will this alluvial valley be protected?
- There are two Sheridan County Walk in areas providing hunting and recreation within the permit which will become unavailable to the public. How will that happen and what process allows for closing those areas?
- The Kleenburn Recreation Area adjacent to the boundary is well used for boating and fishing along Tongue River and Goose Creek how will people recreating be impacted? This has been a great family recreation site.
- What land disturbances will impact the wetlands and lands reducing habitats for wildlife, birds, recreation, and agriculture?
- The permit incorrectly states that the area around Ramaco and Acme are designated or zoned as heavy industry. This is not true! There are two small areas with light industrial zoning but most of the area is zoned agricultural. Once again it appears that Ramaco is trying to distort the truth and rewrite history.
- Finally, I am requesting an informal meeting with the DEQ to discuss our concerns.