

# **Powder River Basin Resource Council**

please see attached



March 23, 2020

Alan Edwards  
Deputy Director, DEQ  
200 W. 17th Street, Suite 10  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Sent via electronic mail and submitted on: <http://lq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>

RE: Request for comment period extension for Brook Mine coal mining permit

Dear Mr. Edwards,

As you know, the Brook Mine mining permit is out for public comment, with comments and objections due April 23, 2020. As you also know, federal and state laws and regulations require public access to the permit application during all times of the comment period at the County Clerk's Office in the county in which the mine is located. *See* Wyo. Stat. § 35-11-406(d); 30 C.F.R. § 773.6(a)(2). The public notice provides:

“Information regarding this application may be reviewed in the Office of the Land Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality in Cheyenne and Sheridan, Wyoming or the Sheridan County Clerk's Office Sheridan, Wyoming.”

The Sheridan County Courthouse, including the County Clerk's Office, closed to public access at 5:00 on Thursday, March 19, 2020 because of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup> As a result, DEQ must extend the comment period for the Brook Mine on a day-to-day basis for each day the Sheridan County Courthouse remains closed to public access.

We also encourage DEQ to extend other comment periods as necessary if similar documents in other counties are no longer available for public access.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Shannon Anderson  
Staff Attorney, Powder River Basin Resource Council  
934 N. Main St., Sheridan, WY 82801  
[sanderson@powderriverbasin.org](mailto:sanderson@powderriverbasin.org)  
Working from home and available at 307-763-0995

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sheridancounty.com/sheridan-county-courthouse-offices-announce-limited-public-access/>