

Brooke A. Collins
38 Monarch Road
Ranchester, WY 82839

13 May 2020

Todd Parfitt, Director
Wyoming DEQ
200 West 17th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Re: Brook Mine Revised Draft Permit Application

Mr. Parfitt,

Thank you for allowing the informal hearing process for the Revised Brook Mine Permit Application. I was an objector to the original permit and a participant in the formal hearing. I did not meet the deadline for submitting my objections to be party to the informal hearing, so I appreciate an opportunity to add my written comments about this very important issue. I also appreciate all of the work that went into facilitating the hearing in such an unprecedented time.

There have been some improvements in the application, but my objections and the objections of my neighbors have still not been adequately addressed. While I know that there is no way to make a 100% guarantee against irreparable harm, the burden falls to the applicant to provide a complete application to ensure against endangering public health and safety. Blasting, water, and subsidence issues continue to be my major concerns.

During the formal hearing, there was inaccurate testimony given about the foundation of my home and its ability to endure the effects of blasting. After the facts were given to the DEQ, I was disappointed that the revision again ignored this endangerment. This application is not complete without specifying surveys and seismic monitoring of adjacent structures not only because I fear my 97-year-old home crumbling as a result of close-by mining operations, but also because there must be mitigation spelled out. If the unlimited and intermittent blasting proposed in the application does damage our structures, then what?

In addition to worrying about the collapse of my home, I share concerns with my neighbors about the occurrence of subsidence from previous mining on adjacent lands that could be exacerbated as a result of blasting. It has been noted that there is a long history of mining in the area, and I am surprised that Ramaco did not take this into consideration. I would like to add these to the objections that have been presented to you.

I am a businesswoman, former coal miner, and an advocate of innovative businesses emerging in Sheridan County. I do not begrudge Ramaco the right to make a profit from its assets. I do begrudge the way that it has been adversarial and dismissive in its relationships with the stakeholders whose lives will be so radically impacted by its

operations. It is because of this that I hope you will be particularly sensitive to ensuring that the monitoring and remediation of operational impacts are well defined.

Ramaco has spent a great deal of time and money revising the application. In all of those revisions, there is still no deference to the irreplaceable resources of the Tongue River Valley nor respect for her inhabitants.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brooke Collins
Submitted online