

Donald Dihle

I am writing today to let you know of my concern regarding the siting of the proposed bentonite mine by Black Hills Bentonite LLC known as the Keyhole State Project. This proposed mine would be located approximately 2 miles southeast of Pine Haven, which also places it very close to Keyhole Reservoir.

The location of this mine is far from ideal for those of us who live in the vicinity. Would you allow mining of this nature two miles from Sheridan or Cheyenne? Absolutely not, the noise, traffic safety concerns, quality of life, respiratory health issues caused by the particulate matter in the air, and other issues would make this highly improbable. For the same reasons, locating this site within two miles of Pine Haven Wyoming should be denied.

As a Crook County resident, I am concerned about the amount of heavy truck traffic and the wear and tear on county roads and resulting safety concerns this operation would bring. The tax revenue the mine will bring to the county may not even cover the cost to replace, repair and maintain the roads that are impacted by this increased traffic.

The noise and dust created by the mining will impact the quality of life of the citizens of Pine Haven and surrounding areas. I would anticipate a decrease in market value of property and a resulting decrease in assessed valuation of nearby homes as a result.

Air quality and resulting health concerns are something I am personally worried about. Living here for several years now, I am aware of how often the wind direction is from the southeast, how much dust that wind can carry from 2 miles away, and a bentonite mine will generate a great deal of dust.

The last concern I will mention is that heavy rains or snowfall will cause a lot of sediment to end up in Keyhole Reservoir. Water quality will suffer, along with the quality of recreation and the livelihood of those who have businesses near Keyhole State Park.

I am concerned that this mining permit if approved, will diminish the quality of life of the nearby residents due to the noise, truck traffic safety concerns and reduced air quality which will exacerbate respiratory issues. It may be costly for the taxpayers of Crook County to maintain the roads damaged by this mining activity. Mining activity of this nature creates a perfect environment for for torrents of mud flowing downstream, and in this case into Keyhole Reservoir just a few hundred yards from the proposed mine site.

For the reasons stated above, I object to the approval of this application and request that Black Hills Bentonite find a more suitable location at a far greater distance from Pine Haven and Keyhole Reservoir that will not have such a detrimental affect on the health, safety, and quality of life of the citizens of my town.