RE: Small Mine Permit Application, Evans Construction Inc. TFN 7 1/193

Hello - I’m writing this to voice my disagreement with a mining permit request for Evans Construction on Dell Creek Road, Bondurant Wyoming. I’m not sure how this request for this permit got to where it is today. The Company in Afton Wyoming who is representing Evans request has left out a ton of information from the first letter I received on this matter. The letter stated it was a renewal for the current gravel mining operation. Nothing about the hours of operation, the proposed asphalt making, or the rock crushing operation. All of this points to a complete industrial operation which does not seem to fall under a simple mining operation. I understand there is a 65-page document regarding this, but as of writing this letter I have not been able to obtain a copy yet.

I find it very curious that a couple of years ago a letter was sent to me stating that Evans Family wanted to split the thirty-six acres into several homesites with a fish ponds. Nothing became of that request as far as I know, but now the whole situation has changed stating that a **rock crushing operation, Asphalt mixing plant and gravel hauling was going to be put on site.** What kind of deal has “already” been discussed by Evans Construction with those respective governing offices? Apparently Evans construction must believe that this will be approved already as they have been working there to dig a bigger hole to accommodate all the equipment they must be planning on moving there. This type of operation is an absolute total disregard to the Bondurant area. Not only will this industrial operation have an impact on water, air, animals, and vegetation, but will also impact both the scenery, noise, and potential property devaluation of this immediate area. Why not let them move their operation to the gravel pit on Fish Creek or the state owned property near Fourty rod road?

 I see a total disregard for the environment and for the surrounding area and residents by Evans’ construction. The other thing that concerns me is with this operation and extension of this permit is why did the notification only go out to residents within a ½ mile radius of the construction pit when this will impact the whole basin here?

My family has been in Bondurant for 77 years now. While there have been a number of changes around here, this new proposal from Evans construction mirrors the same issues and problems stemming from Joe Ricketts’ planned resort and housing for the elite.

 From everything that has gone on within the last ten or so years, I would say that the following occurrences have put a strain on the residents of Bondurant and visitors who frequent this area. Two major fires, Cliff Creek fire in 2017, which burned 11,534 acres, and back to back fires in Roosevelt meadows in 2018 burned 6I,511 acres. And now this past summer there was a controlled burn on Monument ridge down to the mouth of the Hoback River Canyon which also consumed unknown acreage. The basin has become a burned-out mess which will take longer to grow back than the years I have left. I understand that wild fires are not intentional, but putting an industrial construction site is intentional and will detract from the beauty and lifestyle so many have come to know by living here and for those who plan on moving here!

I know the rivers that border the current gravel pit on Dell Creek and have fished them for many years. I have also introduced my grandchildren to fishing there as well. I would have to say that any pollutants may have a drastic effect on the animals who water and feed in this area as well as the fish that are still swimming in these rivers. I believe that the number of Yellowstone Golden Cutthroat have diminished there as I have only caught several in the last 3-4 years.

 I have been told that the proposed industrial operation will not impact the drainage there. It was stated to me that up to 250 gallons of oil or diesel can be spilled without any impact. I’m not sure what time frame is used to determine when the 250 gallon spillage is acceptable and how many gallons can be spilled out to be considered saturated. And I’ve been told that “Wyoming’s air is so clean” that the particulate matter coming from any of the construction facility will not impact this area. Funny that I check the Air quality Index on the local weather channel and about half the time this summer, it has been moderate = (50-100) which equates to particulate matter less than 2.5 microns or that the air may be a risk to some people. There have been several days where the index shows 101-150 which means sensitive groups may experience health effects. Given the AQI so far this year, I can’t imagine that the new construction pit will make it better!

As I travel throughout Wyoming, I see signs that say, “Welcome to Big, Wonderful Wyoming.” I would hope that the governing powers make the right decisions for Wyoming and specifically decline this operation to be placed in Bondurant. I would hope that the welcoming signs continue to mean what they say and keep Wyoming beautiful and that Bondurant will grow without hazardous operations.

Steve and Kim Magagna