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Department of Environmental Quality
Land Quality Division
200 W. 17th Street
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RE: Small Mine Permit Application – Evans Construction Inc., TFN 7 1/193.

The Snake River Fund (SRF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting stewardship of and public access to the Snake River watershed in Wyoming, with an emphasis on partnerships, education, and public outreach. SRF would like to express our concerns for the above Small Mine Permit Application and request an extended public comment period and public meeting.

As a clean, cold tributary of a congressionally designated Wild and Scenic River and a Wyoming Class 2AB surface water, the Dell Creek riparian corridor is a shining example of a waterway worthy of preserving and protecting. Any projects that stand to threaten the waters of Dell Creek or any associated Outstandingly Remarkable Values found downstream, deserve the highest levels of scrutiny.

The permit application as presented does not give SRF immediate confidence in the applicant's ability to adequately mitigate potential dewatering, sedimentation, or other unforeseen impacts to Dell Creek and the Hoback River. Furthermore, SRF believes the applicant is compelled to execute a Section 7 review. This is a requirement for projects located in a Wild and Scenic River corridor and the review must demonstrate that the project will not "invade the area or unreasonably diminish" the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Wild and Scenic Hoback River.

SRF would like to formally request that the comment period be extended for the application and that a public meeting be held so that the applicant can field questions from the public regarding the proposal.

Respectfully,

Orion Hatch
Executive Director