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BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
OF THE STATE OF WYOMING

_____)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE,)	AFFIDAVIT OF
DRY FORK STATION,)	BERNADETTE BARLOW
AIR PERMIT CT-4631)	
_____)	

I, Bernadette Barlow, being duly sworn upon oath, do depose and state as follows:

1. The facts set forth in this affidavit are based upon my personal knowledge. If called as a witness, I could and would testify to these facts. As to those matters which reflect an opinion, they reflect my personal opinion and judgment on the matter.
2. I am a resident of 1625 Buffalo Cut Across, Gillette, Wyoming, 82718. I have lived at this residence for about 44 years.
3. I am a member of Wyoming Outdoor Council (“WOC”) and have been for at least the last 10 years. I am generally familiar with WOC’s mission and objectives.
4. Wyoming Outdoor Council is a nonprofit membership organization with approximately 1,000 members. It was founded by Wyoming residents in 1967 in order to advocate for natural resources conservation and environmental protection. It is currently Wyoming’s largest statewide conservation organization, and its members aim to protect the natural environment of Wyoming, including its national parks, wildlife habitat, fisheries, and other protected areas. To

achieve organizational goals, WOC mobilizes grassroots campaigns, organizes and leads coalitions of conservation groups, advocates progressive public policies, and pursue administrative remedies and legal interventions to prevent or mitigate environmental harm. WOC's members live and work near the Dry Fork proposed plant site, and enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and visiting nearby national parks and wildlands.

5. Over the past year, WOC has joined efforts to inform the public, elected officials, and the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality about less polluting alternatives to building a subcritical boiler at the Dry Fork Station. WOC has submitted comments aimed at reducing emissions that threaten public health and contribute to global warming. Furthermore, WOC has consistently advocated for both the use of renewable energy sources such as wind, and the application of best available pollutions controls including IGCC and a supercritical boiler.

6. I am also a member of the Powder River Basin Resource Council ("Powder River") and have been for about the last 30 years. Until recently, I served on the Board of Directors for Powder River. I am familiar with Powder River's mission and objectives.

7. Powder River has been at the forefront of efforts to inform the public, elected officials, and the Air Quality Division about less polluting alternatives to building a subcritical boiler at the Dry Fork Station, including submitting comments and offering testimony about the air quality threats posed by the power plant.

8. At my residence in Gillette, I own a ranch estimated at 18,000 acres, where I have raised cattle, sheep, and horses. The ranch currently has about 500 sheep, 380 cattle, and 8 horses.

9. My son, Eric Barlow, lives next door to me and is currently the primary caretaker of the ranch. The ranch is my main source of income and also provides Eric with a steady source of income.

10. I am concerned about the effects that construction of and operation of the Dry Fork Station may have on my ranch. I am aware that the Dry Fork Station will emit millions of tons of air pollution per year, and my property has already been affected by air pollution emitted from nearby coalbed methane development. The air quality was so bad sometimes that I would walk around my ranch with a surgical mask on.

11. I am concerned that additional air pollution from the Dry Fork Station will harm my health and my son's health while working on the ranch, and that it will harm the health of our farm animals.

12. I am aware that particulate matter has been linked to premature death, and that the elderly and young are especially susceptible to the negative health impacts that particulate matter can cause. I am sixty-seven years old and worry that particulate matter could harm my health. I also worry about the health of my two young grandchildren who live next door to me, ages twelve and fourteen.

13. I enjoy walking and hiking around my ranch on clear, sunny days. While I no longer do a lot of the physical work that is required for running the ranch, I still check on the animals almost daily. If the air quality on my ranch is degraded by the Dry Fork Station, spending time outdoors on my ranch will be less enjoyable.

14. My grandchildren like to ride their bikes, ride horses on the ranch, and hike outside near our homes. I worry that decreased air quality from the Dry Fork Station could harm their health, in addition to reducing their enjoyment of these outdoor activities.

15. I use, enjoy, and work to protect the natural resources on many federal lands, including national parks for recreational, spiritual, and aesthetic purposes. I have used and enjoyed for these same purposes several unique lands in the area, including Devils Tower National Monument, Badlands National Park, Wind Cave National Park, Mt. Rushmore, and Jewel Cave National Monument.

16. I have been visiting Devils Tower National Monument at least once every year for the past forty years. I enjoy the hiking, scenery, and naturalness that Devils Tower National Monument offers, and I plan to return there next year.

17. I also like to visit Badlands National Park. Several of my relatives are from outside of the United States, and when they come to visit I like to bring them to Badlands National Park. It is only about two hours from my home and offers wonderful scenery, solitude, and wildlife viewing opportunities. I like to hike in the natural surroundings and fresh air that are encompassed by the park. The Park offers wonderful vistas that show off the beauty of the United States to others. The last time I visited Badlands National Park was about five years ago. I intend to return to Badlands to enjoy its scenery within the next year.

18. I also have enjoyed visiting Wind Cave National Park on several occasions. Wind Cave National Park is less than two hours from my home, and I enjoy visiting the scenery of the natural caves and other unique formations within the Park. I plan to return to Wind Cave National Park next summer.

19. Mt. Rushmore is another favorite place that I love to visit. My friends and European relatives are awe-inspired by the unique beauty Mt. Rushmore has to offer, and I take them there every time they visit. The scenery and fresh air of this place is unbeatable. Personally I visit Mt. Rushmore every year, and I have plans to return there this summer.

20. I am less likely to continue traveling to these scenic areas if they are harmed by air pollution, haze, or acid rain from the Dry Fork power plant. If haze inhibits the ability to enjoy the scenic vistas offered by these areas, especially in Badlands National Park, the experience will be much less enjoyable.

21. I am not entirely opposed to the use of coal for energy production, but I feel as though the Dry Fork power plant will product more pollution than is necessary to effectively use coal. It is not being done with the best available technology. Because Wyoming is one of the largest, if not the largest, producers of coal in the United States, the State of Wyoming should lead the industry by using the best technology available.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Executed at January, this 28 day of January, 2008.

Bernadette Barlow
Bernadette Barlow

STATE OF WYOMING)
)
COUNTY OF)

This instrument was signed and sworn to before me on January 28th, 2008 by Bernadette Barlow.

Deirdre Bunning
Notary Public

My appointment expires: 4-13-09

