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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,	)	CHRISTINA GERRITS
AIR PERMIT CT-4631	)	
_____	)	

I, Christina Martin Gerrits, declare 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 2410 Knollwood Drive, Gillette, WY 82718. I have lived at this residence since 1980, and have lived in Gillette since 1977. My residence is about twelve miles from the proposed site for the Dry Fork Station.
3. I am a member of Powder River Basin Resource Council (“Powder River”) and have been since 2001. I am generally familiar with Powder River’s mission and objectives.
4. Powder River is a nonprofit organization with approximately 1,000 members, most of whom live in eastern Wyoming. Powder River is dedicated to the conservation of Wyoming’s unique environmental resources and protection of Wyoming’s agricultural lands and lifestyle. Powder River works to raise public awareness and to educate Wyoming citizens to understand

and speak out for local conservation issues. Powder River has led efforts to inform the public, elected officials, and the Air Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality about less polluting, more efficient alternatives.

5. I also filed individual comments and spoke at the hearing for the Dry Fork Station air permit to discuss my concerns that the Dry Fork Station will negatively contribute to local air pollution and climate change. These comments are attached as Exhibit 1 to this declaration.

6. I am not generally opposed to coal plants. My husband works in the coal industry for the Buckskin Mining Company in Gillette, about two miles north of the Dry Fork Station site. The Buckskin Mine produces more than 20 million tons of coal per year.

7. In addition to residing in Gillette, I also work in Gillette. I teach 7<sup>th</sup> grade science at Sage Valley Junior High School, which is about twelve miles from the Dry Fork Station. I have taught science as full-time teacher here for eight years, and worked as a substitute teacher for the school for about ten years prior to gaining my full-time teaching position. On days when the air quality is bad and it is very dusty outside, I grow concerned about how the pollutants in the air may be affecting the health of the children I teach. I understand that kids may be especially susceptible to ailments caused by air pollution.

8. I am concerned about the health effects that construction and operation of the Dry Fork Station may have. I am aware that the Dry Fork Station will emit millions of tons of air pollution per year, including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and nitrous oxides. I currently have allergies and minor asthma, also known as reactive airway disease. My allergies are often triggered by dust, mold, pollen, and grass, and on days when the air quality is noticeably bad I find it harder to breathe. Although I have been taking shots bi-

weekly to control my allergies, I am concerned that emissions from the Dry Fork Station may exacerbate these problems further.

9. I am concerned that construction of the power plant will add more dust and pollution to the air. The air here is already bad, and I am concerned construction and operation of this plant will add to the already high levels of dust.

10. 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, Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, Jewel Cave National Monument, Crazy Horse Monument, and the Big Horn Mountains.

11. I have been visiting Devils Tower National Monument almost every year for the past thirty years. I enjoy the gorgeous scenery, the clean air, and the pristine environment that Devils Tower offers. I also enjoy the gorgeous view over Belle Fourche Valley. I often bring foreign exchange students which I house there to experience the unique landscape of the Tower, and I plan to return there next year.

12. I also visit Mt. Rushmore National Monument and have been visiting bi-yearly for the past thirty years. I go to Mt. Rushmore for the scenery and beauty of the Monument. I have noticed an appreciable decline in scenery on my last few visits due to dust. Every year the scenery seems to get a little worse, and I can't see as far as I could on my previous visits. Last time I visited, I could see a brown layer of dust and pollution lying over Rapids City. I plan to return to Mt. Rushmore but hope that the air quality does not deteriorate further.

13. I have visited Jewel Cave National Monument on several occasions, including last year. It is a great place to take foreign exchange students to go spelunking. I definitely plan on returning to the Monument, perhaps this year.

14. I visit Crazy Horse Monument for the Volksmarch during the first weekend in June every year, and will return this year. The scenery is great but is growing appreciably hazier, as I noticed last year.

15. I also enjoy backpacking in the Big Horn Mountains of Big Horn National Forest. The mountains look out over Powder River Basin and can offer incredible views. I have been backpacking in these mountains for about ten years, and went twice just last year. During the winter I visit the mountains for cross-country skiing. I plan to return to the Big Horn Mountains soon, within the next year.

17. 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, the experience will be much less enjoyable.

18. I have already noticed the brown haze that encompasses the Gillette area. Each time I drive over the hill on the way to work in the morning, I see the haze that sits on top of the nearby power plants and mines. I worry that the Dry Fork plant will worsen and increase the reach of this haze.

19. I am not entirely opposed to the use of coal for energy production, but I feel as though the Dry Fork power plant will produce more pollution than is necessary to effectively use coal. It is not being done with the best available technology. The use of old technology is harmful, and I believe Basin Electric should wait until it can produce energy with carbon sequestration in order to minimize any contribution the plant may have to global warming. It is inexcusable to use



Nov 3 - Powder River

From: Christina M. Gerrits  
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To Whom It May Concern: *I understand that this plant may be state of the art and with lower ~~per~~ emissions, however*  
I respectfully object to this coal-fired power plant being built until carbon sequestration capability is added to the plant. It is my understanding that a plant cannot be retrofitted with carbon sequestration, so if this plant is built it will mean consigning us to 20 years worth of coal being burned and spewing CO<sub>2</sub> into our environment. For every megawatt (1 000kw) of energy produced annually, the plant will release 7,947 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Global Warming is a very serious issue for all of us and it unfortunately is already underway at an alarming rate. We should not proceed with this power plant without carbon sequestration, when the technology is available to build a power plant, which will leave a much smaller carbon footprint on our world. It may cost more to produce the kilowatt of energy, but the cost to society as a whole will be much smaller.

Governor Dave Freudenthal spoke to Congress just this month, urging our Representatives to implement incentives to encourage companies to make investments to capture carbon from coal. I realize that these incentives are not in place, but that should not stop us from doing what is right to protect the future of our children and grandchildren by ensuring that they have a healthy world to live in. We need to think in the long term and realize that once a carbon dioxide molecule is in our atmosphere, it will act to warm our world for hundreds of years to come.

You need to look to the future when there will be a carbon tax. Then your power plant can sell carbon credits for producing energy with very little carbon emissions. That would be a healthy investment in the future of your company and in the future of the world.

*I would agree with the ~~former~~ previous speaker that we need to ~~to~~ build the most supercritical plant*

ES 2

*42% efficiency      ultra supercritical plant  
4-6% higher construction      24  
cost of fuel + ~~low~~ efficiency will } 45-49% of*

*reduce pollution by 24%*