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Attorneys for Protestants

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
OF THE STATE OF WYOMING

_____)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE,)	AFFIDAVIT OF
DRY FORK STATION,)	KARLA J. OKSANEN
AIR PERMIT CT-4631)	
_____)	

I, Karla J. Oksanen, being duly sworn upon oath, do depose and 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 205 Battle Cry Lane, Gillette, Wyoming, 82716. I have lived in Gillette, Wyoming since 1981, and currently live about three miles from the proposed Dry Fork power plant.
3. I am a member of Powder River Basin Resource Council ("Powder River"), and have been since 1998. I am generally familiar with Powder River's mission and objectives.
4. Powder River has led 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 new subcritical PC boiler at the Dry Fork Station. At the air permit hearing in June 2007, I listened to Powder River's testimony aimed at reducing emissions that threaten public

health and contribute to global warming. Powder River advocated for both the use of renewable energy sources and the application of best available pollution controls, including IGCC and a supercritical boiler.

5. I also spoke at the air quality hearing in Gillette on June 28, 2007 regarding the proposed air permit because I believe the Dry Fork power plant should not be using such old, outdated technology. There is new technology available that Basin Electric failed to even consider. Because the air quality around my home is often negatively affected by the Eagle Butte Mine nearby, I fear that additional pollution from the Dry Fork plant could make the outdoors around my home unbearable. I am concerned it could affect my health and my husband's health, and fear we will be unable to enjoy the outdoors where we live.

6. The Eagle Butte Mine is less than a mile from my property, and large amounts of dust and pollutants exit the mine and contaminate the air on my property. The air quality is already significantly degraded from this and other nearby mines, and the haze around my home is often thick and settled. Often the air in the summer is so bad that we are forced to keep our windows closed. There are days where I have to forego gardening and yard work because it is too difficult to breathe outside. I used to hang clothes outside to dry, but can no longer do so because they become covered in dust carried over from the mine.

7. My family does not enjoy visiting us because of the poor air quality around our home. My mother-in-law is elderly and has allergies which are often irritated by the air pollution. After one blast at the mine some time ago, my mother-in-law was not feeling well and we had to bring her to the doctor. Additionally, my husband and I wanted my father-in-law to come live with us because he is 81 years old and has lived alone since his wife passed away. My father-in-law seriously considered the offer, but in the end decided not to move here because he did not believe

his allergies could handle the dust and pollution that engulfs our property. I fear that the dust and air pollution may be causing health issues for me, my husband, and our family when they come to visit. I fear these issues may grow worse from the pollutants expected to be emitted from the Dry Fork power plant.

8. On November 29, 2007, the air quality was so bad in the morning that I was forced to call the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to complain. The Department stated that they had already sent somebody out to run tests on the quality of the air, and later told me that acceptable air quality limits were not exceeded. Therefore, nothing was done to ameliorate the situation.

9. While the Eagle Butte Mine often affects the air quality around my home, there are also plenty of days where the mine does not seem to emit dust and pollutants, and my husband and I can enjoy the outdoors near our home. I appreciate those days and having seen what coal can do to the air, I fear the Dry Fork power plant will worsen the already degraded air quality around my home, and will decrease even further the number of days we can spend outside.

10. I also visit several areas that may be affected by the Dry Fork plant. My husband and I travel to the Black Hills National Forest periodically throughout each summer for camping. We often drive up and depending on the weather, we either set up a tent and camp or sometimes sleep in our van. We enjoy wildlife viewing, hiking, and site-seeing while we are there. We also enjoy taking pictures of the beautiful views throughout the forest. The last time we visited was in August 2007, and we plan to return several times next summer.

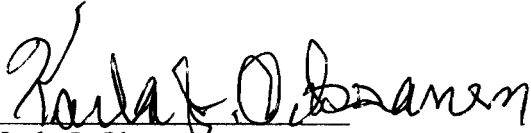
11. My husband and I also frequently visit Devils Tower National Monument. We enjoy walking around the tower and site-seeing along the trails surrounding the tower. We often bring guests from out of town there to show them the unique landscape.

12. I am less likely to travel to these scenic areas in the future if they are harmed by air pollution or haze from the Dry Fork power plant. If haze inhibits the ability to enjoy the scenic vistas offered by these areas, especially in Black Hills National Forest, the experience will be much less enjoyable. Devils Tower is also a great place we love to share with friends and guest, and the power plant could degrade the visibility and air quality of this monument. I visit these places for their scenery and fresh air, to escape to the contrast of haze and dirty air that often surrounds our home.

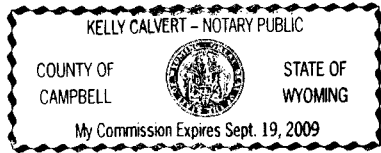
13. I am not entirely opposed to coal. In fact, my husband works at the Rawhide Coal Mine north of the Dry Fork mine. The Dry Fork power plant, as it is proposed, however, will emit massive amounts of pollution that could be minimized through the use of better technology. Because so many mines near my home already contribute large amounts of pollution to the air, there is a great need to do whatever is possible to try to keep the dust and pollutants to a minimum in this area.

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

Executed at Gillette, WY, this 25th day of January, 2008.


Karla J. Oksanen

STATE OF WYOMING)
)
COUNTY OF *Campbell*)



This instrument was signed and sworn to before me on January 25, 2008 by Karla Oksanen.

Kelly Calvert
Notary Public

My appointment expires: *Sept 19, 2009*