



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6506 / 6508
FAX: (406) 477-8294



Fax

To: Jill Morrison, Powder River Basin
Resource Council

From: Shanny Spang Gion, CBM Coordinator,
NCTEPD

Fax: (307) 672-5800 Pages: 3

Phone: (307) 672-5809 Date: 6-28-07

Re: Comments for proposed coal-fired power plant

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

● Comments:

Please find attached comments submitted by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe regarding the proposed construction of a coal-fired power plant by Basin Electric Cooperative. Thank you for your help and collaboration with our Tribe. I appreciate your efforts, thanks again!

Shanny

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Shanny Spang Gion".



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 128

LAME DEER, MONTANA 59048

June 27, 2007

Mr. David A. Finley, Administrator
Division of Air Quality
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
122 W. 25th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Finley,

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe ("the Tribe") would like to take this opportunity to express our comments regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WY DEQ) Air Quality Division's proposal to approve construction of a coal-fired power plant by Basin Electric Power Cooperative near Gillette, Wyoming.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe is especially concerned with this project due its close proximity to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and the likely impacts it will have on our reservation's Class I airshed. We are already anticipating effects from Montana mineral development and adding this Wyoming project into the cumulative impacts, we believe our Class I airshed will be significantly impacted and the possibility of exceeding our air quality standards is likely.

We highly value our Class I airshed status and must take each potential pollution source seriously and address it accordingly. Please find attached comments submitted by Mr. Jay Littlewolf, our Environmental Protection Department's Air Quality Division Administrator. Additionally, in the interest of protecting our air resources as well as the health of our people, we request that your division work closely with the Tribe to fully assess the cumulative impacts the power plant's emissions will have on our air resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (406) 477-6284 or our Environmental Protection Department at (406) 477-6506.

Sincerely,

Shauline Grant
for Eugene Little Coyote,
President,
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

cc. file

**Northern Cheyenne Tribe
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
Air Quality Division
Jay Littlewolf, Administrator**

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe wants to keep our air quality pristine. Air quality is not only a health issue—it is a cultural issue, too. The Northern Cheyenne are stewards of the air, land, water and living entities. In order for the people to be healthy and strong, clean and pristine air quality must be maintained on and surrounding areas of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation (NCIR).

The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation has a Class I airshed. The proposed facility, which is located seven miles north of Gillette, Wyoming, is 120 miles southeast of the NCIR.

Two of the critical pollutants, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, are the primary concern for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. All CBM activities in southern Montana and northern Wyoming, along with existing coal fired power plants, such as Colstrip 1, 2, 3 and 4, combine for a cumulative effect of pollution that directly impacts the NCIR. This power plant will impact the NCIR, which is part of the Powder River Basin. If this permit is let through then there will be violations of sulfur dioxide and the NCIR. Another vital component to the Class I airshed is visibility. There are impacts of visibility from Colstrip and regional haze to the NCIR. Adding another power plant will increase impacts to visibility from emissions of nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide.

Wyoming DEQ will need to enforce BACT on all aspects of this proposed facility. Coal literally is a very dirty pollutant. Alternatives to this facility need to be considered, such as wind turbines. Wyoming is a very windy state and this resource should be studied and considered for now and future electric generating facilities.



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Jay Littlewolf, Administrator

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