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Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

December 28, 2010

Administrator of the Land Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
Herschler Building
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002



Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing to express concerns with the mining permit submitted by Croell Redi-Mix, Inc. of Sundance and plans for the McGuire Pit at the junction of Washington and Sybille Creek Road near Wheatland. One of our concerns is receiving the notice right before the busy holiday season when there is little time to respond to the permit request before the deadline, due to holiday commitments and travel plans. This does not allow time for residents in this area to share opinions and concerns in time to respond. We did make the time to read through the permit in the notebook at the Platte County Courthouse. There was proof of the 1st newspaper notice, but not the final public notice. We try to keep up with notices in the paper, but sometimes miss them when life gets too hectic. Meeting the letter of the law does not always mean that it is fair notice to the people being impacted by the operation. There were sections I.L County filing and I.M Public Mailing in the permit notebook that were blank, but it is not known whether or not these were done or included somewhere else in the notebook.

We have lived with the noise and the truck traffic since they began digging gravel out of the pit several years ago. We did not offer complaints since we did not anticipate a long-term, big operation. We are nearing retirement where we plan to spend more time at home and outside enjoying some relaxation. We do not look forward to a lot of years of noise and truck traffic. Our family likes to ride bikes to and from town as well as around the section. It impairs our quality of life when we have to endure the blowing dirt of the operation and noisy truck turbulence as we are riding on the roads. The blowing dirt from the open pit will greatly increase as more of the ground is left open. Our house is about a third of a mile east of the area and will be hit with the sand blasting as a result of the prevailing west to southwesterly wind as the pit is opened further to the south.

It is unreasonable for them to operate the gravel digging/crushing from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (as noted in the permit). We are looking at the nicest months of the year when we sleep with the windows open and work/socialize outside in the mornings and evenings. Our home was built here first, almost 25 years ago, with the intention of having a peaceful place to live and retire. If this operation is allowed to operate (which we hope it is not), they should be required to work reasonable hours – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or at a maximum 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Those of us who have invested a lot of time and money into a home should not be penalized by one family's gravel operation.

We are also concerned about the 60-acre size of the proposed operation and the 30-year length of operation. If we find in the next 5 – 10 years that we want to sell our home and move, this gravel operation could significantly decrease the value of our home and property or discourage someone from buying it at all.

We share the concerns of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for wildlife that will be affected, as well as the need to protect Sybille Creek that is so near the site. It was also stated in the permit that there could be some threatened or endangered species that might be found in the area. These should be monitored closely if the operation is allowed to continue. The permit also noted that a chemical dust control agent is an option to be used. We are concerned about the effect of this on the land and water.

We recognize the need for gravel pits and, as stated above, tried to live with the gravel pit on a short-term basis. However, this proposal will have too great of an impact on the quality of our life and the use and value of our home for our entire future. We are opposed to the proposal and would like to have a hearing held for the residents of this area to express concerns. We also know that there is a lot of open land that might be suited to a gravel pit that would not be near homes that will be negatively affected by the mining operation.

If the gravel pit is permitted, we are asking that the operation hours be restricted as noted above. We further request that the existing pit is reclaimed before more ground is opened and that no more than 2-4 acres be allowed to be open at a time. If the operation is permitted, it should only be for every 2 years with a new hearing held each time for residents of the area to express any new concerns that occur from its operation. We are against having the operation at all, but feel that these requests are reasonable based on the negative impact on our lives.

We await your response and appreciate your time for our concerns. Wyoming is a great place to live and we have invested a lot of time and effort into this area. We don't want to see it destroyed with this operation.

Sincerely,



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