

FILED

MAR 26 2013

March 21, 2013

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

Eastfork Livestock Inc.
Joel Bousman, President
PO Box 74
Boulder, WY 82923

Nancy Nuttbrock, DEQ Land Quality Division
Herschler Building
122 East 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: McMurry Ready Mix Company Mine Application

Dear Ms. Nuttbrock,

Eastfork Livestock, Inc. is a small, family, ranching operation in Sublette County. Currently, McMurry Ready Mix leases a ten-acre gravel pit on Eastfork Livestock property, permitted by Sublette County. We are considering this proposal as an opportunity for our family to subsidize our cattle operation and to help us remain in production agriculture.

When we became aware that we own an excellent gravel resource on our property, we carefully contemplated whom we should work with to develop this source of non-farm income. McMurry Ready Mix was recommended to us by numerous people in the road-building business including employees of the Wyoming Department of Transportation. McMurry Ready Mix has been an excellent work partner for us with this ten-acre gravel pit.

In the first application for the mine permit, EQC determined there were still unresolved issues, including: access to the pit in regard to safety, sage grouse concerns, and hours of operation.

To help resolve the access issue, I participated in a meeting with WYDOT engineers, McMurry Ready Mix, neighboring land owners, and Sublette County Road and Bridge. Sublette County Road and Bridge owns a gravel pit in the area and uses the same access off HWY 353. As a result of this meeting, McMurry Ready Mix worked with the landowner who owns the property coming off HWY 353. Those involved (1) changed the approach, (2) moved the cattle guard further from the center line of HWY 353, (3) widened the turning radius for trucks entering and leaving the pit, solving the safety issue.

Sight distance is satisfactory in both directions coming onto HWY 353. It is my understanding, both from verbal discussions and written communications that WYDOT is now comfortable with the access, and the safety issue has been adequately addressed.

In regard to sage grouse concerns, the property leased by McMurry Ready Mix is not currently sage grouse habitat. Eastfork Livestock performed a *Spike* application to increase forage production for livestock grazing. The *Spike* eliminated the sage brush. Future reclamation has the potential to create an opportunity to plant forbs, to provide sage grouse habitat, as well as improve production of grasses and forbs for livestock grazing.

LOD

MAR 25 2013

RECEIVED

Based on analysis done during development of the "Wyoming Governors Executive Order" addressing sage grouse, fragmentation of habitat was determined to be the most significant cause of decline of sage grouse. By having the ability to develop a source of non-farm income on a portion of our ranch that does not affect sage grouse, the likely hood of having to create housing developments in places that do affect sage grouse and thus causing permanent habitat fragmentation, is greatly reduced.

As for the hours of operation, I appreciate that McMurry Ready Mix has reached agreement with DEQ that adequately remediates this issue.

I would also point out that Sublette County, as well as the Wyoming Department of Transportation, have both determined this location is suitable for gavel mine production. As mentioned, Sublette County owns a gravel pit in the area, but also, WYDOT leases land, as needed, one mile west of the proposed mine for the same purpose.

Since I believe all the issues for which EQC had concerns have been satisfactorily addressed, I encourage you to approve the McMurry Ready Mix Company Mine Application.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel E. Bousman, President
Eastfork Livestock, Inc.

LQD

MAR 25 2013

RECEIVED

Joel Bousman
PO Box 74
Boulder, WY 82923



Nancy Nuttbrock, DEQ Land Quality Division
Herschler Building
122 East 25th street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

