

DEC 10 2022

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November 10, 2022 / revised 12/16/22 and any changes are in Yellow highlight.

Dear Sirs:

Ref: File No.: Q-22-002 Forbes/Mullinax Quarry

We are writing this letter to voice our opposition to the proposed Forbes / Mullinax Quarry. We were both raised here in Sheridan and this land has been in my family since the late 1950's when Sheryl's grandparents, Fred and Louella Reinke purchased it.

We have loved the peaceful rural lifestyle and we want to continue to enjoy it and retire right here.

A gravel quarry would negatively affect quality of life that we and our neighbors enjoy so much. We beseech you to hear my concerns and to take into careful consideration the enormous negative impact such an operation would have on the community and the environment in which we live.

---Our first concern is **traffic and public safety**. The access to the highway is in a dangerous area traffic wise with a 45 MPH change right near the point of the proposed gravel haul road entrance to the highway with homes, driveways and a commercial driveway for a sod farm on the opposite side of road. We have witnessed the fact that many vehicles, including the current Mullinax gravel trucks that travel this road from the pit in Beckton area already speed through the 45 ignoring the limit. The population out Big Goose Road (Hwy 331) has grown substantially in recent years and along with that there are many vehicles traveling the road daily. The road is clearly already damaged and showing much wear due to all the heavy, weight wise and volume wise, commercial traffic and increased residential traffic as more homes are being built out this way. In addition to that concern the road is narrow with blind corners, and has very little room on the shoulder with many school bus stops all the way-out Big Goose. Many residents and their children walk, run or bike on these roads at all times of the day.

In addition the WY Highway Department locally denied the commercial access because the requirements for spacing from other entries, etc. The Commercial access did not meet standards written in law, yet Mullinax went above them to Cheyenne and got the permit.

---Our second concern is **noise and dust pollution**. The noise, dust and pollution created by this proposal would adversely affect the entire north, south east and west of the proposed quarry. Wyoming wind is a daily occurrence in the whole area and carries



air in all directions. The dust particles are strongly associated with health problems such as lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and reproductive issues. The finest particles are invisible and affect residents living miles away from the actual quarry site.

The truck traffic would also cause noise pollution, just as in town communities where brakes, engine brakes and general traffic noise are a big concern as the magnitude of constant traffic 10 hours a day as proposed would be a disruption and again, interrupt the peaceful valley.

Truck speed is a factor that is part of the cause of noise and dust pollution when considering a gravel quarry and haul road.

---Our third concern is the environmental effect on **water**. The applicant proposes to excavate gravel which could be below the water table and would have a negative impact on wells that are fed by the aquifers that flow through the property in underground streams. Water always follows the path of least resistance and any single, multiple, or successive development or site alteration activities and would have an irreversible negative impact on wells and natural water flow.

I have since learned that this is an issue the Land Quality Division of the DEQ will be looking in to before permitting ---Lastly, But certainly NOT least, is the Storm King Mine, which is an old abandoned underground coal mine ( see map attached ) located just to the East of our property on Brett and Susanne Krout's land. This mine has been monitored by the DEQ and has several times through the last 20 years had repairs done to the sink holes and other concerning areas through the Abandoned Mine Reclamation funds. (See most recent info (2021) on the graph attached.) The blasting, vibrational energy is also a concern because of the open caverns that are located in the area of this mine. Blasting at quarries can produce both air-borne sound waves and ground waves. The latter can possibly cause annoyance and/or damage to the Storm King mine shafts, homes, and other buildings in the vicinity of quarries. Vibration effects could be a factor along haul routes from heavy vehicles and when rock blasting occurs.

If you all choose to pass this through even with the communities concerns, I plead with you to at very least , reconsider the huge area (1,675 acres,) and 30 year timeline listed in the proposed permit area. The nearly 1700 acres is a far cry from the approximately 150 acres that there is a real quarry plan for ,and is unreasonable and would be irresponsible to permit as a whole at once. Thirty (30) years is a long time.... Things can change a lot in that amount of time and locking all that beautiful land up for destructive mining use could very well be a huge regret in the future. Timely revaluations of all areas...time frame and acreage must be considered .

In closing, we would like to say that a gravel quarry would drastically affect our ability to enjoy our properties that we have invested so much money and time into, decrease our property values in the area substantially, cause health concerns, and destroy the quiet, peaceful community in which we live. If a permit were granted, the negative impact that this pit would have on the environment and its inhabitants is irreversible. It would compromise the health and safety of our community and ruin the character of this unique place forever.

We thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns and hope you will take them into consideration when making your decision about the future of our community.