



June 4, 2020

Nancy Vehr
Administrator, Division of Air Quality
Department of Environmental Quality
200 West 17th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax (307) 635-1784

Re: Wyoming Ambient Air Monitoring Annual Network Plan 2020

Dear Administrator Vehr:

Thank you for accepting our letter pertaining to the 2020 Air Monitoring Annual Network Plan. We submit this letter on behalf of Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition (CALC) who are members that live in Cheyenne and the Laramie County area. We would also like to thank the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and the Air Quality Division for their placement of a Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Unit in Laramie County in 2018 where there is increasing oil and gas operations near neighborhoods, homes, and productive rangeland. We are very concerned to see that the division plans to move the Laramie County Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Unit to Riverton in the summer of 2020. We hope that with this letter, the division will reconsider this decision and continue to monitor the air in one of the areas with the greatest oil and gas development in the state.

Our members have been concerned about the air quality in Laramie County for several years with increasing industrial development, and we are appreciative of DEQ's commitment to public health and wellbeing. Our organization hears concerns from our members regarding poor air quality, specifically: respiratory issues, smoke alarms sounding in the night, and gastrointestinal and neurological health issues. Several of our members attended the Mobile Air Quality Unit Open House on November 4th, 2018 to better understand the air quality monitoring process in our county. When we arrived at the location, we were disappointed to see the monitoring location's proximity to oil and gas operations. Additionally, we noted how dispersed oil and gas wells were in the area of the monitoring station; whereas, in other places in the county, oil and gas wells are much more congested and closer to homes. We do not believe that the current location of the monitor provided realistic data on the poor air quality that many of our members and other landowners face living within less than a mile of several oil and gas operations in Laramie County. Additionally, 2018 was not a useful monitoring year and the unit did not collect data for ozone, neither 1 hour peak count, nor 8 hour average. Ozone is a good indicator of regional volatile organic compound emission, however it does not narrow to local impacts to impacted neighborhoods.

Following the release of last year's Annual Monitoring Network plan, we submitted comments suggesting the division move the monitoring unit closer to neighborhoods impacted by poor air quality. We suggested that areas around the Archer Complex, County Road 203, County Road 138, as well as areas west of 140 and east of Cheyenne city limits where there is a greater number of homes existing near oil and gas wells, and new drilling is expected to begin in the near future. Alongside our written letter, we also submitted the written comments of 14 landowners in the area that were concerned about nearby operations impact of their air quality. Those comments are attached as an addendum to this letter. We believe that if the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) continues to permit oil and gas operations within 500 feet of residents, then our state's air quality monitoring should reflect similar distances. This will allow us to better understand the impact nearby oil and gas development has on public health.

Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Division should continue to monitor the impact of oil and gas operations on the welling being of Laramie County citizens. The current monitoring plan does not monitor for hydrocarbons, which are the pollutants of greatest concern in areas impacted by oil and gas exploration and production. Additionally, because 2018 was not a useful monitoring year for ozone in the area, the department should revisit monitoring of the area. Due to several complicating factors of COVID-19, natural gas is at a low cost and operators are choosing to flare and vent harmful and dangerous pollutants. We ask that you continue to monitor the air, including hydrocarbons, using DEQ's mobile monitoring unit through 2020 and consider moving the unit to areas in close proximity to oil and gas development that experience poor air quality.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request,

Sincerely,

Alex Bowler
President, Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition

Comments from Laramie County Landowners in Response to 2019 Annual Monitoring Network Plan

JB Keating 58 E David St. Cheyenne Wyoming 82009:

“It is very to all of us to continue the air quality monitoring in Laramie County. There are about nine fracking wells permitted within 10,000 feet from my home. We can here for employment, but stayed here for the quality of life. I’m not against oil and gas development, but it’s environmental effects must be inspected (air quality monitoring) and managed for our quality of life. The air quality is one of the most important factors for our and our grandkids health. The minimal cost mostly borne by the oil and gas companies is need to insure the our quality of life. I can’t understand why, with development continuing, DEQ wants to pull out of monitoring. We should have a number of permanent stations around the county and additional mobile stations downwind from development. I have personally observed flaring and understand some is longterm for a number of reasons. We need oil and gas resource development, but it must be responsible, with Inspection (monitoring) and Enforcement by our government. I want my kids and grandkids to have continued Laramie County good air quality. I worked in government oversight of oil and gas development, and know from personal experience industry must have a level of independent monitoring!”

Deborah Richards 3932 Antelope Meadows Dr. Burns, Wyoming 82053:

“The air quality has deteriorated, often smells foul. People built their homes and lives here before the gas was discovered, now their lives and health are damaged for money. It was evident that it would happen from the experience of other places in WY/US, so should not have been allowed at all.”

Gregory Rix 3939 Antelope Meadows Dr. Burns, Wyoming 82053:

“Frequently, there is a noticeable petroleum / chemical odor in my backyard. Sure would be nice to know what it is and/or where it's from. Only seems to last a day or two and then it's gone. I live at 3939 Antelope Meadows, Burns, WY”

Rob Thompson 1687 Road 139 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82809:

“Air quality monitoring east of Cheyenne must continue. I have oil and gas operations directly east and west of me. I can see their flares and smell their operation every day and night.”

Wayne Brautigam 1294 Rd 136 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009:

“Please do not stop the air quality monitoring program in East Laramie County. I do feel the monitoring station could be moved to a location closer to the drilling activity and homes in that area however it is still good that we obtain a baseline of the air quality in our area. We know the drilling will increase in the future and this will effect the air quality. You should not allow the money to over ride the health of our citizens.”

Aleksander Radich 1212 Affirmed Rd. Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009:

“I have noticed the odor of the drilling operations in the recent past, some days early in the morning and it repulses and saddens me to have to breathe it, to think one of the reasons I had

my home built is being taken away from me. Air quality and water quality matter to me and I should think it should matter to a state agency charged with protecting the environment. It just amazes me that citizens have to beg for monitoring to continue. What recourse do ordinary citizens have if the agency that is supposed to ensure that our air is clean decides to abdicate the mandate? I hope DEQ continues to hold these companies' feet to the fire on these matters."

Darrell Riley 1563 County Rd. 136 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009:

"I am very concerned of our air quality because of my boy who was diagnosed with cancer when he was four with a tumor in his nasal cavity. He gets a lot of bloody noses, that almost always start with a sneeze. We have had these so bad we had the fire department and ambulance at our house to take him to the hospital. The dust from all the traffic on our road is a huge concern."

Arlene M Holomon 7606 Schrader Ln. Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009:

"It is the responsibility to protect the citizens air quality therefore monitoring should continue on an ongoing indefinite basis."

William Ostrander 4033 Autumnset Dr. Burns, Wyoming 82053:

"Please continue to monitor air quality east of Cheyenne. I welcome oil and gas industry but we need to make sure they aren't killing us..."

Sandi Riley 1563 Rd. 135 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

"ABSOLUTELY now more than ever!!! The operations keep getting larger and larger!!! Yes I want the air monitored as well as water!!!! There is NO way without monitoring these things you can honestly tell us we are safe!!! And with a child who had cancer I want NO chances!!!!!!!!!! The oil people make enough money to at the minimum do that for the citizens!!!!!!!!!"

Larenda Mayberry 2500 Falling Star Loop Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009:

"I am concerned because I believe oil & gas impact air quality and due to the high volume and it near many homes it's the right thing to do / monitor the air quality. Have you considered posting daily air quality results so residents have this information- maybe they need to stay inside on certain days or wear a mask."

Norman Lutter 1500 North Star Loop Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82009:

"First of all the monitoring should be done closer to the activity. Second, you really have not monitored the situation at that distance. Put the station closer to the activity and then you will get some meaningful information. Stop showing a blind eye to this issue."

Cindy Seivley 1150 Rd. 136 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009:

"I live east of Cheyenne around much of the oil and gas development and I am concerned not only for my well being but for all who live east of town. You continually monitor the refinery in town and should continue to do the same with the oil and gas operations as long as they are in use. Residents did not choose to have this in our backyard and should continually and equally be protected."

Angela Fisk 3805 I-80 Service Rd. Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009:

“I moved back home to raise my children in a clean, unpolluted environment. I left a better paying job in a very nice place because I am dedicated to trying to raise my children in the healthiest environment that I can. Please help my dedication to the fact that Laramie County would be the cleanest, safest place to raise my children remain true!!!”

Cc: Cara Keslar

Monitoring Section Supervisor

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality-Air Quality Division

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