Owens, Mike

From: Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce [rangelychamber@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:49 AM
To: Owens, Mike
Subject: Bonanza Power Plant Title V Operating Permit
Attachments: Bonanza Powerplant.pdf

Public Comment from Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you!

Kristin Steele
Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce
[redacted]

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RANGELY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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June 16, 2014

Michael B. Owens, Air Program (8P-AR),
U.S. EPA, Region 8,
1595 Wynkoop Street,
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Re: Bonanza Power Plant Title V Operating Permit

Dear Mr. Owens,

The Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting and fostering a positive business climate thereby enhancing the quality of economic life in our community. We Serve as an effective non-partisan, non- sectarian voice for business, legislative, social, government and community issues affecting the Rangely Area, and the western Slope of Colorado while supporting the civic, social and cultural programs.

The Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the modification of the Bonanza Power Plant PSD permit requiring substantial new technology through the issuance of a Title V Federal Operating Permit. When the PSD permit was issued for this plant 15 years ago, no title V permit was required. When this permit was issued it was our understanding this permit was valid for 30 years. Bonanza made long-term financial plans based on EPS's approval under the construction permit. Changing the rules after the fact is wrong and hurts communities and employees.

No power of any sort is produced without tradeoffs to the environment. The Bonanza Power Plant was built from the ground up to be a clean power plant. When it was constructed, the federal government prohibited use of natural gas for base load electricity. Bonanza is one of the very few coal-fired plants in the country that was originally constructed with 100% scrubbed emissions and very robust baghouse filtering systems that achieved the lowest rates of emissions achievable at that time. It remains one the newer coal plants in operation in the U.S., emitting at rates well within acceptable ranges of other coal plants its size. It was reported to be in the top twenty power plants of its size by the Power Magazine in the mid-200s/

As the Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce we worry about what closing of the Bonanza Power Plant could do to our town economically. The Deserado mine employs 165 miners directly, and creates many more jobs indirectly, most in the Rangely area.

Having the Deserado Mine in our community is extremely beneficial. Because of the mine Rangely has the lowest power bills in the state of Colorado. The mine generates millions of dollars in revenue to state and local government, through royalties, Sales and Use taxes, property taxes, severance tax, reclamation tax, and others. The mine has also contributed more than $300,000 to the Rangely hospital. The elimination of this mine, these jobs, and these contributions to the local economy would be devastating for the community of Rangely and for both Rio Blanco and nearby Moffat Counties.

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As employees and board members of the Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce we worry about the economy because that is what our jobs and commitments are to the Chamber. However, we care about the economy for reasons beyond our jobs. We care about it because Rangely is our home.

For many of us here in Rangely, we are the fourth, fifth or even the sixth generation that has been raised here. Rangely isn't just our home now, it has been our family's home for years past and will be for years to come.

Closing of the Bonanza Power Plant would impact our way of life here tremendously. If our power bills are raised by 40%, the small stores that our friends and families run will not be able to stay open. Small businesses are already struggling to stay afloat in today's economy. Making it even more expensive for them to turn their lights on will knock them out completely.

If we have less jobs to offer people we have less families moving to Rangely. The less families we have in Rangely the fewer kids we have in our schools. The fewer the kids the less the funding. The way our kids receive an education in Rangely will change for the worse.

Before making your decision we ask for you to take a moment and think about the impact this could have on a small community like Rangely. Rangely is a place people love to live. They live here because of the life style they are allowed to have. For a moment take away the logistics of everything and just remember that Rangely is a place that 2,400 people call home. We ask for you to consider what will happen to our home if the Bonanza Power Plant is shut down.

Sincerely,

Kristin Steele

Kristin Steele
Executive Director