Owens, Mike

From: Peter Brixius [pbrixius@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:53 AM
To: Owens, Mike; R8AirPermitting
Subject: Comments on Deseret Bonanza Power Plant Draft Title V Permit
Attachments: RESOLUTION RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DESERADO MINE .pdf

Dear Mr. Owens;

As the Town Manager I wanted to attach a resolution that was passed by the Town Council in Rangely, Colorado on the 25th of September of 2012 supporting the Deseret Deserado Mine which delivers the cleanest coal in the nation to the Bonanza Power Plant via an electric train traveling 30 miles to the Bonanza Power Plant. At the time of this resolution, the Wild Earth Guardians had filed a lawsuit to block the mines request for this 3000 acre expansion on BLM property. The mine expansion was meant to provide clean coal to the power plant until 2031. This expansion was later approved by the BLM. Now the Wild Earth Guardians, in addition to their lawsuit filed with the EPA concerning the Title V Permit at Deseret Bonanza Power Plant, has now filed another lawsuit with the BLM to once again try and block the mine expansion that was approved over a year ago.

You will read many comments during this open comment period about the studies that were commissioned to determine the level of Ozone Concentrations as result of the Bonanza Power Plant's operation. These studies demonstrate the efficacy of the current plant emission configuration and generally prove that air quality is excellent despite the Bonanza Power Plant activities. You will also read the many comments about the millions of dollars that are infused into the economies of Northwestern Colorado and North Eastern Utah as a result of the Deseret Bonanza Power Plant and the Deseret Deserado Coal Mine.

These are all important aspects of the Power Plant's operation but most important is the potential economic impact to the hundreds of families working for Deseret Power and Deseret Coal. Should substantial changes and resources be required to improve the Bonanza Power Plant air quality as a result of this lawsuit, communities and families will be harmed economically for a very marginal improvement in the emissions at the Bonanza Power Plant.

Deseret Bonanza Power Plant has operated in good faith with the EPA and continues to service the debt from an ambitious upgrade that took place almost 15 years ago and was meant to last for 30 years. We believe that unilateral changes to an agreement with the EPA is unacceptable and the current agreement and improvements implemented 14 to 15 years ago should be honored and the plant should be allowed to continued providing uninterrupted service for another 15 years without substantial changes.

Please see the Town of Rangely Resolution 2012-6 defining our support for the Deserado Coal Mine delivering it's coal directly to the Bonanza Power Plant. We appreciate your consideration as you evaluate the status of the power plants operation.

Peter Brixius - Town Manager
[redacted]

Town of Rangely

209 E Main

Rangely, CO 81648

RESOLUTION # 2012-6

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF RANGELY SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE DESERADO MINE, A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF BLUE MOUNTAIN ENERGY.

WHEREAS, the Town Trustees support the application for an additional coal lease for the Deserado Mine in order to provide a continued supply of low cost power to Moon Lake Electric through 2031, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Trustees realize that unbalanced environmental activism may have an inordinate level of influence in the process of influencing the application process, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Trustees recognize the importance of the Deserado Mine employees as it relates to the social fabric of our community, which includes the many families who participate in our schools, businesses, churches and governmental entities and to the economic benefits of having this valuable industrial operation just seven miles from Rangely, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Trustees recognize that the mine employs 165 coal miners and is responsible for the payment of $6,024,918 in taxes in Colorado in 2011 supporting the State of Colorado, County of Rio Blanco and communities across the state such as the Town of Rangely who have been the beneficiaries of these revenues through Royalty, Severance and Property tax, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Trustees recognize that the Deserado Mine is responsible for $266,000 in support for the new Rangely District Hospital in the first year and $190,000 each year after, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Trustees recognize that Deseret Power, thanks in no small part to Deserado's nationally-recognized productivity and enviable safety record continues to supply low cost coal to Moon Lake Electric that allows for cost-effective transmission of electrical power to homes, churches and businesses, and is a catalyst for economic expansion, and:

WHEREAS, the Town Trustees promote participation in the upcoming public hearing with the BLM as it relates to Deseret Power's application for an additional coal lease.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 25th day of September, 2012.

ATTEST:

Lisa Piering, Town Clerk

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Frank Huitt, Mayor