June 12, 2014

RE: Proposed Air Quality Operating Permit

To whom it may concern:

My name is Denny Birchell and I am a resident of Jensen, Utah. I am an employee of the Deserado Coal Mine and a Moon Lake Electric Cooperative member. Our family has a farm here in Jensen. I have lived in the Uintah Basin for all but 2 years of my life. I love this area.

I am writing to you with a vote of support for the Current Title V operating permit to remain in place. The Deseret Power Plant is one of the cleanest coal fired power plants in the country. If changes are made to the current plant structure this would greatly increase our residential and agricultural power bills, and could in turn render me unemployed if coal were discontinued. Any increase in the cost of power would be a huge detriment to the agriculture community in general as nearly all of our Jensen area farms and ranches use electric powered pumps to water the fields.

There is an inversion over our valley during the cold winter months which my grandfather says has been here as long as he can remember. He is 86 years old. I don't believe that the Bonanza Power plant poses a risk to the air quality in the Uintah Basin. I urge you to carefully consider all dynamics when making your decision. We live, work, and play here and love this area.

Yours Truly,

Denny Birchell

Denny Birchell

June 10, 2014

U.S. EPA
Region 8 Air Program
8P-AR
Tribal Permit Program
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Co 80202
Fax: 303-312-6064

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern about the pending decision regarding the Title V Operating Permit for Deseret Power Electric Bonanza Power Plant. I am a lifelong resident of the Uintah Basin. My wife and I own and operate our family farm in Jensen Utah. In addition, I as well as my sons and son-in-law are all employed in the oilfield industry here in the Vernal area.

I am very concerned about the potential loss of jobs and revenue that changes to this operating permit would bring. Not only the families, but the companies that depend on the power generated at the Bonanza plant cannot withstand a 40% increase in power rates. I fear many of the companies would opt for other areas where power costs would be more feasible for their operations. I know that my farm cannot withstand that kind of an increase to my operating expenses.

I hope you will carefully consider the hardship and potential loss of jobs, not only at the power plant and coal mine but to the entire area, as well as the potential loss of business and revenue amending this permit would bring. Our families and our community depend on these services and cannot absorb the extraordinary cost of the proposed changes. I respectfully request that the Bonanza Power Plant and Deserado Coal Mine be allowed to continue to operate under the permit as it now stands.

Sincerely,

Lorn Ruppe

Lorn Ruppe
[redacted]

June 10, 2014

U.S. EPA
Region 8 Air Program
8P-AR
Tribal Permit Program
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Co 80202
Fax: 303-312-6064

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern about the pending decision regarding the Title V Operating Permit for Deseret Power Electric Bonanza Power Plant. I am a lifelong resident of the Uintah Basin. My husband and I own and operate a farm in Jensen Utah. My husband is also employed in the oilfield operations in this area and I am an employee of Uintah County. Our 2 sons and our son-in law are all employed in the oilfield as well.

I am adamantly opposed to any amendment to the Title V Permit. The impacts to our community would be devastating. The impact to our immediate family would create great hardship for 4 households.

I hope you will carefully consider the hardship and potential loss of jobs amending this permit would bring. Our family and our community depend on these services and cannot absorb the extraordinary cost of the proposed changes. I respectfully request that the Bonanza Power Plant and Deserado Coal Mine be allowed to continue to operate under the permit as it now stands.

Sincerely,

Cindy Ruppe

Cindy Ruppe
[redacted]

[redacted]

U.S. EPA
Region 8 Air- Program
8P-AR
Tribal permit program

4 pages
including Fax page

Public Notice: Request For Comments

Proposed Air Quality Operating Permit for Federal Clean Air Act Title V to Control Air Pollutant Emissions from a Coal-Fired Electric Utility on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation

Public notice issued:
May 1, 2014

Written comments due:
5 p.m., June 16, 2014

For further information, contact:
Michael B. Owens, U.S. EPA Region 8

What is being proposed?

EPA proposes to issue a Clean Air Act (CAA), 40 Code of Federal Register, Part 71, Title V Operating Permit for the following coal-fired electric utility on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation.

Deseret Power Electric Cooperative
Bonanza Power Plant
12500 East 25500 South
Vernal, Utah 84078

EPA issues CAA Title V operating permits in Indian country where EPA has not approved a tribe to implement the Title V operating permit program. The Ute Indian Tribe on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation does not have an approved Title V operating permit program.

Most air pollutant emissions come from the utility's main boiler. The draft operating permit includes requirements for air pollutant emissions control.

Permit number:
V-UO-000004-00.00

Draft CAA Title V Operating Permit
Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
Air Program

1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver CO 80202

800.227.8917

How can I review documents?

You can review the draft CAA Title V Operating Permit, the application, Statement of Basis and all supporting material at:

Uintah County Clerk's Office
147 East Main Street, Suite 2300
Vernal, Utah 84078
Phone: 435-781-5361

Ute Indian Tribe
Energy and Minerals Office
Air Quality
988 South 7500 East
P.O. Box 70
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026
Phone: 435-725-4950

U.S. EPA Region 8
Air Program Office (8P-AR)
1595 Wynkoop St., Denver CO 80202
Phone: 303-312-6440

All documents will be available for review at the U.S. EPA Region 8 office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (excluding Federal holidays).

Electronic copies of the proposed Title V permit, Statement of Basis and all supporting materials may also be viewed at:
http://www2.epa.gov/region8/air-permit-public-comment-opportunities

What are EPA's responsibilities?

The US EPA Region 8 Air Program is the regulatory agency that helps protect and preserve air quality on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation. One way EPA does this is by issuing CAA Title V operating permits for major air emission sources that require air pollutant emissions control and monitoring. The purpose of this notice is to invite you to submit written comments on this proposed permit through the process detailed in this notice and oral testimony at a public hearing scheduled for June 3, 2014.

What happens next?

EPA will review and consider all comments received at the public hearing and during the comment period.

Following this review, EPA may issue the permit, issue with revisions, or deny the permit.

Public Hearing:
The EPA will host public hearings to accept oral and written comments on this proposed rule.

June 3, 2014
from
1 – 4 pm & 6 – 8 pm
@
Ute Tribal Auditorium
6964 East 1000 South
(2 miles South of Bottle Hollow)
Fort Duchesne Utah 84026
(435)-725-4051

Where can I send written comments?

EPA accepts comments by mail, fax and e-mail.

U.S. EPA
Region 8 Air Program
8P-AR
Tribal Permit Program
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver CO 80202
Fax: 303-312-6064
http://www2.epa.gov/region8/air-permit-public-comment-opportunities

June 10, 2014

To whom it may Concern;

I am a resident of Jensen, Utah and I am writing this letter to voice my concerns about the Bonanza Power Plant. The Power Plant at this time is operating within the guidelines of the permit. It is one of the newest and cleanest plants in our nation. I have heard this is a question of our air quality in the basin, for those of us that have lived here since we were babies, we understand that the basin has a natural inversion in the winter. It has not gotten any worse since the Power Plant was built.

I have heard that if the plant is forced to add additional emission controls that it would cost a tremendous amount of money and the only options would be to close the plant which would cause many families to be unemployed or to charge the cost back to the customers on our electric bill. Either way it will put a tremendous burden on the families living in the basin.

Please take this under consideration when making a decision on the Power Plant.

Thank You,

Janele Snow

Janele Snow

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: U.S. EPA REGION 8 AIR PROGRAM 8P-AR, TRIBAL PERMIT PROGRAM 1595 WYNKOOP STREET DENVER CO 80202

FROM: BATCHELOR

[redacted]

June 9, 2014

To: U.S. EPA REGION 8 Air Program 8P-AR, Tribal Permit Program

From: Rick & Pam Batchelor, Residents of Jensen Utah

In regards to: Proposed Air Quality Operating Permit for Federal Clean Air Act Title V to Control Air Pollutant Emissions from a Coal-Fired Electric Utility on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation

We as residents of Jensen Utah in Uintah County, are opposed to to the proposed CAA, for the Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Bonanza Power Plant, 12500 East 25500 South, Vernal Utah 84078··· If you impose this act upon the power plant forcing them to make 200 million dollars worth of upgrades, forcing Moon Lake Electric to raise our electric rates by 40 percent It will become almost impossible for my family to pay our monthly electric bill.

We are already hit with the toll being taken by the oil and gas industry. With lowered wages and lost jobs we cannot afford yet another hit by the Federal Government to our pocketbooks. My family will be affected by this in the following manner. I am already seeking help by the local H.E.A.T. assistance program to pay my electric bill in the winter months, how do you think I am going to afford to pay it if it is increased by 40%. My husband works in the oilfield and has taken a great loss in wages this past year, I am on disability, and with the imposed insurance regulation, and

prescriptions we just cant do anymore. We cant do it··· We just converted our house from propane to electric heat, because it was cheaper and cleaner. We debated and debated if that was the right choice, now I am not so sure? We live in a State that has so many regulations on it now because of all of the "beautiful" national parks and monuments in the area it is becoming increasingly hard to live. The basics are harder and harder to meet. I hope you understand that we are in a rural community where our lively hood has a lot to do with electricity, be it from heating and cooling our homes, to running sprinkler systems, and lighting our calving and lambing sheds. The oil rigs and pumps that provide the oil and gas for a large part of this nation depends on electricity. A lot of these companies are small business, such as pumpers and welders etc. When you go home notice how many things in your house is run by electricity, electricity that you might not have if it weren' t for the oil rigs, and the natural gas wells, that might rather shut down than pay a 40 percent increase in power. We have small business' that will suffer from this rate hike, making it now longer possible for them to stay in business, making the people they employee jobless, once again hurting the American people, with so MANY MUCH larger problems this country faces, why make this one of them. The people of the Uintah Basin do not want this! Please for once listen to the people.

Rick and Pam Batchelor

[redacted]

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: U.S. EPA REGION 8 AIR PROGRAM 8P-AR,
TRIBAL PERMIT PROGRAM
1595 WYNKOOP STREET DENVER CO 80202

FROM: MURRAY

[redacted]

To whom it may concern:

Re: Proposed Air Quality Operating Permit

Many individuals and families rely on the low cost energy provided by the Deserado Mine and the Moon Lake power plant. My belief is that we need to allow the Title V permit to remain valid and active to ensure that the current processes involved in creating power in the Uintah Basin be permitted to continue.

I too am very concerned about the environment and I enjoy the canyon air that I breathe. At the same time I appreciate the power provided to me also. A balance does need to be met with clean air and a power plant that is efficient and clean as it can be in its operations. It is my belief that our power plant is one of the cleaner plants in the nation.

If the plant were switched to natural gas I believe the citizens would have to large a cost to absorb.

I believe the Ute Tribe is more concerned about making money than they are with clean air. They want to build their own power plant. If history is a good predictor of the future it would make sense that the cost to the American people for the tribe to build a power plant would be very costly. I also believe that Wild Earth Guardians who I support with my tax dollars could spend their time elsewhere and utilize their grant monies more effectively.

Sincerely yours

Matt Watkins

Matt Watkins

Vernal Resident

To Whom it may concern, concerning the air permit public comments:

As a concerned citizen of what the consequences of not issuing a Title V permit to the power plant and mine on the Unitah and Ouray Indian Reservation, I wanted to comment what my feelings are on this issue. I feel that if this permit is not issued that there are going to be a lot of people and families that will no longer have an income coming in to their homes and the community that I live in will become very empty because of the families that will have to move elsewhere to find employment because the power plant and coal mine will likely be shut down. My other concern is that electricity prices are going to go up in a large amount and people can't afford to be paying more than they already do to have electricity, which is a necessity.

I hope that while you are considering all of your options and whether or not a permit will be issued that you will consider all of the people who this is going to affect.

Thanks for your consideration,

Stephanie Behunin

Colleen Carter

From: "Colleen Carter" <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2014 9:12 AM
Subject: Bonanza Power plant

To whom it may concern,
I'M writing in regards of the Bonanza Plant.

I feel that the upgrade in 2000 that met all the requirements to operate should still be in effect. This kind of an increase will drastically have an effect on the residents of the Uintah Basin. The economy still is bad. If the Wild Earth Guardians are not pleased let them pay for it.
I live in Fruitland and I enjoy it here.I feel the permit should be issued without qualifications. We cannot afford the $2 million dollar increase
Sincerely,
Colleen Carter
[redacted]

Bert and Suzanne Carter
[redacted]

Region 8 Air Program 8P-AR
Tribal Permit Program
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202

To Whom it May Concern, June 17, 2014

I am writing in regard to the operating permit issuance for the Bonanza power plant upgrade.

We as Uintah Basin residence are not in a position to take an increase of 40% to our bills. We can't afford to support an additional increase and feel that 2 million in upgrades is excessive and most unnecessary.

In the year 2000, the upgrade met all of the requirements to facilitate this and the existing operation is collecting 99.9 % pollutants, which is extremely clean. We are requesting that the permit be issued *without* qualifications.
The Uintah Basin's economy is just not strong enough to support this.

Sincerely,

Bert and Suzanne Carter

Dan and Carolyn Adams
[redacted]

Region 8 Air Program 8P-AR
Tribal Permit Program
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202

To Whom it May Concern, June 17, 2014

I am writing to you about the operating permit for the Bonanza power plant upgrade.

In the year 2000, upgrades were made for this and the existing operation is collecting 99.9 % pollutants, which is extremely clean. We are requesting that the permit be issued **without** qualifications.

We as Uintah Basin residence are not in a position to take an increase of 40% to our bills. We can't afford to support an additional increase and feel that 2 million in upgrades is excessive and not necessary .

Sincerely,

Dan and Carolyn Adams