Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

Matt Mead, Governor

John Corra, Director

May 3, 2010

[redacted]

RE: [redacted]
Snow Event Documentation

Dear [redacted]

The AQD has reviewed the fourth quarter 2009 Ambient Air Monitoring Network report submitted by [redacted] In this report [redacted] claims PM10 data on December 25th and 26th, 2009 was influenced by blowing snow and states that data was invalidated for those dates. The report offers the following definition of a snow event, "A snow event occurs when high winds drive snow into a monitor's inlet, affecting the sample and causing it to report erroneous concentrations," and goes on to state, "The determination to invalidate data is based both on evidence of a snow event in the collected data and on information provided by mine personnel."

The following are noted in [redacted] quarterly submission as data indicative of a snow event:
a) drastic changes in filter loading,
b) high concentrations followed by large negative concentrations
c) temperature faults.

And the following are noted in [redacted] quarterly submission as information which may be provided by mine personnel:
d) pictures during the storm,
e) pictures of the inlets with snow/water in them,
f) pictures of the filter showing moisture damage,
g) written weather observations, such as a blasting report.

As noted in [redacted] snow event appendix, "the determination to invalidate data is based both on evidence of a snow event in the collected data and on information provided by mine personnel." No data indicating a, b or c was submitted with [redacted] quarterly report.

In order for the AQD to concur with the invalidation of the data, data indicating drastic changes in filter loading, high concentrations followed by large negative concentrations and/or temperature faults on the dates to be invalidated should be submitted for review within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Please contact Kirk Billings at kirk.billings@wyo.gov or 307-335-6963 if you have questions concerning this matter or need additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Cara Keslar
Monitoring Section Supervisor
Wyoming DEQ -- Air Quality Division

cc: Tanner Shatto, District Engineer

CK/kb