# Intermountain West Clean Air Act Priorities:

Wyoming

AAPCA 2025 Spring Meeting May 1, 2025

First, a bit about Wyoming . . . .

Incredible Places
Incredible Mineral Resources
Incredible People

## Wyoming aka "The Equality State"

- Elevation: 3100 to 13,804 feet
- 50<sup>th</sup> most-populous state: 587,618 (2024)
  - Largest city is Cheyenne: 65,168 (2023)
  - Number of towns >10,000 people: 11
- 47<sup>th</sup> for Average annual precipitation: 13.3 inches
- 9<sup>th</sup> largest state: 97,914 square miles
  - Federal gov't owns 48% of the surface and 68% subsurface
  - Our largest county is larger than VT, NH, NJ, CT, DE, RI
- 1<sup>st</sup> for Annual average windspeed: 12.9 mph
- 1st for women to vote, serve on juries, and hold office





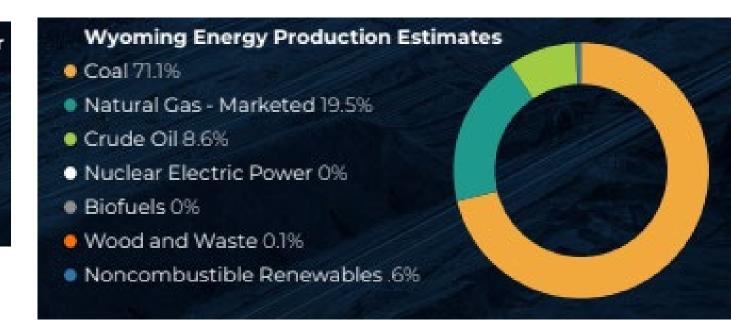






## Wyoming Energy Stats (WEA)

Wyoming is the third largest net-energy supplier in the United States. It is the #1 producer of coal, the #7 producer of oil, and the #10 producer of natural gas in the country. Wyoming also holds the largest deposits of trona in the world, the largest deposit of uranium in the United States, and one of the largest known deposits of rare earths under development in North America.





Program

## Wyoming's Coal (WMA)

"Wyoming, the nation's leading coal producer since 1986, provides about 40% of America's coal through the top 10 producing mines located in the Powder River Basin"



Department of Environmental AIR QUALITY DIVISION Program



WYOMING provides about 41% OF ALL THERMAL COAL

used for electricity production in the NATION.

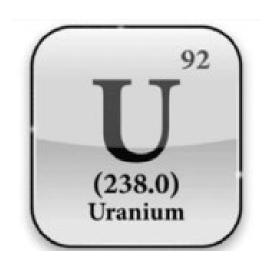
Coal's estimated contribution to Wyoming in 2022 WAS ABOUT \$563 MILLION in taxes, royalties and fees, reflecting an \$83 MILLION, OR 17.3% INCREASE FROM 2021.

Wyoming has led the nation in coal production since 1986 and CURRENTLY MINES

41% OF AMERICA'S COAL.

# Wyoming's Uranium (WMA)

- "Wyoming is the U.S. Leader in uranium production."
- In 2020, an estimated 22,000 pounds were produced in Wyoming, and employment was about 120 workers
- In-situ mining process



## Wyoming's Bentonite (WMA)

 Wyoming has 70% of the world's known supply of bentonite and leads the nation in production



#### BENTONITE BY THE NUMBERS



NUMBER 1 LEADER IN
BENTONITE PRODUCTION.

93%

RODUCING ABOUT 93% OF THE NATION'S BENTONITE (2018). **5.2 MIL** 

5.2 MILLION TONS OF BENTONITE PRODUCED IN

#### **PRODUCTION**

5.1 million+ tons of bentonite for various products PER YEAR!

## TOP 5 USES

Cat litter | Animal feed additive | Cosmetics & pharmaceuticals | Taconite iron ore pelletizing | Thickening agent in manufacturing, construction & energy industries



12 ACTIVE BENTONITE MINE

15 PROCESSING PLANTS

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

### Over 770 high-paying mining jobs

MINING GENERATES TWO additional jobs in the local economy for every one mining job.

\$344 million to
Wyoming's economy
with an average payr

with an average payroll, including benefits, of over \$132 million.

YEAR	# OF EMPLOYEES	MAN HOURS
2019	771	1.493 million per year
2018	711	1.381 million per year
2017	720	1.357 million per year



**ECONOMY** 

The BENTONITE INDUSTRY contributed an estimated \$10.3 million to state and local government in 2019.

## Wyoming Trona (WMA)

- "Wyoming has the world's largest deposit of trona, supplying about 90% of the nation's soda ash."
- At the current production rate, Wyoming's trona reserves will last 2,350 years
- Trona is Wyoming's top international export



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MINERAL EXPORT.

PEOPLE WITH AN AVERAGE ANNUAL DAVROLL OF MORE

ANNUALLY.

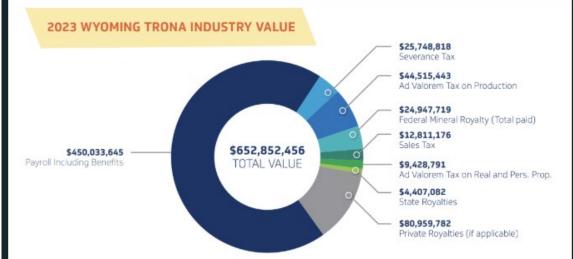
## WYOMING TRONA INDUSTRY KEY STATISTICS











Sources: 2024 WMA Industry Survey, 2023 Annual Report of the Wyoming State Inspector of Mines

## Wyoming's Rare Earths (WMA)

 "Northeast Wyoming is home to one of the highest grade rare earths deposits in North America, currently under development."

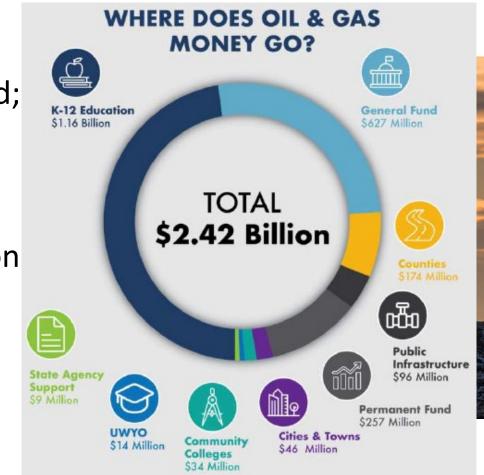
 "Wyoming has the potential to become a major hub for the US Rare Earths Industry"



# What are Rare Earths used for?

## Wyoming's O&G

- In 1884, the 1<sup>st</sup> oil well was drilled; in 1895 the 1<sup>st</sup> refinery was built; in 1911 the 1<sup>st</sup> crude oil pipeline
- In 2022, WY ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in O&G production; and 2<sup>nd</sup> for production on federal lands
- 21 of Wyoming's 23 counties produce O&G
- WY has 4 operating refineries







PAW

Against that backdrop, let's look at the executive and legislative branch direction that shapes Wyoming's air quality priorities . . . .

## Wyoming's Air Quality Authorities

- Executive Branch
  - Embrace an "all-of-the-above" & "all-of-the-below" energy strategy
  - Encourage responsible and innovative approaches in the use of WY resources
  - Ensure WY wildlife and natural resources are managed for future generations
- Legislative Branch (WS 35-11-102)
  - Prevent, Reduce, and Eliminate Air Pollution
  - Preserve and Enhance Wyoming's Air Quality
  - Exercise and Retain Primacy
  - Secure Cooperation with the Federal Government (EPA & others)

## Wyoming DEQ's Mission

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







And, now we'll dive into Wyoming's Air Quality Priorities . . .

## Wyoming AQD Priorities

- Cooperative Federalism and Primacy
- Regional Haze (1, 2 & 3)
- CPP 2.0
- O&G Methane Rules
- Ozone
- Particulate Matter
- Resource Adequacy

## Cooperative Federalism and Primacy

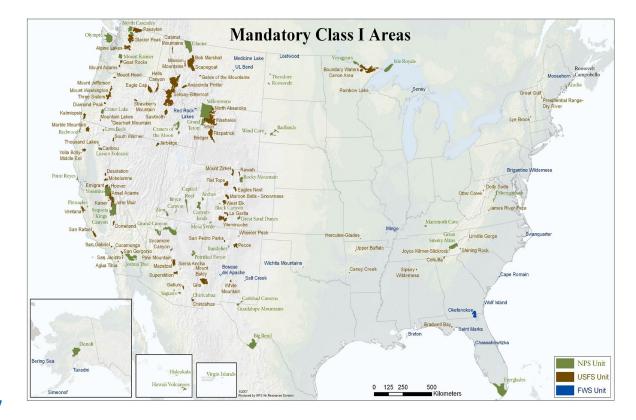
- Ensure Environmental Protection AND Economic Growth
- Co-regulator relationship
  - Rebuild trust
  - Toss the false narrative that 'feds have to step in to protect states'
- Wyoming knows Wyoming Best
- Sensible programs & regulations
  - Right-size strong & workable & limited to essential requirements
  - Affordable build in "off ramps"?
  - Accommodate innovation modernize – CAA of 1990 is 35 yo
- Success Story = Envt'l Audit





## Regional Haze – Rounds 1, 2, and 3

- RHR1
  - Litigation (10/2023) 1 item remanded to EPA
  - SIP revision EPA final pending
- RHR2
  - Litigation
- RHR3
  - Pending EPA action?



## CPP 2.0

- WY Comments August 7, 2023
  - WyPSC reliability concerns
  - WDEQ reliability concerns & illegal generation shifting, inadequate implementation timeframe (ex, NEPA)
- EPA Final Rule May 9, 2024
- Litigation filed May 9, 2024







## **O&G** Methane Rules

- 0000b
  - WY Comments
  - WY State Rule IBR
  - Litigation
- 0000c
  - WY Comments
  - Litigation
  - Plans due to EPA by May 7, 2026

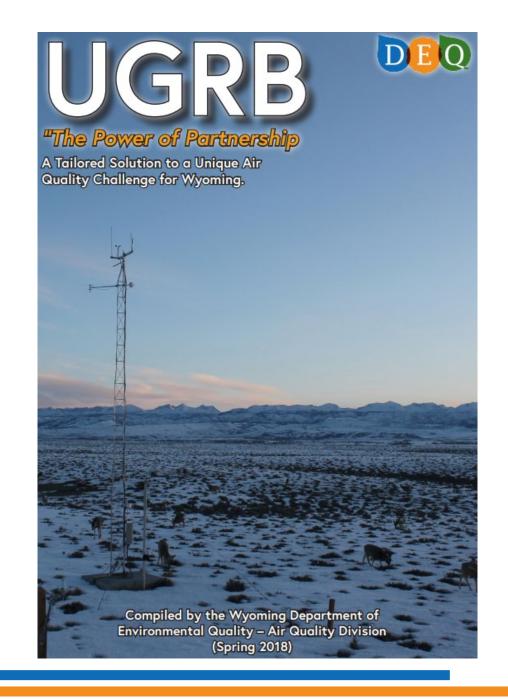




## Ozone

- YES, it is different in the West
  - Background Concentrations
  - Winter Ozone in the Upper Green River Basin (UGRB)
    - 2008 Std Marginal NAA
      - 2015 Clean Data Determination
    - 2015 Std Attainment/unclassifiable
      - Infrastructure GNR
- Success: PBACT, Offset Policy, EMA, OTM-52, WYPEC, re-designation effort underway

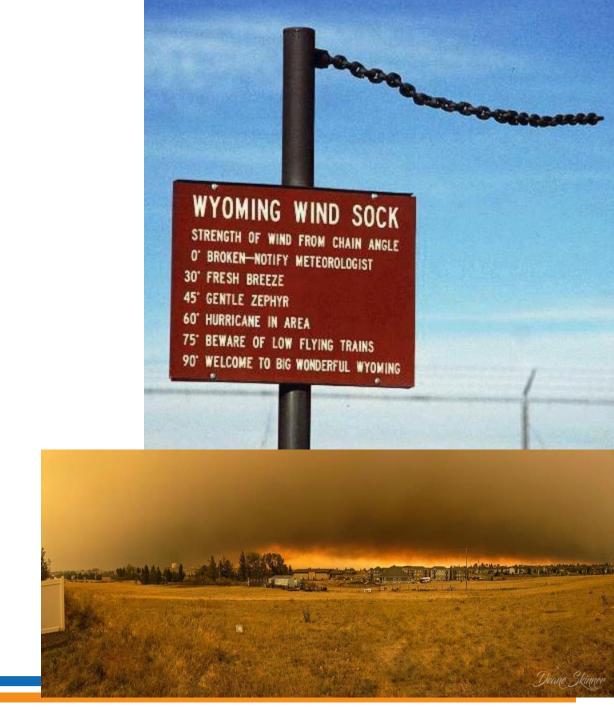




## Particulate Matter

- EPA Final March 6, 2024
- Governor submitted recommendation Feb. 7, 2025
- Exceptional Events due in Sept.
  - Smoke
  - High Winds
  - Demonstrations
    - Cost
    - Personnel
- EPA to revisit & release guidance to increase implementation flexibility

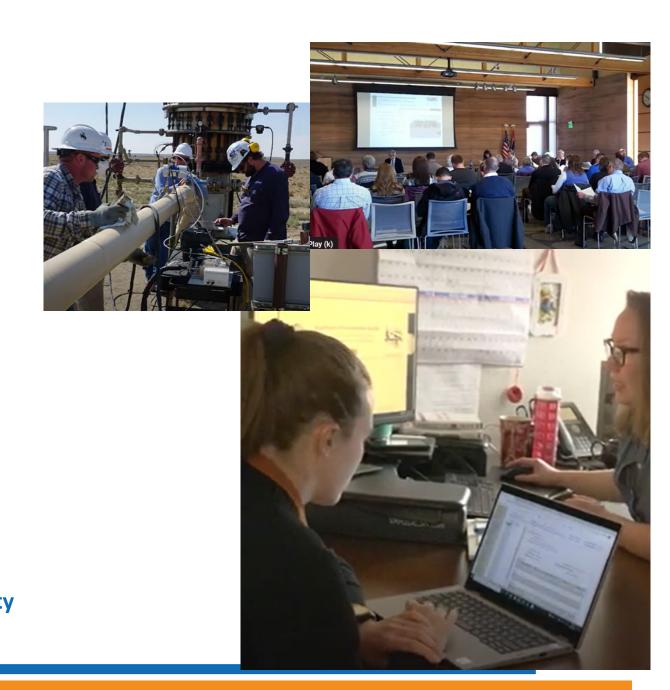




## Resource Adequacy

- Budget & Funding
  - Fees, grants, state funds, other?
- Staff
  - Extended high vacancy rate
  - Training
- Tools & Technology
  - IMPACT
  - Monitors/WyVisNet
  - Al





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