



109 North Gurley Avenue - FAX (307) 685-4157 - Phone (307) 682-2750
GILLETTE, WYOMING 82716-2905

Teaching Effectively -- Learning Successfully

Richard M. Strahorn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Boyd Brown
*Associate Superintendent
for Instructional Support*

Tom L. Decker
*Coordinator of Facilities
and Safety*

Andrew J. Mravlja
*Supervisor of Buildings
and Grounds*

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To Whom It May Concern:

Campbell County School District has been heating school buildings with coal since the Wagonwheel Elementary was built in 1976 and added other buildings through 1986 for a total of ten. All of the installations used Will-Burt, CNB, and Detroit stoker systems that augured coal from the bin to the boiler with a single auger in a round tube. We experienced a lot of difficulty getting the coal into the boiler to burn, in part due to the quality of the coal in this area. These stoker systems are designed for the harder coal found in the east. The augers would pack with fines and break the shear pins and even break the augers. Once in the boiler, the coal burned, but produced a lot of ash and clinkers that were difficult to break up and remove from the boiler and kept the boiler from operating efficiently. Many hundreds of hours were spent by the HVAC department repairing these systems. It got to a point that we could not heat the buildings reliably, even though we had tried many different fixes to make the system work. In 1995 we were so frustrated that we started removing one of the two coal fired boilers in each of the buildings and replacing it with two gas boilers. Campbell County produces millions of tons of coal each year but we were unable to reliably heat our buildings with this source of fuel.

In 2002 we heard of a system developed by the King Coal Furnace Corporation that was able to move coal of the quality found in this area with a twin auger system, spread and burn it with a pneumatic spreader stoker. We looked at an application that had been in use for seven years in Newell, South Dakota and saw it held great promise in our applications. We converted one of our boilers at our Aquatic Center to the King Coal stoker system and were very pleased with its performance. It not only solved the problems we had of getting the coal to the boiler, it also burned much more efficiently. Where we had to burn two boilers to keep up with the demand before the conversion, we are now doing it all with one boiler.

Once the system was fine tuned, the amount of ash went from eight cans on a typical day to two. There are no problems with clinkers when they are properly attended and only need raked every twelve hours.

The ash removal systems take the ash out of the buildings and into a roll off dumpster where they are hauled away for disposal. This system has been operating well since 2003 and we have now converted most of our coal boilers to this system and use the gas boilers as back up only. These coal fired boilers are operated by both men and women and the ease of operations compared to the old system is very evident.

King Coal Furnace Corporation has always been available for support when needed and give us prompt attention when replacement parts are needed. These systems have saved Campbell County School District thousands of dollars in fuel costs and hundreds of man-hours in maintenance compared to the old systems. I would highly recommend it for the type of coal found in this area. These systems operate with a minimum of time for daily operation and have been reliable over the long term.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew J. Mravlja". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Andrew J. Mravlja
Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds