

THE WRENCH RANCH • Neltje • Butch Jellis



Rec'd
1-18-07

To: Wyoming Environmental Quality Council

The subject of methane gas water use has plagued landowners and the gas industry since the earliest CBM development. Yes, there were abuses in the Gillette area early on. The industry learned quickly and has adhered to the ever changing DEQ regulations.

As a large landowner just north of Sheridan, I say leave the regulations for coal bed methane gas water use as they stand. The water is vital to the cattle on the hills where drought has obliterated nature's water. On the Wrench Ranch we mix CBM water with mountain water in a large reservoir for use through pivots on the hayfields. Again this use enables us to have a hay crop, diminished yes, but a hay crop.

As ranchers we have always used water from coal seams: in our houses, on our lawns and gardens, and for our cattle. Fidelity has replaced any water loss for a house immediately. There has been only one in seven years.

Should there be a change in CBM water use it should be to increase the surface use not diminish it.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neltje'.

Neltje