

January 15, 2007

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Herschler Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**FILED**

JAN 16 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Powder River Basin Resource Council Petition

Dear Mr. Gordon and members of the Council,

I am writing this letter on behalf of fourteen employees of a business in Byron that relies on work from numerous small oil producers. Our concern is the proposed rule changes proposed by the Power River Basin Resource Council Petition that is being considered at this time.

Our concern is the economic impact on our employees. If the quantity of water discharge is limited as per the petition recommendation, there will be many wells operated by the small producers that we work for that will be shut in. This would ruin our business!

Our employment depends on service to all wells in the area. We are familiar with the water discharge at most locations. The quantity of water being discharged is acceptable to land owners. Please do not regulate water that is not causing problems and would create big problems for those of us that depend on these wells being produced.

Our Company (NEPECO) has fourteen employees. The average age of these 14 employees is 59½ years and the average length of employment is 17 years! We are very concerned that if you adopt the recommendations of the Power River Basin Resource Council Petition, wells will be shut in and our employment jeopardized. This would have a devastating effect on our families and the community.

I have attached a copy of 2000 Census Income and Poverty Level Statistics that support our argument that the loss of jobs would have a devastating effect on the community. From this information you can see Byron's Median family income is less than that of Big Horn County, the State of Wyoming and the United States. Similarly, our per capita income is the lowest and the percent of individuals and families in poverty are higher than the county, the state, or the country.

In summary, we request that you deny the Powder River Basin Resource Council Petition because of the economic effect that it would have on the entire community.

Sincerely,  
*Alan J. Bair*  
Alan J. Bair