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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

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Dear Environmental Quality Council

I understand that the public has been given the opportunity to comment on management of CBM discharge water. I would like to take this opportunity to do so.

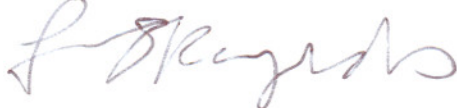
The Citizen's petition proposed by the Powder River Basin Resource Council is a set of rules that addresses the specific problems inherent in developing Wyoming's coalbed methane reserves. These rule would legally recognize the unique problems posed by the discharge of CBM water, and its effect on downstream riparian zones and the wildlife and livestock that rely on riparian vegetation.

It seems clear that CBM water has caused a great deal of damage to vegetation and soils where it has been discharged into seasonal drainages. The brunt of this damage has been borne by individual landowners, ~~who~~ who have no way of protecting themselves from effluent discharged upstream of their property. Trees have been killed, and vegetation changes are occurring due to irreversible changes in soils due to mineral content of the water. The proposed Appendix 1 would afford some measure of protection to these lands, and require the wealthy CBM industry to control its polluting discharges, instead of leaving that mess to individual landowners and citizens of the state of Wyoming.

Furthermore I think it is unconscionable to be dumping that water on the surface in the first place. Wyoming is an arid state, and all the global warming models predict that in coming years the Rocky Mountain West will become increasingly arid. We have no business squandering the fossil water reserves of our state by pumping them out onto the ground in this fashion. The CBM industry should be required by the state to re-inject that water into the same formation that it came out of.

Please implement the Citizen's proposed rule change. Do something to protect the future of our water, and our land.

Sincerely,



Linda Reynolds