Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Before The Environmental Quality Council By the Environmental Quality Council

The Environmental Quality Council will hold a public hearing beginning at 9 a.m. January 17 and 18, 2007. The hearing will be held at City Council Chambers, 2101 O'Neil, Cheyenne, Wyoming. The Environmental Quality Council, in response to a citizen Petition for Rulemaking, filed by the Powder River Basin Resource Council, is taking public comment on proposed revisions to the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations Chapter 2, Appendix H, that will remove requirements applicable to water discharged from coal bed natural gas (coalbed methane, "CBM") from Appendix H, leaving the existing Appendix H language applicable to water discharged from traditional oil and gas facilities unchanged. A new Appendix I will contain requirements applicable to produced water discharges from CBM with more stringent limits on discharges that cause, or have the potential to cause, unacceptable water quality, and would limit the pollution caused by such discharges. Appendix I would also contain more stringent limits for sulfates, TDS/SC, and barium. This rule revision is being proposed to provide for regulation of the unique environmental issues presented by CBM produced waters that complies with the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act and the federal Clean Water Act.

Proposed Chapter 2, Appendix H and I can be obtained from the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, Herschler Building, 122 W. 25th St., Rm. 1714, Cheyenne, WY 82002, or accessed after December 4, 2006 at the Environmental Quality Council Web page at http://deq.state.wy.us/eqc/index.asp, or by contacting Kim McGee at 307-777-7170.

Public comments will be accepted throughout the hearing, but the hearing may close when all those present who wish to comment have been heard. A time limit may be imposed on comments. Although oral statements will be accepted at the time of the hearing, for the record, written copies of the statements are required at the time of the hearing or prior thereto. Those persons who plan to submit lengthy, written comments are encouraged to submit the comments in advance of the hearing, regardless of whether the person plans to make an oral statement. Written statements may be presented by submitting them to the following address: Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, Herschler Building, 122 W. 25th St., Rm. 1714, Cheyenne, WY 82002. Having comments in advance of the hearing helps the Council prepare for the hearing.

If a quorum is present, the Council may convene a meeting to deliberate and make a decision on these rules at the end of the hearing. The Council also has the option to extend the public comment period on these rules. If the comment period is extended, the extension will be posted on the website for the Environmental Quality Council http://deq.state.wy.us/eqc/index.asp.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.