

**FILED**

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Mr. Mark Gordon  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
Herschler Building, Room 1714  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Fax: 307.777.6134

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Mr. Gordon:

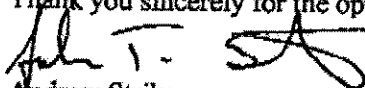
I am writing this letter to you regarding the petition, submitted by the Powder River Basin Council, to amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H. To summarize my position clearly in this first paragraph --- I do not agree that the rule should be amended.

This petition is unfair to the CBM industry, its operators/consultants, and landowners that benefit from current regulations that allow water to be discharged with beneficial use. It is my understanding that this is also the position of the WYDFQ, and that they further believe this will limit the operators so severely as to stop the CBM industry completely. I do not agree with setting standards for water quality discharge related to CBM that are more stringent than those for other types of discharge. I think there are alternate ways to handle isolated conflicts between operators and landowners than through blanket changes in policy.

I am working for Lowham Engineering LLC (a 20+-person firm of engineers, hydrologists, geologists, surveyors, and technically-skilled employees), and have consulted on water management plans in the Powder River Basin for seven years. I was raised in Cody, educated as a geologist at the University of Wyoming (two Bachelors and a Masters Degree), and am now managing a branch office of this firm in Lander. My wife currently attends law school at the University of Wyoming, and my job affords me the opportunity to pay for that education. When she has completed her study, we plan to reside in this state, pursue our careers, and raise a family.

My job has involved the survey, design, and permitting of thousands of reservoirs in the Powder River Basin. We have analyzed the streamcourses and been involved with continuous water sampling efforts for almost a decade. I see firsthand (and on the ground) the effect of the CBM discharge and find it to be much less disastrous than has been reported in our state's newspapers. In fact, ninety-five percent of the landowners we interact with have reported successful dealings and beneficial use of the water associated with CBM activity and want that discharge to continue indefinitely if possible. Our firm enjoys constant positive communication with the landowners, many of whom request our services specifically on projects involving their land. We also have much positive interaction with regulators at the State Engineer's Office, BLM, and Army Corps of Engineers. My reputation, career, and lifestyle depend on the CDM industry in the Powder River Basin at this time, as do the coffers of this State that are overflowing with funding for roads, schools, investments, additional research, etc. Do not allow the shouting voices of a few to overshadow the calm, rational, productive majority. I would welcome the chance to provide more comments and clarification should any be requested by your committee.

Thank you sincerely for the opportunity to comment,



Andrew Strike  
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