

January 29, 2006

Dear Mr. Gordon:

My name is Brian Boyer and I am a Project Manager in the Powder Basin for Marathon Oil, in Gillette, WY. I am writing to oppose the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking - Powder River Basin Resource Council et al - WQD Chapter 2.

It is my understanding that DEQ has looked at the petition and as it is written, will have the effect of prohibiting most, if not all, CBM produced water discharges. I do not agree with setting standards for water discharge for coalbed produced waters that are more restrictive than for other discharges. This rule seems arbitrary if adopted as proposed. I do understand that problems with some individuals might exist, however, changing water quality rules is not a fix for those solutions. However, there are many, many landowners who have said, "don't shut down the water - we use it and appreciate it". There are many options available for conflict resolutions that are not being pursued by the petitioners. By changing the rule, the EQC would not be protecting existing use of CBM water by ranchers, livestock and wildlife, and ranchers will suffer direct damage if the rule is passed. If CBM water is held to a stricter standard than other discharged water, this rule could not, and would not stand. It is also my understanding that the Attorney General's office has repeatedly cautioned against this petition and the rule proposed. I feel you would be wise to heed your attorney's advice. This rule should be struck down as bias and obsolete.

In summary, I oppose the rulemaking that reduces or eliminates the ability for coalbed produced water to be discharged and thus beneficially used by ranchers, livestock, and wildlife. There could be serious financial ramifications to myself, my associates, as well as the State, just to name the obvious, should gas production be reduced. I ask that you deny the request to prohibit CBM produced water discharges.

I appreciate your time and consideration to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Boyer
Marathon Oil
Project Manager-Powder River Basin

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council