

Robert & Nora Balo  
1507 Highway 50  
Gillette, WY. 82718

January 28, 2007

**FILED**

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordan  
Chairman  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> St,  
Herschler Building, Rm. 1714  
Cheyenne, WY. 82002

Re: Powder River Basin Resource Council proposal for CBM standards for water discharge WQD Chapter 2

I am a landowner in Campbell County Wyoming. I work for CBMA Inc. an environmental consulting business. My wife, a third generation resident, has family members residing within the county. They are actively involved in agriculture, teaching, coalmining, local government and many other professions.

Residents here depend heavily upon our energy production and mineral production for our living. Without the opportunity of employment associated with these producers, many of our young people would leave our community and state to find employment. Production of our minerals is also a great help paying the costs of our agriculture operations. Without this income many of our neighbors would not be living here contributing to the tax basis of our community and state. The effluent limits of CBM produced water should not be changed to accommodate the proposed limits. Without the CBM produced water much of our family ranch operation would not be watered, creating hardships to wildlife and livestock. The water produced by many of our livestock wells is of poorer quality than the CBM water we are able to utilize. Families residing here in this area have utilized much poorer water than what is allowed to be discharged by the methane industry.

I urge you to consider finding better ways to please this issue. I suggest we allow the methane industry to discharge water and produce methane in our area. Our local economy is very dependant upon the production of this form of energy. The DEQ is monitoring the water quality according to limits which may need changed, but not to the extent it will force companies out of business. This legislation will have a far reaching impact upon the economy of our county and our state. Saunders Enterprise, our partnership livestock operation, has utilized the CBM water for livestock. Taking this away during our current drought situation would jeopardize many of the livestock operations in our area.

Why should CBM water be singled out for strict limitations while allowing others to produce water that will not meet the criteria proposed by the PRBRC?

The water of the city of Gillette will not meet the proposed criteria. If the limits of water which is produced within our state changes to this plan, when will our domestic water wells have to meet this criteria? This question could become a major problem for any water wells in our community. Some neighbors utilize water from CBM production for domestic purposes, enjoying better water than was available to them in the past. It seems the benefits outweigh the problems.

Respectfully,

Robert Balo



Nora Balo

