

Environmental Quality Council
Herschler Building, Room 1714
122 West 25th. Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Rec'd
1-17-07

Bill Bensel
P.O. Box 453
Ranchester, WY 82839

January 14, 2007

Dear Council members,

I write regarding the upcoming Petition hearing on coal bed methane water quality and quantity issues. I am encouraged by your interest and attention to these matters placed on your upcoming docket this week of January 16.

The huge volumes of discharge "waste" water resulting from massive statewide development calls for better guidelines for effluent. Too much water and too little agency oversight with deficient regulation have effected far too many lands.

Current state standards are inadequate to protect clayey soils in the basins from degradation by discharges with both high SAR and high electroconductivity. DEQ standards for end-of-pipe, insufficient as they may be, do little to correct or regulate damage from the generation of a perennial flow of effluent dependent water down landscapes adapted to only occasional storm and runoff events. The result of these perennial, low quality flows are the degradation of range bottomlands, wildlife habitat areas and harm to ranching operations that depend upon quality, healthy forages.

I would urge the EQC to pass standards that actually are protective of resource and livelihoods. I support the petition and trust that your discussions and administrative powers will work to include such badly needed standards into rules to be followed by our Department of Environmental Quality.

If I may provide further input towards this issue, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Bill Bensel