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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

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Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> ST.  
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

January 29, 2007

Dear Mr. Gordon,

My name is Joel Hjorth, I am the president of MC Drilling, Inc. We are a drilling company in the Powder River Basin stationed out of Gillette, WY. We currently employ 15 people and operate 3 drilling rigs, which are solely dependent on CBM.

I am also a rancher in Southern Campbell County, along the Belle Fourche River, and run approximately 150 head of cow/calf operation. CBM development began occurring there 7 or 8 years ago. In that period of time the benefits of CBM development to my cow/calf operation and the wildlife that reside on my ranch have far outweighed any inconveniences brought about by CBM. Over the past few years having made my living in both the CBM development and ranching industries, I strongly believe that these two industries can peacefully coexist.

The ramifications of the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking could be devastating to my employees, their families, myself, my business partner and our families. We rely solely on the coalbed methane for the livelihood of our company. We oppose the rulemaking that would reduce or eliminate the ability for coalbed produced water to be discharged and used beneficially. The benefits of coalbed produced water for ranchers, livestock, and wildlife are immeasurable.

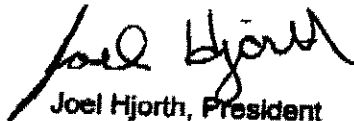
If the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking passes it could be devastating to many aspects of the boom that is occurring in Gillette. Not only would I and my business partner be in financial ruin, it could also be devastating to my employees and their families. I also

know several other business owners throughout the community that rely on the money from the CBM industry.

It is my understanding that the DEQ has looked at this petition and the way that it is written could potentially prohibit most if not all CBM produced water discharges. I understand that some problems may exist with the current discharge procedures. However, just changing the water quality rules is not a fix for the problem. There are many other options for the discharged water that are not being looked at by the petitioners. I feel that CBM water should not be held to a higher standard than other industries.

In closing, as both a business man and rancher in the area I am strongly opposed to the Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H. This could have devastating ramifications for both the Powder River Basin and the entire State of Wyoming. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (307) 680-0896.

Sincerely,



Joel Hjorth, President  
MC Drilling, Inc.  
(307) 680-0896