

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council

My name is Gary Johnson. I was born in New Castle, Wyoming, and my family moved to Gillette when I was 4. I have lived in Gillette for almost 32 years. I have a family of my own now, a wife and 2 sons. Gillette is our home, and we have no desire to leave.

I work at Consolidated Oil Well Services. We are a service company cementing coal bed methane wells in the Powder River Basin. I wanted to tell you that I am opposed to the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resource Council et al – WQD chapter 2.

I understand that the DEQ has looked at the petition and that as it is written it will have the effect of prohibiting most, if not all coal bed methane produced water discharges. This would have a tremendous impact on me and my family. If CBM operators don't have the ability to drill new wells, then there is no need for cementers. If there is no need for cementers, then I don't have a job. This would then force me to look for work elsewhere, moving my family, leaving my friends and relatives, and surely leave us in a financial bind. The State too would suffer financially I am sure. I have no idea how much tax revenue is collected from Campbell County due to CBM production, but it must be substantial.

It appears to me as well that this rule is unfairly targeting coal bed methane discharge. As I understand it, it wouldn't affect oil or deep gas discharges. And what about coal mines? The very same water, from absolutely the same source is brought to the surface every day. I would certainly oppose setting standards for water discharge for coal bed produced waters that are more restrictive than for other discharges.

I can see everyday that I go to the field to do a job, some of the benefits of water discharge from CBM as well. There are reserve ponds everywhere. Cattle, sheep, horses, deer, antelope, even water fowl use these ponds every day for water. I would guess that the Canada goose population in Gillette has at least tripled in the last 5 years, probably as a direct result from the increased water availability. As a water fowl hunter in Wyoming, I view this as positive. More water in this part of the country is a good thing.

I understand that problems with some individuals may exist, but I would hope that other options may be pursued to find resolutions to these conflicts. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. You may contact me at 307-660-5270 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gary Johnson

**FILED**

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council